Renewable energy likely to replace conventional energy

by Agha Khan

The spring time always ignites environmental awareness. The beauty of nature coming back to life makes one think of how environmental pollution can make all of it disappear. Some may even decide to pursue a career in the renewable energy field based on this simple thought. Advancements in renewable energy technology are making it possible for us to have nature’s beauty for as long as possible. These types of jobs can offer a person more than just a salary, but also a sense of accomplishment, and the sheer sense of doing something good. The future can be bright and full of beauty if we can reduce environmental pollution.

The renewable energy cluster is starting to become more and more popular over the years. As renewable energy becomes cheaper, and buildings and machines become more efficient, the industry is booming according to a 2012 article in the New York Times by Elisabeth Rosenthal. More than 13 countries get over 30 percent of their electricity from renewable energy, according to the same article. This means that jobs are available domestically and internationally in the renewable energy job sector.

Some of the environmental technology certificate programs at CCCC can help one move forward in a career in renewable energy. For example, there is the “Solar Thermal Technology” program, which teaches students about solar hot water technology, site analysis and system design and installation methods. The certificate also counts towards the training requirements set by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners Solar Thermal Installer Certification. Another certificate program that involves renewable energy technology is the “Small Wind Technology” certificate program. The program teaches the same basic skills as the “Solar Thermal Technology” program. Both of these certificates appeal to those interested in learning more about wind energy and applying that knowledge to their home, business or career. A wide range of additional career opportunities are available within the clean energy cluster for students with degrees in a variety of fields, such as: science, engineering, business, law, political science and communication, according to CCCC.

Due to the increasing cost of conventional energy, renewable energy is in demand. Gordon Steacy, CCCC student and former secretary of the Sustainability Club said, “Electrical demand increases every year, as we draw even closer to peak oil. As the supplies are diminishing, the demand is accelerating. We need to look for more renewable alternatives such as wind, solar and tidal hydro-electric.”

By 2030, the U.S. could potentially cut its oil usage for cars and trucks in half by improving the efficiency of gasoline-powered vehicles and by relying more on cars that use alternative power sources, like electric batteries and biofuels, according to a National Research Council report. Countries such as Norway and Iceland generate almost all of their electricity from renewable energy sources. This can become a possibility for the U.S. as well.

Alumna Gabriella Faria: From shy to confident, credits CCCC

by Haley McShane

Cape Cod Community College has had many alumni go on to four-year schools and careers. They have been successful and have accomplished great things. One alumna, Gabriella Faria, is an example for all current CCCC students that shows once you have built a foundation, you can do anything you set your mind to. Faria answered questions about her experience at CCCC and her future.

When did you begin your college career at CCCC? When did you graduate?

I started at CCCC in the fall of 2009 and graduated in 2012.

Why did you want to study at CCCC?

I chose to attend CCCC for a variety of reasons. I wanted to begin my college career at an affordable institution where I could explore different areas of study without taking on debt. I had heard about the Max-Transfer opportunity, which appealed to me because it offered a less expensive way to earn a bachelor’s degree without sacrificing the quality of education.

What certificate or degree program did you graduate with?

I graduated with an Associate of Arts degree, with a concentration in history.

Why did you decide that major or certificate? What made you want to go into those fields?

After sampling different subjects, I decided to focus on history because it provides so much insight into human nature. Learning about history helps to place current events into context, and helps to explain why many things today are the way they are. Studying history is fun because it encompasses so many different areas including culture, politics, and economies, and can imply a new way of looking at things.

What were your impressions now of CCCC compared to when you first started your journey here?

I could not be happier with my experience at CCCC. I was nervous at the start because I didn’t consider myself a strong student, but as I progressed I gained the confidence I needed to continue my education at a four year institution. I believe that the small class sizes, dedicated professors and various resources helped me exceed my expectations.

How was CCCC most helpful to you? Tutoring services? Or, perhaps, the chance to join a club and socialize?

I was fortunate to be a part of the ADVANTAGE program, which helped me plan my academic future. I utilized that knowledge to their home, business or career. A wide range of additional career opportunities are available within the clean energy cluster for students with degrees in a variety of fields, such as: science, engineering, business, law, political science and communication, according to CCCC.

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