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News Release

Entergy New Orleans Funds New Energy Efficiency Specialist Training Program *Delgado Course to Help Fill Workforce Gap*

New Orleans, La. -- Entergy New Orleans, Inc. today announced it is funding a new program designed to help create a local workforce of Energy Efficiency Specialists qualified to conduct energy assessments for residents and small business owners.

This fall, Delgado Community College, in partnership with Entergy New Orleans, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans, will begin teaching the new Energy Efficiency Specialist course. Entergy New Orleans will provide up to \$250 in tuition reimbursement to students who complete the course, for a limited time, in addition to donating field testing equipment and supplies to the program.

Students who complete the program will earn EES Certification to employ a variety of diagnostic tools that determine energy usage and potential energy savings in a home. The program will be a combined 23-hour classroom and 20-hour hands-on training course that provides the basics of home energy analysis, conservation recommendations and installation of the recommendations. Course tuition is \$526.

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“The city currently faces a critical shortage of professionals qualified to perform energy assessments and ensure energy efficiency in our housing stock. This program addresses that issue now,” said Rod West, president and chief executive officer, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. “Our customers want solutions to lowering their energy costs and the best way to go about that is to get a home energy assessment. Delgado-trained Energy Efficiency Specialists would begin to fill this growing demand in our region.”

A home energy assessment can identify ways to save up to hundreds of dollars a year on home air conditioning and heating alone. The money saved for businesses can be exponentially higher. A professional assessment can help residents determine where their home is not functioning efficiently and then make repairs and corrections where needed to save them money.

“There is a prime opportunity for a large number of New Orleans residents who are rebuilding or renovating to save a lot of money,” said West. “If they are educated on the front end about building more energy efficiently, then they can reduce their expenses in the long run.”

The EES course is open to anyone with a high school diploma or GED who wants to learn how to conduct performance testing and analyze new or existing homes to determine their level of energy efficiency and make financially sound recommendations. Home inspectors, realtors, engineers, builders, appraisers, architects, mortgage lenders, energy service providers and others involved in the building and marketing of homes will especially benefit from the course.

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Among other course objectives, participants will develop the ability to:

- Perform advanced weatherization such as duct-leakage and air-infiltration sealing;
- Direct, advise and guide general contractors, architects and other building trade professionals on performing weatherization sealing and energy efficient framing, insulation and HVAC load calculations; and
- Apply building science concepts such as heat transfer, air and moisture transport and evaluate and recommend cost-saving energy efficiency improvements.

The EES course curriculum was developed by DNR and is based partially on their program for home energy raters. Graduates of this course will have a good foundation in understanding residential home energy efficiency but this course will not be a certification for home energy raters. Should a graduate choose to continue on to become a certified home energy rater, additional training and certification requirements must be met outside of this course.

The first class begins Sept. 16. Interested students can obtain more information by contacting Shelly Tigler at Delgado at (504) 671-6457 or stigle@dcc.edu. They may also visit the Continuing Education and Workforce Development and Education sections of the Delgado Web site at www.dcc.edu.

Entergy New Orleans, Inc. is an electric and gas utility serving Orleans Parish and is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. The company provides electricity to more than 141,000 customers and natural gas to more than 88,000 customers in Orleans Parish.