

## **SUNY DELHI UNVEILS NEW TURF EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT OPTION**

**DELHI, NY ...** After hearing concerns from turf equipment industry leaders at a campus summit this spring, SUNY Delhi officials are addressing a problem of access for students interested in pursuing a college certificate in Turf Equipment Management. They have created a second non-traditional option in partnership with the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), which the college will introduce in January 2003.

“Delhi’s found the solution. No other college offers a turf equipment program that can fit the schedule of a full-time employee,” said Dominic Morales, dean of SUNY Delhi’s Applied Sciences and Recreation Division. “We’ve heard that there’s a serious need for a non-traditional program from those who are hiring in the field.”

Dean Morales explains that those seeking a certificate in the turf equipment management program are straight out of high school or have been working in the field for several years. “Both types of students find that they need training, but don’t want to miss the opportunity of steady employment.” SUNY Delhi faculty and staff have created a program that will alleviate this dilemma for students and allow them to complete classes in an intensive, condensed format.

Students can use credentials they’ve acquired working in the field to create a portfolio. The portfolio will be reviewed by SUNY Delhi faculty, and college credit for previous work experience can be granted. To gain experience lacking in the portfolio, students can take specialized courses on the Delhi campus during the off-season, typically in the winter and spring, when turf equipment professionals have more time to pursue a certificate. General components required for completion of the SUNY Delhi certificate, such as liberal arts courses, can be taken at a local community college or can be obtained on-line.

According to Morales, the restructuring of SUNY Delhi’s Turf Equipment Management certificate caught the attention of the New York State Turfgrass Association since the new certificate option would be a real asset to its members. In partnering with SUNY Delhi, NYSTA will periodically offer required courses to its members at NYSTA conferences. Last fall, SUNY Delhi introduced another certificate option with NYSTA—a certificate in individual studies with a concentration in Landscape/Turf Technician.

“For example, we’ve arranged for a fall irrigation seminar to be held at next year’s NYSTA Annual Conference,” said Dean Morales. “It just goes to show that Delhi’s emphasis is on partnering. It’s collaborations like these that actively address the economic needs of New York State.”

SUNY Delhi offers a unique opportunity for hands-on education and experience in golf course operations, turf equipment management, landscape contracting, general horticulture, and park and recreation programs. Utilizing its own golf course for lab instruction, Delhi offers the only associate’s degree program in golf course operations in the Northeast. The college also offers a one-year certificate in turf equipment

management for golf course mechanics. With the college's recent addition of a bachelor's degree in golf course management, Delhi has established itself as a leader in golf/turf education.

For further information, call 607-746-4545 or visit our website at [www.delhi.edu](http://www.delhi.edu).