

Press Release

**Howard's Rural Learning Center Signs Agreement
Establishing Wind Energy Workforce Training Program**

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Howard's Rural Learning Center, which works to create jobs and overall community revitalization across the rural Midwest, has signed a five-year agreement with Airstreams Renewables, Inc. to host wind energy workforce training in South Dakota.

The training will begin later this summer in Howard and Gary, sites of established wind energy manufacturing and maintenance plants.

Airstreams Renewables, based in Tehachapi, California, has developed a 20-day Wind Turbine Technician Safety and Technical Course. Demand for the training is high and the company decided to expand it to additional sites in Oklahoma and South Dakota. Airstreams Renewables is especially committed to helping make possible employment for returning military veterans.

"Airstreams is proud to be partnering with Troop Transition, creating the first of its kind partnership with our U.S. military in helping to transition our returning vets into green jobs," said Dave Schulgen, Airstreams Renewables, Inc. president. "The upper Midwest will see a huge increase in wind projects over the next several years." Currently, Schulgen added, Midwestern students travel to California for training, which increases costs for companies and themselves.

Forty-eight trainees per month will be able to enroll in South Dakota.

Within a year of the program's start, classes in Howard will move into an expanded Rural Learning Center building on the community's Main Street. With 36,000 square feet of space, including a hotel, the expanded center is expected to open in late summer 2010.

"We are very excited about what this opportunity means for Howard," said Kim Olson, director, Governor's Office of Economic Development. "The community has worked hard to establish itself as a leader in the industry and this contract is yet another example of the opportunities in the energy industry that exist in our region."

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