

**Commissioner Simon's Keynote Address  
Green California Community Colleges Summit  
October 7, 2009**

Event Details:

- ✚ *Location: Pasadena Civic Center (Conference Center)*
  - ✚ *Follow escort to Speaker's Lounge at 8:30 (contact: Willa Sheppard)*
  - ✚ *TAS Keynote speech begins at 9:00*
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**Introduction**

- Good morning, everyone. It's an honor to be here today at this Summit, which I consider to be a significant gathering of educators and policymakers. I'd like to thank **Cindy Dangberg, Raquel Palmese ("Palmeezy"), and Willa Sheppard** for the invitation to speak to you all today and for organizing this tremendous event.
- There is no question that our Community Colleges, Non-profits, and Faith-Based and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) play **an integral role as partners in the implementation of our energy policies**. I cannot stress enough how important your work as educators, administrators, and community leaders is to the development of the new green energy economy. It is your dynamic educational curricula that will simultaneously help us to develop the workforce with the broad skillsets to help clean up our energy supply while creating pathways out of poverty.
- **[Discuss your experience at the Governors' Global Summit in LA** and the need for education on Climate Change and the imperative need for fundamental shift in our energy policies and consumer behavior.]

**The Nexus Between Community Colleges, Workforce Development, and Energy Policy Mandates**

- If our plan is to meet all of our clean energy objectives delineated in the California Energy Action Plan, we will need to quickly cultivate and educate the manpower to make it happen.

**Our expanding capital and workforce investment needs are being driven by numerous policy mandates:**

- The California Energy Action Plan: increasing clean energy supply needs
- Transmission and reliability needs to meet load growth projections.

- Climate Change and Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (Nuñez/Pavley) implementation.
- Utility Workforce Retirement: An estimated 43% will be eligible for retirement over the next five years.
- The California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan

***We Must First Achieve Human Resource Adequacy in Order to Meet our Energy Supply Needs.***

**California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program (CEWTP)**

- As many of you are aware, Governor Schwarzenegger recently announced the awarding of **\$27 million to 34 recipients statewide for the California Clean Energy Workforce Training Program**. This is the **largest state-sponsored green jobs training program in the nation**, and would train approximately **5,600 participants** in weatherization, audits, building retrofits, solar installations, etc.

**This program includes combined funding from the following sources:**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (**ARRA**) State Energy Program;
- **Governor’s Discretionary 15 percent** portion of Federal Workforce Investment Act;
- **Assembly Bill 118** (Nuñez) Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program;
- Public-private partnership matching funds.
- Program participants will receive a variety of **green-related degrees and certificates** such as certified green building professional, home energy rater, certified photovoltaic installer, water energy auditor, and weatherization specialist/auditor.
- Through my work on the **California Green Collar Jobs Council**, we are identifying sector strategies and opportunities for regional collaboration to maximize the development of green collar jobs.

***The CPUC’s Energy Efficiency Portfolios Are Ambitious and Will Require New Educational Curricula to Support Human Capital Development.***

- As the **number one priority in our Loading Order** for the California Energy Action Plan, the success of our Energy Efficiency programs hinges on the extent to which we as policymakers, educators, and community organizers **can initiate widespread market transformation** and adoption of conservation practices.

**The California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan: A catalyst for increasing investment and innovation.**

- As part of our “Big Bold” Energy Efficiency Strategies, California will implement a **“Zero Net Energy”** plan for all new residential construction by 2020, and for all new commercial construction by 2030. This requires a workforce trained in **Green Building Codes** (i.e. Title 24 Standards) for audits and construction jobs.
- Workforce Education & Training: As part of this Strategic Plan, the CPUC is in the process of implementing a Workforce Education and Training (WE&T) program for the education sector to train people for technical and construction related careers in Energy Efficiency.

**Decision Approving 2010-2012 Energy Efficiency Budgets and Portfolios**

- I am encouraged by the Commission’s recently adopted Energy Efficiency Budgets and Portfolios Decision, particularly in view of its renewed approach to **Marketing, Education, and Outreach (ME&O)**. We have set forth a statewide roadmap that directs our **utilities to increase outreach to low-income, ethnic, and “hard to reach” communities** in California by utilizing the appropriate and competitive CBOs that are best-suited to this important task.
- As some of you know, we are also leveraging Workforce, Education and Training dollars for the **implementation of a web portal** to increase public access to information. It is critical that we continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our messaging if we intend to substantially transform consumer behavior
- In sum, our Marketing, Education, and Outreach and Workforce, Education and Training (WE&T) activities should **serve two purposes: to educate the public** on ways to save money through energy efficiency, but also on ways **to make money through sustainable green careers and pathways out of poverty**. It is time to market Energy Efficiency as not only a demand side management tool, but also an economic engine unto itself.
- Thus, while we have approved funding for marketing, it is also crucial that we recognize the role that our Community Colleges and CBOs play in the education and outreach for energy efficiency. You are all intimately involved in this process with your role in your specific communities. **You have the opportunity to influence and develop educational curricula that can affect change.**

### **Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE)**

- Our Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) is a resource program that is designed to garner **significant energy savings** in California while providing **improved quality of life** for the low income population.
- Strategic Plan Vision: As part of the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan, the CPUC has set forth an objective that **100% of all eligible and willing low income households will have received all cost-effective Low Income Energy Efficiency measures by 2020.**
- Components of the LIEE program include:
  - Weatherization Measures and Minor Home Repairs
  - Energy Efficiency Measures and Appliances
  - Energy Education and Outreach
- Participants include:
  - Single family, multi-family, mobile home, non-profit group living home customers
  - Renters or owners

### **Workforce Education and Training Pilot Programs for LIEE**

- This fall, the Commission will be assessing current and future jobs, skills, and training necessary for meeting our CEESP goals – both for general Energy Efficiency and LIEE.
- An accredited educational institution, a major utility, and a LIEE contractor must come together to create a **certificated curriculum to train low income persons to become LIEE implementers.**
- The Commission will also evaluate **two different pilots** to determine whether they should be implemented statewide. The Commission will also analyze whether those who are trained were appropriately trained and whether **the certification programs are effective.**
- A successful WE&T program could create a **sustainable form of economic stimulus**, ultimately strengthening the LIEE program and reducing customer energy bills. This would be comparable to the “**Power to the People**” program developed by the City of Houston, Texas to employ low income individuals to assist in **increasing subscribership to low income home weatherization projects.**

*The LIEE Program is Effective and the Need for Workers is Real.*

- There is clearly a substantial industry and community need for Low Income Energy Efficiency workers with “**boots on the ground**” to not only assist in weatherizing homes and perform energy efficiency audits, but also to increase outreach and education on the benefits of weatherization and other energy efficiency measures.
- **In particular, the LIEE billing impacts are quite compelling:**
  - **\$568.35 in annual savings per household;**
  - **\$112,982,585 in total annual savings for the low income community.**
- A well-trained workforce is essential to addressing increased unemployment in low income communities, and in particular, the displacement construction workers.

*The Costs of Meeting a 33% RPS Are Significant and Will Require A Ready Workforce Backed by Career Technical Programs.*

- **75 Terawatt hours (TWh) of renewable electricity and 7 additional major transmission lines.**
- **The projected price tag for this additional transmission is \$12 billion**
- The magnitude **total infrastructure investment** required for renewable generation, transmission, and system integration is estimated at approximately **\$115 billion between now and 2020**

*Concluding Remarks*

*As educators and policymakers, we must continue to work together to ensure that we are swiftly training a future workforce to meet our changing needs in the energy sector. Thank you.*