



Where Are They Now?

This interactive map shows where our graduates are currently working in the industry. You can click on the pins and get more information about what company they are working for and the type of job they are doing. We encourage you to check it out on our Facebook page, Cloud County Wind Energy Technology!

Interested in Visiting the WET Program?

We welcome students and groups to visit and take a tour of our facilities. We are also available to do tailored presentations for your school or group.

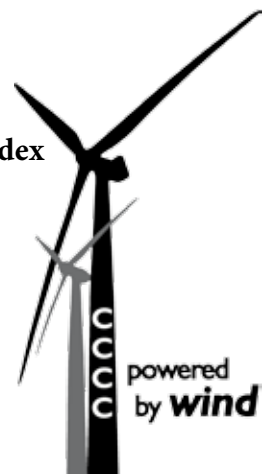
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The Sky is the Limit for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) industry is growing and expanding, as are the uses for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Some of the areas that are using UAVs to streamline their operations include agriculture, surveying, wildlife science, real estate and landscaping, filmmaking, law enforcement, rescue, natural disaster relief, and utilities, including wind energy.

UAVs are a natural fit with the wind energy industry. The traditional way to inspect wind turbines uses rope access to suspend workers from the turbines. Using UAVs saves time, money, and is safer for employees. "It is estimated that inspection time can be reduced by 70%" using UAVs. In addition, wind turbines do not have to be shut down for long periods of time. There are also new software programs and thermal cameras that can detect hot spots and other signs of potential problems within the wind turbine blades that might otherwise be missed.

CCCC is pleased to announce the addition of UAVs to the curriculum beginning this fall. As a result of this unique training, the Wind Energy students will have a distinct advantage in the workforce, as the wind industry will inevitably be using more and more of this technology in the future.

Information taken from *Unmanned Aerial Online* and *Heliguy INSIDER*.



Why Choose Wind Energy Technology at CCCC?

- Kansas ranks 2nd in the nation for potential energy production from wind.
- One of only 7 colleges in the entire nation to earn the AWEA Seal of Approval.
- Only college in Kansas approved to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Wind Energy Technology.
- First college in the nation to offer comprehensive Blade Repair and Substation Technician programs, complete with a training substation on campus.
- Operating wind farm on campus that powers the college's geothermal HVAC system and also provides invaluable hands on field training for the students.

Wind Energy Technology Program News

Cloud County Community College

Fall 2015

UAV Community Enrichment Class Held

The Wind Energy Department held a two-day, 12-hour Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) class this summer, taught by Instructor Monte Poersch. The class gave anyone in the community the opportunity to get hands-on experience flying, configuring, and taking photos with the UAVs as well as current status with FAA rules.

The Wind Energy Department has acquired, through a grant, four new UAVs. The program is integrating UAVs for blade inspections and for substation and transmission line inspections. UAVs can be used to inspect wind turbine blades much more efficiently and safely than the process currently used for those inspections. Students are being trained to fly the UAVs and are learning more advanced techniques of video and photography as well as programming completely autonomous flights. UAVs, better known as civilian drones, are not only in the news receiving some not so positive press but also a lot of attention for the good things they can do. Recently they have been used to locate flood victims in Texas, and earthquake victims in Nepal. According to a recent Fortune magazine article, the civilian UAV "domestic economic impact will reach more than \$82.1 billion between 2015 and 2025 — creating more than 100,000 high-paying jobs in the process." Cloud County Community College is excited to add this new technology to the cutting edge Wind Energy program.



Meridian Way Recognized for Partnership with CCCC Wind Energy

Meridian Way Wind Farm was recognized by the Kansas Board of Regents with a Champion Level Employer Engagement Initiative Award during a luncheon held on the CCCC campus. CCCC nominated Meridian Way for this Workforce Education award because of significant contributions to the college's Wind Energy Technology program and students.

Lucas Chavey and Justin Steinbrock serve as members of the CCCC Wind Energy Technology Advisory Council and consult with faculty members and students on career opportunities in the wind industry. Meridian Way also provides Wind Energy students with paid internship opportunities at their wind farm. They provide tours, presentations, and guest speakers for the students to gain valuable learning experiences about an operational wind farm and its substations. In addition, Meridian Way makes annual donations to the CCCC Foundation for the Wind Energy program to provide student scholarships.



Lucas Chavey, Michelle Graham, Justin Steinbrock, and Brent Vanous from Meridian Way Wind Farm were in attendance and received the Champion Award from Rita Johnson of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Wind Energy Program Receives Scholarship Donation from ITC

For the third year, ITC Great Plains donated scholarship funds to the Wind Energy Technology program. The donation will enable more students to attend the program and become well trained and prepared to enter the wind energy industry.

ITC is currently working on the Elm Creek to Summit Project, which will include a new substation southeast of Concordia. The new substation will create construction jobs and tax revenue for the local economy, in addition to providing an opportunity for further collaboration with the Wind Energy program.



Eric Ivey, Community Relations Representative ITC Great Plains; Kim Goodnight, Area Manager ITC Great Plains; Kim Reynolds, CCCC Foundation Director; Bruce Graham, Wind Energy Department Chair; Nancy Zenger-Beneda, CCCC Division Dean

Counselor Day 2015

The Wind Energy Technology program hosted its second annual Counselor Day on Earth Day. High school counselors, teachers, and students from around the area spent the day learning all about wind energy. The day began with a presentation from Department Chair, Bruce Graham. The group then toured the Wind Energy facilities, including the recently renovated Composite Lab and the newly constructed Substation Training Lab. The group participated in hands-on activities to learn about wind turbine blade repair, as well as seeing first hand how a substation works. The day concluded with a tour of the wind farm on campus, where the group had the opportunity to look inside a wind turbine and watch a UAV demonstration. It was a great way to celebrate Earth Day!

