



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Mike Running, Executive Director

Dumas Economic Development Corporation

806-934-3332

running@dumasedc.org

Dumas EDC Helps Fund Renewable Energy/Wind Technology Training Program for Amarillo College.

Dumas, Texas May 15, 2009—With large numbers of wind turbines sprouting up on all sides of this Panhandle community and new solar and alternative fuels projects being contemplated, Dumas Economic Development Corporation (DEDC) and Amarillo College have teamed up to provide workers for this rapidly growing industry. DEDC will formally present a \$69,000 check to Amarillo College on May 26 at its Moore County Campus in Dumas, Texas. Set to begin at 4:30 p.m., the event will formally announce the new program that local leaders feel will provide new opportunities for students looking to gain access into the renewable energy industry. “Dumas is fast becoming a major player in the renewable energy industry. This partnership will provide a great tool for us to use when attracting new business opportunities to the area” said Mike Running, Executive Director of the Dumas Economic Development Corporation. “Amarillo College is a wonderful asset for Dumas and we are quite proud of their willingness and ability to create training programs applicable to our changing times” he added. Amarillo College has over _____ students attending the Moore County Campus. The program being established will begin accepting students for it’s _____ semester. Interested students should apply either by visiting the campus or on the internet by visiting _____.

A funding proposal for this program was first presented to the DEDC Board of Directors nearly four months ago. Learning what the financial needs were at that time, the DEDC Board unanimously approved the funding recommendation. This recommendation was passed along to the Dumas City Commission who agreed with the opportunities that this workforce training program would provide. Subject to a 60-day public comment period, they unanimously approved the funding. DEDC and Amarillo College will finalize these efforts at the Check Presentation Ceremony scheduled for May 26. The public is encouraged to attend and visit the training rooms. Amarillo College will utilize all of the funding at the Moore County Campus to help pay for equipment, supplies and salaries. They are in the process of hiring devoted instructors for the program in Dumas at this time.

Running feels that the growing number of business leads he is working with to locate in Dumas is a testimony to this community's location and vision. Running adds "This industry is perfect for us. We have a very strong history in the energy industry and vast roots in the agriculture industry. Both of these are important for developing alternative energy projects. The renewable energy jobs created are good paying jobs that will help bolster our economy." Valero is currently erecting approximately 35 new wind turbines for its McKee Refinery, John Deere has nearly 25 turbines in the immediate area and Nacel Energy has announced development of two projects south of Dumas. Running stated that he has met with several developers working toward additional wind, solar and bio-fuel related businesses and projects in the last several months. "Our hope is that by providing this training program that will produce a trained workforce, these businesses will pull the trigger on their projects in and around Dumas" Running added.

For decades, Dumas and Moore County were known exclusively as an agricultural and oil economy. Recent years have seen an increase in alternative fuel, renewable energy and dairy activity that has further diversified this community's economy. Currently, the largest employers are JBS Swift and Valero's McKee Refinery. Running stated that Dumas and Moore County are uniquely situated in "some of the best wind and agriculture in the world" and he anticipates more renewable energy activity for this panhandle city. "It feels good to be working in such a diverse economy. Our future looks bright and much of it is due to the forward thinking and progressive people leading this community" Running added.

Amarillo College anticipates that the local program, directed by Workforce Director Danielle Arias and developed by Science & Engineering Division Chair Jack Stanley, will fill up quickly. "_____ " stated Arias. Running also added that "This program could not have been established without the hard work and devotion of our friends at Amarillo College. They have always been receptive of the community's needs and desires and are always willing to help new businesses and industry obtain the best trained workforce possible. I cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciate Moore County Campus Director Renee Vincent and her staff." stated Running.

Dumas Economic Development Corporation is a recognized economic development entity in the state of Texas. Mike Running has been with the Corporation since March 2008 and is aggressively seeking out potential wind industry and renewable energy projects for the area. According the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Dumas is uniquely situated within hours of an estimated 1400 turbine generators. In addition, Dumas is located within an hour of another proposed 500 wind turbine generators. With so much wind activity in the area, Dumas is perfect for those businesses needing to be near the action. The Dumas EDC is authorized under state law to provide incentives to businesses that provide economic vitality to the community. For more information on locating, establishing or expanding your business in Dumas, and on the available incentive opportunities, please contact Mike Running at 877-934-3332.

For more information on this event, contact Grace Pierson at the Dumas Economic Development Corporation offices at 806-934-3332.

“We DU things better in Dumas!”

About Amarillo College

In January, 2000, a dream became a reality in Moore County. Amarillo College established a permanent campus in Dumas to help promote learning and cultural activities. AC had a presence in Moore County for many years prior to 2000, offering classes at Dumas High School. But the new campus, owned by the taxpayers of Moore County, gives local residents a college they can call their own.

At Amarillo College Moore County Campus, you can begin your college career or continue your education. We offer dozens of classes and degree programs during the day and evening to make it convenient for you. You can take courses on campus, online, through interactive classrooms, and on television. We make it that easy. Community is the word that defines community college. Simply stated –

Amarillo College exists to advance the communities it serves and the people within them. At AC, there is a pervasive spirit of service to students and community. This is as it should be. But there is more. It is extremely difficult to find a community and a college with a stronger partner-relationship than that which exists between Amarillo College and the Texas Panhandle. AC has the feel of a small college, but it has the intellectual and technological resources of a much larger college. It’s academic and occupation programs are in balance, as are its workforce development and continuing education programs. Its many campuses reach out to diverse communities and their people, yet the various parts of AC constitute a coherent whole. Good things are happening at Amarillo College! AC is in the process of becoming something different than it has ever been before. Whether your interest in Amarillo College leads you into an academic transfer program, a technical training program, a healthcare career, or just to take classes on-line, you will discover just how special AC truly is.

You really can start here . . . and go anywhere.

Amarillo College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees and certificates.