



RE: Letter of Affirmation for KCC's Innovative Community Colleges Confronting the Conundrum (C4) Program

DATE: January 26, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to affirm that Kankakee Community College's C4 program is innovative. The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) is a unique state-wide network of all 39 Illinois community college districts, and, from my perspective as Executive Director, I can say that the conundrum that we all face is the fact that we are training renewable energy technicians even though there is still not a large market demand for these skills in our districts.

The National Science Foundation recognizes that this is a pressing problem for renewable energy training programs across the country. Kankakee Community College's (KCC) C4 project addresses the conundrum by offering free tuition to local electrical contractors in the Solar PV program, offering solar site assessment certification as part of the course, and, as community residents request a solar installation on the basis of the solar site assessment (and full business plan), those electrical contractors are selected to do the installation with the assistance of the other students in the program.

The program is yielding great results as local electrical contractors have added solar photovoltaic training to their skill sets and solar installation as one of the services they now provide. Students now have clear pathways to jobs with local electrical contractors. This is one of the many ways that KCC is helping make solar PV more affordable to community residents, and helping IGEN serve the green market transformation.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bell
Executive Director
Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN)
College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030
(847) 543-2238
sbell1@clcollinois.edu