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Sent: 9/2/2010 9:19:06 AM
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Subject: New Energy Academy Update

Mike & Carol:

Below is an update on the New Energy Academy pilot program that Mike helped kick off earlier this year. Great progress has been made in curriculum development and teacher training and the program is on track. On a personal note I briefed the academy teachers on why and how we are regulated and while I can't vouch for how interesting they found my talk I can confirm their level of enthusiasm and commitment to the pilot program. I don't see how this program can't succeed in setting its students up for success after high school.

I'll keep you posted on this as the class work begins.

Bill

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Energizing future workers for green jobs

Teachers from five high schools across PG&E's service territory convened for a Summer Institute at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center from July 26-August 6. The teachers are part of an exciting workforce development initiative called New Energy Academy.

New Energy Academy has three main goals: increase high school graduation rates, especially among at-risk youth; graduate students to be career-ready; and increase options for post-secondary education. The program builds on the California Partnership Academy model—a school-within-a-school themed around a specific industry. Our Community Relations department spearheaded the effort in partnership with the California Department of Education

A full and fun curriculum supported by PG&E

The Summer Institute was the culminating activity in a yearlong effort to develop curriculum, recruit students, plan projects and train teachers. During the Institute, high school teachers from Bakersfield, Fresno, Stockton, Sacramento and Berkeley participated in team-building activities and engaged with PG&Eers in a variety of ways. They visited the Livermore Training Center, had hands-on experience with a gas simulator, and deepened their knowledge about the utility industry overall. Workshops facilitated by Corporate Affairs, Regulatory Relations, Human Resources, [Integrated Demand Side Management](#) Products, Mass Market ES&S and others covered a range of topics—all intended to help demystify the business model and equip teachers with tools and tips to aid in their classroom instruction and outreach efforts.

Teachers were able to put the finishing touches on their pilot 10th grade Introduction to Energy course and map out course content for the 11th and 12th grades thanks to the tremendous support from Senior Learning Strategist **Daniel Feemster**, Senior Director **Chris Pickett**, and

other members of the PG&E Learning Academy. Teachers were also able to develop integrated, interdisciplinary projects that will be taught in math, English, science and history. The New Energy Academy will focus on the energy/utility sector. Students will get a solid understanding of the industry, gain technical competencies, earn industry-recognized certifications and share their projects at public forums. End-of-year exhibitions will allow students to demonstrate both their technical and academic competencies and have some fun—from international climate-change debates to chariot races.

Focusing on real-world skills in a new green economy

“What differentiates us from all the other ‘green’ high school academies out there is we have a focus,” said David Yeroshek, Career Technical Education teacher at Foothill Academy Sacramento. “We provide students not only with information about green technology, but with the skills and confidence to implement the changes needed to create a greener world.”

In the words of English teacher Patricia Barrett: “I came into this thinking we were part of something fun. We’ve already been able to break down silos within our own school so that teachers have common planning periods which allow us to work collaboratively on thematic units. Now I know we’re part of something quite amazing. The entire experience has been transformative.”

”We see this as an opportunity to have our students bring their parents and the community into our school to learn everything from how to read a PG&E bill to how to find out about customer programs and products available to them, including SmartMeter,” added Cindy Jourgensen, Venture Academy.

“We're very excited about the launch of this program and hope to expand upon it in 2011. The PG&E Energy Academies exemplify our enhanced focus on aligning PG&E's community investments with the company's objectives, while at the same time supporting the needs of our community,” said **Ezra Garrett**, interim director Community Relations.

The teachers left the Institute inspired and ready to teach in their New Energy Academies this fall. In total, they will welcome 250 10th grade students and expect to add a new grade each year. The students will take a major step to improve their academic performance, enhance their employability, and become better informed consumers of energy.