



# Eastern-in-the-News



## WARD MALCOLM LEADS EASTERN'S NEW WIND TECH TRAINING PROGRAM

Moorefield, WV – Dec. 16, 2009 - As the wind energy industry continues to grow in and around the Potomac Highlands region, a local community college is gearing up to train local men and women to qualify for jobs in the new energy economy as wind turbine technicians. Announcing plans to launch a skills and degree program in Wind Energy Turbine Technology, Eastern WV Community and Technical College has hired Moorefield's Ward Malcolm to lead its development.



FROM LEFT: Bob Sisk, Eastern's President; Ward Malcolm, Lead Faculty/Developer of the Wind Energy Technology Training program; Grover Duling, Associate Dean for Career Studies and Workforce Education; and Robert 'Buck' Eagle, Dean for Academics and Student Support Services.

A grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation will

fund his new position as the program's Lead Faculty and Developer.

Together with Grover Duling, Eastern's Associate Dean for Career Studies and Workforce Education, Malcolm will lead a Highlands Community Wind Jobs meeting soon after the New Year. "After January 1, when holiday happenings aren't taking all the attention," he said, "we'll invite everyone and anyone who thinks he or she might be interested in learning more about this opportunity, or in getting qualified for these new, high-wage jobs, to come to our open information session."

The community meeting will provide more details about "the skilled technician jobs that require this training, and about the corresponding skills and knowledge our program will offer," Malcolm said.

"We'll discuss what kinds of previous learning background or work experience applicants should have—and for those who might not have the necessary background already, we'll explain how they can get it," emphasized Duling.

### One-Week Introductory Class

During the information session, the college will also hold open registration for a one-week 'Introduction to Wind Technology' class and workshop that it plans to start in February.

"That one-week class will introduce learners—even raw beginners—to basic

concepts and practices vital to wind turbine repair, maintenance and trouble-shooting,” Duling said. The class will cover such topics as general OSHA safety principles, tower climbing techniques, the technical language of wind energy, the layout of a wind farm, the make-up of a wind plant’s operations and maintenance team, and the working parts of a wind turbine.

Noting that for Eastern, “as a community and technical college rooted here in the hub of an expanding regional industry,” the development of a wind energy technician training program is “a logical next step,” Duling said. “And Ward Malcolm is the perfect choice to head up this important new project.”

Malcolm joins the Eastern team after a career of more than 23 years as an electrical engineer for American Woodmark, including the last five years as regional plant engineer. “Ward brings a broad and successful experience in all of the technical aspects underlying wind turbine operations,” Duling pointed out. “As a designer and director of industrial training programs, and a contributor to the development of college technical programs, he is a known and proven quantity, recognized throughout the Potomac Highlands as a leader and innovator in his profession.”

#### **Mentor, Teacher, Farmer, Hunter**

Trusted and respected as a mentor and teacher by the men and women who have worked for and with him at every level over the years, “Ward has earned that trust with his professionalism and dedication to whatever task at hand,” Duling said, “including his personal and constant commitment to upgrading the skills and professional development of his workplace teams.”

A graduate of West Virginia University and Moorefield High School, Malcolm also runs his own small farm business and pilots his own small plane. A member and past officer of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), member of the South Branch Career and Technical Center Advisory Board, and reserve search and rescue team diver with the Moorefield Volunteer Fire Department, he also enjoys hunting locally. In that activity, he currently serves as president of two hunting clubs: Grace Properties in the South Fork district, and Bears’ Hell on South Branch Mountain. The Branch Mountain Hunt Club also claims him as a Board member.

“I’m very excited by this whole project,” Malcolm said. “As a native of Moorefield, and having lived and worked here most of my life, it’s a privilege for me to be part of this effort to bring quality training for the new green energy jobs to my community.”

#### **Set the Standard**

“Wind generation is finally becoming a reality in America, and a big part of it is growing rapidly right here in our area. It’s something our country needs on many levels,” he pointed out, “for jobs, for the economy, and for national security. And I believe Eastern’s wind turbine technician training program can quickly become the standard by which other training programs will be measured.

“And that’s the goal I’ve set,” Malcolm affirmed, “and what I’ll be working towards.”

For more information about Eastern’s financial aid opportunities, programs of study and workforce and community education, call toll free: 877-982-2322; or check the College’s website: “[www.eastern.wvnet.edu](http://www.eastern.wvnet.edu)”.

Serving the residents of Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton and Tucker counties, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is

a comprehensive and equal opportunity community and technical college bringing the resources and assets of Education That Works to the families, communities and employers of the Potomac Highlands.