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**Solar Energy Conference Lights the way at  
Los Angeles Harbor College.**

*Business and labor join together to plan for new technologies.*

October 21, 2005--Bringing together Los Angeles city officials, architecture professors, construction managers, union representatives and hobbyists, the first annual Solar Energy Conference at Los Angeles Harbor College explored solar energy solutions and the steps needed to make it a viable technology in Los Angeles. The Conference filled the student center at Harbor College, which is located in Wilmington, and is part of the 9-campus Los Angeles Community College system.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board President Mary Nichols was the luncheon keynote speaker.

Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Trustee Warren Furutani stressed the importance of investing in the resources necessary to develop this new technology.

"Solar Energy is one of the obvious solutions to our energy crisis," Furutani said.

"LACCD is making every effort to prepare our students for the emerging fields of solar and other sustainable technologies."

Each of the conference presentations touched on the importance of community college involvement in training and curriculum development.

Dr. Linda Spink, president of Los Angeles Harbor College welcomed the diverse group.

"Encouraging the development of solar technology appeals to me as an educator and as an administrator," said Dr. Spink. "It will save us money on our electric bill and, most importantly, provide job opportunities for our students."

John Hardwick from Sharp Solar Corporation expressed a specific interest in developing a certification course on campus. "We want community colleges to implement these programs so that we can have a workforce that is knowledgeable about solar technologies and their implementation needs."

"It's a growing business," noted Joel Davidson of Solar Integrated Technology. "It's growing 20% to 30% a year and workers at all levels of experience are in strong demand."



Local unions IBEW and SEIU each made presentations and are preparing their members by offering classes and/or certification programs on solar installation and related technologies.

The Solar Energy Conference is part of LACCD's sustainable building program, the largest in the United States. "Our Board of Trustees, with the support of our faculty, staff and administrators has mandated that we build sustainably," said Dr. Adriana Barrera, LACCD Senior Vice Chancellor, in an introduction speech. "That means that all of our new buildings will surpass the California energy efficiency guidelines by at least 20%."

Keynote speaker Mary Nichols, president of LA-DWP, encouraged the crowd to keep working as solar advocates. "We can't wait for global warming to force us to bring renewable energy sources online," Nichols said. "We look to conservation as a resource and then we need to do a frank assessment of current and future technologies."

"As this industry grows, the need will only increase for individuals knowledgeable in solar technologies," said Larry Eisenberg, LACCD's Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Development. "We will take the best ideas that come out of this conference and work to make them a reality."

LACCD is undertaking the largest sustainable building program in the United States. Funded by Propositions A/AA, which provided \$2.2 billion in voter-approved funds, the District has shown strong leadership in their adoption of sustainable energy principles. LACCD has set the goal to self-produce 25% of its energy needs and 10% utilizing photovoltaic cells.

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