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PG&E Celebrates DVC Solar Water Heating Graduates

Twenty six students—all owners or employees of local small plumbing or solar contracting businesses—were recognized last month by PG&E for completing a course offered at DVC that focused on meeting the utility industry's expected increase in residential and commercial demand for solar thermal installations.

Combined with [federal tax incentives](#) and [new rebates available from PG&E and other investor-owned utilities](#), the course provided graduates with the tools and knowledge needed to respond to consumer and commercial demand for improved energy efficiency in homes and businesses. According to the [Interstate Renewable Energy Council](#), between 2005 and 2008, the annual installed capacity of solar hot water systems in the continental U.S went up by a factor of five. Along with stimulus incentives and utility company rebates, the impact of higher fuel prices and the introduction of sleek new equipment are working to revive a once stagnant industry.

"We've been preparing photovoltaic and solar thermal systems installers, designers, and salespeople for the past three years through our state-of-the-art alternative energy technology training facility," said **Kim Schenk**, dean of career technical education at Diablo Valley College, "so when PG&E approached us we were able to quickly customize a high-caliber program to meet their specific needs." "The increase in installations is expected to be quite significant as there hasn't been a boom-



Some of the program graduates were congratulated by a room full of supporters including members of the Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce, PG&E's Tom Guarino, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Pleasant Hill Mayor Karen Mitchoff, and DVC's Kim Schenk.

ing solar water heating market in California since the 70's and early 80's," said **Nick Stimmel**, project manager for solar and customer generation at PG&E. "We want to improve consumer knowledge and confidence in the new solar thermal technologies available today."

The course was funded by PG&E's PowerPathway program which is helping to build the capacity in California to produce the skilled workers needed by PG&E and the energy industry. PowerPathway was recognized recently for its commitment to Skills for America's Future, a new initiative to foster partnerships between employers and local community colleges in support of the President's goal of 5 million more community college graduates and certificates by 2020. More on PG&E's PowerPathway program can be found at www.pge.com/powerpathway.



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Carolyn Seefer in DC

When DVC's Carolyn Seefer received approval to teach a full load of business classes online so she could be with her husband for a year in Washington, DC, she knew this would be an experience of a lifetime. With no car and living through DC's record heat and snowfall this year, Seefer was enjoying a different lifestyle on the east coast. When she responded to a small article in the *Washington Post* and was selected to attend a town hall meeting hosted by CNBC featuring the President, her simple life suddenly became hectic.

Not only was she going to see her first-ever sitting President, Seefer was also selected as one of 24 attendees to ask the President a question on national television.

"It happened so quickly," says Seefer. "I found out on Saturday night that I was selected and the event was on Monday, September 20, 2010. Now, I'm used to speaking in front of a class, but a television audience with millions of viewers made me decide to practice saying my question a lot."

Although she did not get the chance to ask her question on the show, she did get to submit it to the White House for a response. Seefer was also excited about being treated like a VIP and meeting the President.



DVC business instructor Carolyn Seefer shakes hands with President Obama at the CNBC Town Hall Meeting.

"The opportunity to be here in Washington DC and actually see many of the nation's leaders that I talk about in my class is an experience I share with my students," comments Seefer. "Life is about experiences, and this one will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am so grateful for DVC and the District for giving me this opportunity to live and learn here in Washington DC."

American Heart Association Walk

The District Staff Development Committee joined hundreds of volunteers for the annual American Heart Association (AHA) East Bay Heart Walk, a fundraising event to help raise awareness of heart disease and stroke. Held on Sunday, September 19, 2010, in Danville, the walk is designed to promote physical activity and heart-healthy living.

Participation in Heart Walk is just one activity that has helped the District obtain AHA's Gold Achievement Award once again for 2010. Other steps taken include promoting a healthy work environment by sponsoring educational workshops/seminars and offering healthy snack selections in vending machines.

"My mom successfully completed open heart surgery last year so this walk is personal", says Human Resources Support Services Manager **Andrea Gonzalez-Lewis**. "We both participate in the walk and count our blessings each year that we can be together."





Seated at the table are (l-r): John Nejedly, Denise Tully, Evelyn Javier Centeno, Greg Enholm, and Sheila Grilli. Moderating the candidates forum is Martha Goralka from the League of Women Voters.

Governing Board Candidates Forum

On Thursday, October 8, 2010, candidates vying for the Governing Board seats representing Ward 3 and Ward 4 presented their platform and qualifications at a forum held at DVC. Hosted by the League of Women Voters and the United Faculty, attendees were given the opportunity to hear from the candidates on a wide range of topics.

“We felt this would be a great opportunity for everyone to meet and learn more about the candidates,” said United Faculty President **Jeffrey Michels**. “I think we all heard a lot of support on the issues that are important to faculty.”

Running for Ward 3, representing Concord, Martinez, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill and western Bay Point are:

1. Sheila Grilli (incumbent)
2. Greg Enholm
3. Evelyn Javier Centeno

Running for Ward 4, representing Alamo, Blackhawk/Tassajara, Byron, Clayton, Danville, Discovery Bay, San Ramon and Walnut Creek are:

1. John T. Nejedly (incumbent)
2. Denise Tully

“Students, faculty and staff got to hear from each candidate as to their position on critical issues facing the District,” says **Richard Akers**. “I think the candidates presented themselves very well, and hope we have similar forums in the future.”

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2010, and all employees are encouraged to vote.

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the September 2010 Chancellor’s Cabinet meeting, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/September%202010.pdf

Board Report

Due to changes in the Governing Board meeting schedule, there is no Board Report in this issue.