



C4EE Offers Graduation Ceremony for Local Students

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mazine Lowe
Executive Director
Center for Energy Education
mazine.lowe@center4ee.org
252-541-3004

The Center for Energy Education (C4EE) is pleased to announce that the first “Solar Installation and OSHA Training Class” held its graduation ceremony on Sunday, April 8th, 2018. The C4EE presented graduation certificates to 97 local residents from Halifax and Northampton Counties who successfully completed the six-week course. The course was made possible through sponsorships from EDF Renewables and Geenex Solar and was provided at no cost to the students.

The C4EE, in partnership with Halifax Community College and NC Works, provided this training program to local residents who were interested in working on solar farm projects. C4EE has close relationships with solar companies building facilities in the area and has offered to help provide a skilled workforce for current and future projects through these construction classes.

“We are excited to offer this program to local residents. Many solar companies are expressing difficulty in finding workers with relevant training and certifications.” said Mazine Lowe, Executive Director of the C4EE. “We believe this program can ‘jump start’ jobs/careers in the growing solar industry.”

This first-time training program started in February and concluded late March. Topics covered in the course included solar education, solar photovoltaic modules, racking, mounting, electrical connections, use of small tools and hands-on installation. Additionally, students obtained OSHA training leading to an OSHA 10 certification. NC Works Workforce Specialist, Frince Williams, stated the skills gained are transferable not only to the solar industry but are valuable in manufacturing and construction jobs as well. “These students are excited about the job opportunities this course provided and are anxious to start work,” said Frince.

Geenex Solar is a major sponsor of this C4EE course offering, along with EDF Renewables and NC Works. “We are very proud to be able to train local residents to now work on solar projects we have developed. I want to thank everyone involved and more so the students who participated.”, said Georg Veit, CEO of Geenex Solar. “The course is a win-win for everyone: the local communities who now have job opportunities for local residents; the students who now have a better skill set; and the solar industry who gains a highly-skilled local workforce!” Doug Copeland, Regional Development Manager for EDF Renewables added, “EDF Renewables appreciates the opportunity to partner with the Center for Energy Education. Their work in educating the community, from students to our current labor force, is a wonderful asset for North Carolina.”

The Center for Energy Education has plans to offer additional classes in the near future. To find out more about this course and future dates, please contact C4EE at 252-541- 3004.



James Pierce, Vice Chairman of the Board of C4EE, addresses the graduates and their families. Joining him on the stage (from left to right) are: Dr. Michael Elam, President of Halifax Community College; N.C. State Senator Erica D. Smith; Geenex COO Juergen Fehr; and from Halifax Community College, Dr. Bruce Busby, Dean Jerry Edmonds, Larry Crisafulli and Jason Bone, along with Mozine Lowe, C4EE Executive Director.



Juergen Fehr, COO of Geenex Solar, and Jason Bone, instructor from Halifax Community College (on the right), pose along with some of the graduates in their new safety vests and hard hats.

About C4EE

The mission of the Center for Energy Education is to build a place where education, research and industry-leading professionals work and learn side-by-side. The goal of the Center for Energy Education is to educate and inform the community about all aspects of energy, from generation to consumption.

About Geenex

Geenex Solar is a greenfield developer of utility-scale solar projects. Geenex is skilled in all aspects of solar project development including site evaluation, real estate procurement, facility and interconnection engineering, environmental analysis, as well as federal, state and local permitting. Geenex's experienced and community-focused team ensures a solar project's successful navigation of the development process from its initial stages through to its delivery of clean, reliable power to the grid. Geenex – Simply Solar.