SECO Sponsors Fuel Cell Curriculum

The Fuel Cell Curriculum Project at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) was designed to meet a projected need for fuel cell technicians in Texas and across the nation within three to five years. Fuel-cell technology graduates qualify for entry-level positions with companies that manufacture, install, and repair fuel-cell systems that provide electrical power and heat for large-scale building complexes, residential applications and transportation.

In partnership with the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), the Texas State Technical College designed and developed fuel-cell course material with comprehensive lectures by industry professionals and intense, practical "hands-on" laboratory training and experience.

Accomplishments of the Fuel Cell Curriculum Project include:

- An Associates of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) for the Fuel Cell Technology Curriculum was approved by the Texas State Leadership Consortium for Curriculum Development and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

- A fuel-cell lab and state-of-the-art facilities with demonstration and operational fuel cells connected to the schools electrical system were set up for students on the TSTC Waco campus.

- Presentations outlining the new A.A.S. degree were provided at 13 high schools, two career fairs, Skills USA, and FAA conventions.

- Eight high schools toured the TSTC fuel-cell laboratory.

- Field experience was provided for students enrolled in the fuel-cell program to the RBJ Health Center in Austin and to several wind farms in West Texas.

- Agreements were negotiated and signed with the Alamo Community College District, Houston Community College-Northeast, and Lamar Institute that will allow the program to be available to a larger audience and create a pathway for students enrolled in TSTC's fuel cell program to segue into a four-year program.