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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WIND ENERGY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM TO OPEN IN VANCOUVER, WA

The first privately owned and operated instructional program and training center for wind energy technicians is scheduled to open in July 2009 in Vancouver, Washington according to Arch Miller, founder of the parent company, International Air and Hospitality Academy. The Wind Energy Technician course is the first for alternative energy workers that will be taught in a separate division of the Academy, called the Northwest Renewable Energy Institute (NW-REI). Training for other renewable energy technologies will follow.

Miller said the Wind Energy Technician course is a direct response to the huge demand for wind power as a means of generating electricity in the U.S. At the beginning of 2008, wind power accounted for just over one percent of the nation's electricity, or some 16,818 MWe. (A 1000 MWe conventional thermal generating plant can provide electricity sufficient to serve a city the size of Seattle.)

Last year, according to the American Wind Energy Association, the wind energy industry installed about 42 percent of all the new electric generating capacity in 2008 and created 35,000 jobs, primarily in construction and manufacturing.

"Currently," said Miller, there are some 85,000 Americans employed in the wind energy business in the U.S. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that wind energy is capable of generating 20 percent of the nation's electricity by the year 2030. If we meet that goal," said Miller, the number of workers involved in wind power will grow from 85,000 today to 450,000 by 2030. That's a huge demand for new workers in this field, which today pays between \$36,000 and \$68,000 annually, depending on education and experience," he said.

"We're in the process of hiring a director to oversee operations right now," said Miller. "We'll follow that with hiring 12 instructors, three admissions representatives and a financial aid specialist." A total of 19 additional employees will be needed to staff this division. Grants, scholarships and other forms of financial aid will be available through the Institute, just as they have been at International Air and Hospitality Academy.

The wind technician instructional program is scheduled to begin in July 2009 for 40 students from around the country who will participate in coursework designed specifically for maintaining and servicing onshore wind generating turbines. Following an introductory course on wind turbines, students will be instructed in Fundamental Electronics, Power Electronics, Semiconductor Devices and Circuits, Hydraulics, and various computer applications. More specific curriculum information will soon be available on the temporary NW-REI Website at [www.nwenergyinstitute.com](http://www.nwenergyinstitute.com).

According to Miller, NW-REI will recruit students from across the U.S., especially in areas where wind farms are either present or planned. He said the Institute is looking for students able to meet employer hiring requirements. "I'd like to emphasize, too, that safety will be the byword at NW-REI. In all of our course work and training, safe practices and a safe work place will come first."

International Air and Hospitality Academy began operations in Vancouver, Washington in 1979 and has been accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology. The Academy has graduated and placed more than 25,000 students during its 30 years of operation.

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