

# Engineering adds major

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*Jambar Editor*

YSU has joined with First Energy Corporation to announce a new major on campus that will be available this fall.

Students interested in the field of technology will have the opportunity to receive a two-year associate of technical studies degree with a concentration in electric utility technology.

At a press conference Friday, officials from YSU and First Energy signed the agreement to make YSU the fifth col-

lege in Ohio to offer this program.

Dean of the William Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, Dr. Charles Stevens, said he is hopeful that the program will be successful.

Stevens said First Energy has 38 prospective students interested in the new major and none of them are YSU students.

Rick Luse, manager of Power Systems Institute, said those 38 students have made it through the phone interview process but only 12 to 15 people will be accepted into the program.

Luse said that with many other majors, students have the opportunity to do many different things, but with this major, "you are not only making a college choice, you are making a career choice."

Regional President for First Energy, Tom Clark, said they are expecting a number of line workers to retire and this will provide a "pipeline to provide candidates."

Clark said approximately 40 percent of the work force may be lost because of retirement and the younger generation could fill those empty slots.

The degree requires 66 credit hours completed consecutively over four semesters. Students will also be required to conduct lab training at a First Energy facility.

Luse said March 5 and March 7 will be dedicated to introducing the major and filtering out those who realize the field may not be right for them.

"After the orientation period, some people realize they have a fear of heights or a fear of getting caught up in bad weather," said Luse. "So it shouldn't be a problem filtering the number down to 12 or 15."