

CHAMBERLINES

SPCC Class Prepares Students for Career in Green Power



Dennis Baucom, SPCC's director of vocational trades, talks about the solar panel array his Solar and Wind Energy students put together at SPCC's Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center on Airport Road.

MONROE – Technology in green power is changing so fast, Dennis Baucom said, that "Every time I get on the Internet, I see something new."

Baucom, South Piedmont Community College's director of vocational trades, teaches a class in solar and wind energy and wants to make sure his students have the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to be prepared for those rapid changes.

His class, which meets at the Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center on Airport Road, recently installed a wind turbine and a solar panel array that can power the center's flexible manufacturing system for short periods of time.

"It can run it for about an hour on a full charge," Baucom said. "The students did all the work."

The class met for four weeks. Because it was the first installation for the students, and for Baucom, "They

had to do some planning," he said. "That's part of the class, too. They probably spent a solid week on the install."

When they were done, they had installed a 340-watt solar array on the ground near the front door and a wind turbine on the roof just above and to the left of the door. The electricity generated by the two units is fed into four batteries inside the building and that energy is converted from DC power into AC power to run the flexible manufacturing system that is used by Russell Carpenter's advanced manufacturing students.

Carpenter has taught some green power classes in the past, but this was the first class to have this caliber of equipment. The kit for the solar panels and wind turbine cost about \$5,000, and the school spent an additional \$1,000 on other items.

Baucom noted that for this first installation, some things were done with student safety in mind. For example, instead of being 20 feet in the air, the solar panel can be reached with a small stepladder. The wind turbine is where it can be reached easily from a lower section of the roof. "We did look at different applications with the install," Baucom said. "The reason we went with what we did was for the safety of the students."

Some of the additional expense was to make the solar panel safer and sturdier. "We had to add to what we bought just to make it safer," he said. "That just lets you know there's nobody around here who's set up to do this like it should be done."

"It's not only training, but we also emphasized there's not a whole lot of solar businesses locally," Baucom said. "Creating your own business is part of it. This stuff's coming. Russell and I found that there are really not a lot of local companies that do everything."

For instance, Baucom said, a homeowner trying to purchase such a system might have batteries that come from Virginia and installers who come from Georgia.

Baucom said that at least two of the 10 students in the last class were interested in starting their own business. "I don't know where they'll go with it," he said. "I feel like even if they don't start their own business, they'll take this and do something on their own."

Depending on the budget for the coming year, Baucom would like to leave the solar panels and wind turbine in place and purchase a new kit for the next class. "If we don't get the budget money, we'll probably tear it down and have the students do a different application," he said.

Baucom has an evening class scheduled in August and an afternoon class scheduled in October. For information, he can be reached at 704-290-5222.



A wind turbine sits atop SPCC's Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Training Center on Airport Road. Put together by students in the Solar and Wind Energy class, the turbine can help power the center's flexible manufacturing system.

Circles of Hope

What would you do if you had an extra three hours a month? Surf the Internet? Play a game? Shop? Or would you use that time to make a difference in someone's life? Circles of Hope offers you an opportunity help someone in generational poverty become a self-sufficient, contributing member of society. And it won't cost you a cent.

Just a few hours of your time. Circles works with families to help them get a better education, improve work and life skills, improve their quality of life and break the cycle of poverty. This nationwide program started in Anson County in 2009 when 15 individuals, desperate to change their circumstances, were selected for the first "Gettin' Ahead" class. The goal of this class was to have each participant construct an individual, workable plan for getting out of poverty. The graduates were invited to continue with the program and become Circle Leaders. These Circle Leaders are matched with Allies from the community who give support and advice—never money—and help them walk the path from the working poor to the middle class. Since then, a second Gettin' Ahead class has graduated and a third is planned for the fall.



- Five people moved to safe and stable housing; one person is purchasing a house.
- Five people acquired insurance.
- Nine families are no longer on public assistance.

What is the advantage to you as an employer? Families aren't the only winner in Circles. Families that come off assistance become employed, have future goals, and become part of the qualified work force...providing you with a more talented and dedicated workforce. Public assistance is replaced with self-sufficient, contributing citizens.

Gettin' Ahead graduates and Circle Leaders participate in weekly sessions on work ethics, responsibility, money and time management, and other skills that make them valuable employees. Companies that hire Circle Leaders save thousands of dollars in retention and retraining expenses.

Circles meets every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Wadesboro. It is supported by Anson County churches, clubs organizations and individuals. A meal and childcare are provided. Once a month, Circle leaders meet with their Allies—one or two people who can share the benefit of their knowledge. Allies often say they learn as much from the Circle Leaders as they impart.

What is the advantage to Anson County—and you, as a taxpayer—to support Circles? Only one year after the first Gettin' Ahead class:

- TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) in Anson County went from \$2,627 to \$744, a savings of \$22,596 to Anson County.
- 10 people acquired jobs.
- 24 people upgraded their job skills.

Can you afford not to address this issue? Who else will do it? We can stop this spiral right here at home and you can see and be a part of that change by becoming an Ally. So—what would you do with three extra hours a month? Would you like to change a life and make a difference in Anson County? **It won't cost you a thing, but what you gain could be priceless.** www.circlesofhopeanson.org
Telephone: 704-994.2333

SPCC President Sidor Welcoming Reception

New South Piedmont Community College President Dr. Stan Sidor talks with SPCC employees, from left, Lauren Haney, Cathy Horne and Beth Ricketts during a meet-and-greet with employees Monday, July 11, on the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton. Sidor will have a similar event on the Old Charlotte Highway Campus in Monroe later this month.



President Dr. Stan Sidor, left, talks with SPCC employees William Truett and Sonya Jarrett.




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Membership Renewals for Fiscal Year 2011-12! Thank you All!

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CALENDAR

- The Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 11.
- The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16.
- The AEDC will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 18.
- Uptown Wadesboro Inc. will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18.

Upcoming Calendar Events

August 3 — The Anson County **FARMERS MARKET** will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. located on U.S. 52-South, just past Wadesboro Primary School and Cobb-Vantress.

August 4 — The Uptown Wadesboro **FARMERS MARKET** will be open on The Square from 4:00-6:00 p.m., offering locally-grown products. Farmers/vendors interested in a booth may call 704.694.9513 for more information.

August 5 — Uptown Wadesboro Inc.'s final **SUMMER JAM** will be held from 7:00-10:00 p.m. on East Wade St. in historic uptown Wadesboro. The free concert will feature Loaded Dice. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair or a blanket for seating.

Anson County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 305 • 107 E. Wade St.
Wadesboro, N.C., 28170-0305
Information: 704-694-4181
Website: www.ansoncounty.org
E-mail: ansonchamber@windstream.net



Discover Anson: A Great Place To Call Home



August 10 — The Anson County Arts Council's **BACH'S LUNCH** will be held. Details to be announced. For more information, call 704.694.4950 or visit ansoncountyartscouncil.org.

*Please go to the
Chamber's website for
all events activities!*

www.ansoncounty.org

New Member Sketches

*The following have joined the Chamber
for Fiscal Year 2011-2012*

Carolina Signworks,
Dean Lawrence, 704 S. Hancock St.
Rockingham, N.C. 28379 Phone & Fax:
910-997-4444 E-mail

dino@carolinassignworks.com website:
www.carolinassignworks.com

Gagliano Bookkeeping Services,
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