

ITEM 142-403-R0309

Approval Of An Associate Of Applied Science Degree In Biofuels Energy

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Miles Community College to offer a degree in Biofuels Energy beginning fall semester 2009.

EXPLANATION:

The "green collar" job sector is experiencing rapid growth throughout the United States. Of the 2.3 million people already employed in the green energy sector, over one million of them work with biofuels.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 presented to Congress, President Obama has included \$58 billion to be devoted to energy investment. His administration wants to change our dependence on foreign oil. Their goal is to double alternative energy production in three years. They have also set a goal that 25 percent of our energy will come from renewable sources by 2025.

Governor Schweitzer also promotes the growth of energy production in Montana and sees education as the key. Based on the initiatives of our government leaders, Miles Community College is proposing a degree program in Biofuels Energy that will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in our state. Through this program, the College will train the workforce of our future.

ATTACHMENTS: