

# 2011 Fall Quarter Newsletter

*December 2011 Edition*



## USDA Biofuels

In late September, the Center was granted a subcontract with the University of Washington for a USDA Biofuels grant. This new grant expands our contact region from Washington State to Northern-California, Western-Montana, Oregon, and Idaho. As part of grant expectations, the Center will conduct a DACUM in cooperation with the Ohio State University, to identify Biofuels Career Pathways and related industry training expectations. We will be reaching out to both education and industry partners in this process of curriculum research and development.

To effectively expand curriculum sharing and clear career pathways, we are partnering with the K-12 system. At the community college level the Center will collaborate with regional partners to assess existing biofuels coursework, develop new curricula to fill knowledge gaps and expand existing programs by providing educational and career building resources. In addition to new biofuels courses, a sustainable bioenergy associate degree program will be developed to prepare students for employment in biomass production or conversion facilities.

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## Prior Learning Assessments - Pesticide Licensing

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is defined as the process of identifying, assessing and recognizing skills, knowledge, and competencies that have been acquired through work experience, unrecognized training, independent study,



volunteer activities, and hobbies. PLA may be applied toward academic credit, toward requirement of training, or for occupational certification. We have developed four sample PLAs for Pesticide Licensing. The PLAs are posted on the Center's website as links to the documents, under the 'Educators' link on the far left side of the 'Home Page'. The four sample PLAs are with Edmonds Community College, Spokane Community College, Walla Walla Community College, and Yakima Valley Community College.



The WSDA is partnering with the Center in hosting a pesticide class February 2012 at the William A. Grant Water & Environmental Center at Walla Walla Community College.



## 2011-2012 Agriculture & Natural Resource Program Guide

The Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Guide has been updated to show the current agriculture and natural resource programs and degrees offered at Washington's Community and Technical Colleges. Some programs have been removed due to the State wide budget cuts. The Agriculture and Natural Resource Program Guide is based on the State Board's CIP code list.

The Center is mailing the guides out to high school agricul-

ture teachers and career guidance counselors in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, Washington State's Worksource Centers and Workforce Development councils.

The 2011-2012 Program Guide is also available on the Center's website under the "Workers & Students" page.

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## Programs of Study— update



As mentioned in our 2011 Summer Newsletter, the Center is working with Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Workforce Board,

and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to create Programs of Study in Plant Science. We have been vigorously working on gathering data on required skills and knowledge for the levels of careers in Plant Science. Then, matching the skill training or required degree to the current hourly wages for each level of careers in the Plant Science Career Pathway. We are currently working on a publication to show the training skills and degrees needed to hold various levels of careers in Plant Sci-

ence. The publication will be used as a tool to guide students through the appropriate education and training in order to obtain the career they want in Plant Science.

Secondary and postsecondary partners throughout the state will have access to the published diagram, and be able to utilize the information in their related courses. The goal is to eliminate any duplicate courses for students, and produce more occupational specific courses.

## Behind the Scenes:

The Agriculture Center of Excellence has filled both available positions in our office and is now fully staffed. We have hired Tony Dunagan as the new Center Director, and Jason Selwitz as the Project Manager for the USDA Biofuels grant.

Tony and Jason will be on campus working for the Center full time, January 3rd, 2012. Tony plans to hit the road immedi-

ately upon his arrival at Walla Walla; seeking partnerships and meeting other Centers of Excellence Directors.

Jason will be actively putting the pieces together for a DACUM in Biofuels, and reaching out to industry partners and education for support in meeting the new USDA Biofuels grant goals. Tony and Jason bring extensive experience with

them to the Center. We are excited to have these two gentlemen on our team.

The Agriculture Center of Excellence sends special thanks to Mindy Stevens and Don Miller for their guidance and support while transitioning Directors for the Center this quarter.

**Welcome  
Tony & Jason!**

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### 2011 - 2012 Educational & Industry Partners

