

## **NYSERDA GRANT PUTS SUNY DELHI AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOLAR-ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY**

**DELHI, NY ...** A \$143,000 grant from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will fund a certified training program for solar-electric installers and put SUNY Delhi at the forefront of solar-electric technology.

The new training program will dovetail with the college's Electrical Construction and Instrumentation curriculum, which prepares graduates for careers as electricians and electrical technicians.

The grant is part of a larger effort by Governor Pataki and NYSERDA to promote the use of alternative energy in New York State. NYSERDA is committed to fostering alternate energy sources and gives incentives to homeowners and businesses looking for ways to supplement their electrical needs with photovoltaic energy.

"As NYSERDA gives more incentives, the greater the need will be for certified electricians who can interface with solar energy. And Delhi will be ready to fill the educational needs of these electricians, as alternative energy grows more prevalent throughout the state," said Dr. David Addison, technologies dean at SUNY Delhi.

According to Dean Addison, there is a lack of certified technicians in New York State who can install solar-electric or photovoltaic (PV) systems, and this has prompted NYSERDA to help Delhi become an accredited PV institution.

SUNY Delhi's accreditation will be issued by the Institute of Sustainable Power (ISP), the only accrediting agency for photovoltaic installation institutions in the U.S. Through this process, two SUNY Delhi faculty members, Assistant Professor Robert Morris and Associate Professor William Burke, will be certified as trainers in this specialized field.

The college plans to offer courses in photovoltaic installation to its students who are enrolled in its Electrical Construction and Instrumentation program. In addition, the

college will offer non-credit and credit continuing education courses, which are expected to attract established electricians who want to become certified installers.

The college will also use the grant to create lab facilities that will complement the new program, including a dedicated solar-electric lab and a library with solar-energy relevant materials. In addition, a fully functioning solar-electric system will be built on the roof of the college's Electrical Technologies Center and a smaller mobile unit will assist with workshops and high school demonstrations.

SUNY Delhi is a member of the State University of New York, the largest public higher education system in the U.S. Delhi's seamless approach to education includes over 40 academic programs, and allows students to obtain one-year certificates and two-year associate's degrees. Students may also pursue a four-year degree in select programs at Delhi. For more information, visit [www.delhi.edu](http://www.delhi.edu).