

SOLAR TRAINING

SolarEdge Technologies, Inc. (solaredge.us) engaged Sierra College CACT to provide a two day Introduction to Photovoltaics training for SolarEdge employees who provide support to installers of SolarEdge optimizers and inverters. SolarEdge invented an intelligent inverter solution that revolutionized the way power is harvested and managed in a solar photovoltaic (PV) system.

Zach Harris, SolarEdge Service Manager, was pleased with the results. "I appreciated the time and effort that was put in by the trainers to customize the class," said Harris. "The overall response to the training has been great. The next training will prepare participants to take the NAPCEP certification test."

Trainees felt it was valuable in reviewing: "trouble-shooting and diagnostics using tools and techniques," "gaining a general understanding of the photovoltaic process," "using solar noon to optimize array orientation," and "understanding how the utility power grid works."

As a Sierra College alumnus, Harris sees opportunities to collaborate with the college. "SolarEdge is pleased to partner with Sierra College, and the skills and experience gained by students from the Construction & Energy Technology program are valued by SolarEdge as we continue to develop our team," said Harris. "SolarEdge recently donated optimizers and inverters for the students to use in class."



Apply for Start-up Hustle

In October and November, 15 start-up teams participated in a 6-week intensive program at Hacker Lab (hackerlab.org) to move from idea to action by creating prototypes and testing customer response. Teams included:

- My First Day - myfirstday.io
- HUGGS - huggs.strikingly.com
- Team Square Root - square-root.launchrock.com
- Openboard - openboard.cc
- Delivery Unit - deliveryunit.co
- On Demand Inventory - ondemandinventory.com
- The Sacramento Creative Colony - sacramentocreativecolony.com
- PestScope - pestscope.com
- Class Hints - classhints.strikingly.com
- California Clips - californiaclips.com
- iBiddo - ibiddo.com
- Cater Request - caterrequest.com
- Eye2Mobile - eye2mobile.com



Applications will be available for the next Start-Up Hustle in early 2016. Go to startuphustle.in.



MEET TRAINING GOALS

Prepare new hires to be more productive and update existing employees' skills with customized training from Sierra College CACT in communication, supervision, safety, innovation, zero waste, software skills, process improvement and many other topics. Since 1992, Sierra College has provided customized training to businesses and agencies in the greater Sacramento region. Learn more at sierracollegegetraining.com.



Girls Experience Careers

Thanks to industry support, 100 high school girls learned about Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) on Nov. 6. Students talked with mentors and made projects in Sierra College Engineering, Welding, Mechatronics, Photography, Applied Art & Design, Technical Theater, and Drafting & Engineering Support labs and at Hacker Lab.

The event expanded girls' thinking:

“Made me open my horizons about what to do in the future,”

“I didn't know anything about Mechatronics but now I am extremely interested,”

“This experience changed my thinking about education and career plans.”

Women engineers, electricians, designers and other professionals encouraged girls consider nontraditional fields. Mentors represented AAUW, AB CNC, AEROTEK, CSUS Engineering, GLUMAK, Harris Gas, LB Construction, McLaughlin Studios, Newcastle Produce, PASCO Scientific, PCWA, Placer County, SME Sacramento Valley, SMUD, Studio KYK and Union Pacific.

The NEW event was hosted by the Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies and Career Technical Education, in partnership with the Placer Union High School District and Hacker Lab. Sponsors included CRANE, Sierra College Foundation, California Community Colleges North Far North Regional Consortium and Special Populations Collaborative, Golden Sierra Job Training Agency, Valley IT Support, RuffStuff Specialties, SME Sacramento Valley and SMUD.

Businesses Celebrate Manufacturing Day

With SME Sacramento Valley (sacvalleysme.org) and local businesses, Sierra College celebrated National Manufacturing Day in October, explained Carol Pepper-Kittredge, Director, Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT), Sierra College. “This year, we focused on makers as future manufacturers,” said Pepper-Kittredge.

Lincoln High School students toured, explained Leandra Wilson, Director of Strategic Operations & HR, Harris Bruno International (harris-bruno.com). “Managers guided small groups of students so they could hear and see what was happening at each station,” said Wilson.

Jonathan Schwartz, Colfax High School, took his engineering students on tours of FMC Technologies Schilling Robotics (fmctechnologies.com/Schillingrobotics.aspx). “Meeting Colfax High School graduates who now work as engineers at FMC Technologies was most impactful,” said Schwartz.



ETP Funds Can Offset Training Costs

Employment Training Panel (ETP) funding can offset your investment in training. ETP assists employers in strengthening their competitive edge with job skills training. Employers can hold their own ETP contracts or work with a community college that holds a multi-employer contract. For more information, contact Annie Rafferty at Butte College RaffertyAn@butte.edu or Robert Meyer at ETP.rmeyer@etp.ca.gov.



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