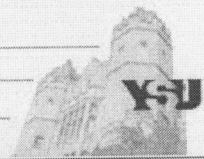




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**YSU NEWS**

YSU News

2003-06-17

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**YSU offers new degree in power plant technology**

Youngstown State University, in partnership with FirstEnergy Corp., will start a new two-year degree program in power plant technology this fall.

"With so many of our power plant operators nearing retirement age, we expect to have a number of job openings in the future," said FirstEnergy's Brian Wilkins, who works at the company's power plant in Mansfield and helped design the new program.

"This unique program will provide the right training and education to prepare students for these kinds of jobs, and offer companies like ours a pool of qualified candidates in the coming years."

"The employment opportunities for graduates of this program will be very good," added Ted Bosela, associate dean of the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology at YSU.

An informational session about the new program will be 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, in the Schwebel Auditorium in Moser Hall on the YSU campus.

The power plant technology curriculum will include electrical theory; electrical machinery and controls; power plant operations; boiler, turbine, and generator operations; power plant instrumentation; pollution control equipment; and general education.

The program also provides first-aid and CPR certifications, and will prepare students to obtain a Third Class Steam Engineer License. Graduating students will receive an associate of technical studies degree, with a focus on power plant technology.

"Our graduates will be able to work in any industry that has control room operations, such as paper mills, steam heating systems, chemical plants, electric power generation plants, and large commercial complexes, just to name a few," Bosela said.

He said the program will combine in-class instruction and real-world experiences. Between their freshman and sophomore years, students will be expected to complete an internship during the summer. In addition, several courses in the program incorporate training experiences in power plant facilities.

"It's important for students to see firsthand what's going on, to see how everything works," Bosela said. For more information about the program, contact Bosela at 330-941-3286.

FirstEnergy Corp. is a registered public utility holding company headquartered in Akron, Ohio. FirstEnergy subsidiaries and affiliates are involved in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity; exploration and production of oil and natural gas; transmission and marketing of natural gas; energy management and other energy-related services.

YSU is a leading 12,700-student public, comprehensive university located on a 140-acre campus in Youngstown, Ohio. With a student population from 41 states and 61 countries, YSU offers degrees in more than 100 undergraduate majors.

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