

# NEWS



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## **GREEN GENOME AWARDS TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY, WORKFORCE EFFORTS** **Colleges driving “clean economy” transformation to receive more than \$70,000**

WASHINGTON, DC – Five community colleges from across the nation have been awarded prizes for exemplary support for sustainability practices, programs and training.

The colleges are recipients of the 2014 Green Genome Awards, part of a larger Green Genome initiative created by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and its Sustainability Education and Economic Development Center (SEED). In the past two years, more than 480 community colleges representing more than 3 million students have joined AACC’s SEED Center, pledging leadership in sustainability education and training and reaping the benefits.

Winning colleges will each receive \$7,500 plus a set of state-of-the-art tools and horticulture equipment from awards sponsor Snap-on.

“AACC is thrilled to recognize colleges that have not only prepared a skilled workforce, but have also become change agents in regional efforts to develop a green and sustainable economy,” said Walter G. Bumphus, AACC president and CEO. “Through the SEED Center, AACC is providing community colleges an important roadmap to connect and integrate campus sustainability practices and clean economy-related education and workforce development.”

The colleges recognized for their achievements overall and within four categories are:

- Gateway Technical College, Wisconsin (Strategic Partnerships)
- Greenfield Community College, Massachusetts (Overall)
- Lane Community College, Oregon (Governance)
- McHenry County College, Illinois (Community Engagement)
- Moraine Valley Community College, Illinois (Program Design & Delivery)

Wisconsin-based Snap-on Inc. has been a strong supporter of the kinds of community college/industry collaborations the Green Genome Awards recognize.

“Snap-on is proud of its relationship with AACC’s SEED Center and the work it does to promote innovative workforce development initiatives. Sponsoring the Green Genome Awards gives us the honor of acknowledging institutions which are leading by example and affecting positive change in their local communities,” said John Gamble, Education Business Development Manager, Snap-on, Inc.

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## **Green Genome – 2**

The awards are based on SEED's The Community College Green Genome Framework: Integrating Sustainability and Clean Technology Workforce Development into the Institution's DNA. This free tool for colleges details the new Green Genome framework, paths for success, and offers profiles of previous winning colleges. The framework was developed by a national advisory panel made up of senior leaders from the U.S. Department of Energy, industry, national associations and over 50 community colleges plus extensive review of existing college programs.

AACC's SEED Center is funded in large part by The Kresge Foundation's Education Program. The Kresge Foundation works to expand opportunities for vulnerable people living in America's cities. Kresge's education program promotes post-secondary access and success for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students.

"Initiatives like SEED leverage the talents at America's community colleges to build the new, clean economy with career paths for all students," said Bill Moses, managing director of Kresge's Education Program. "The Kresge Foundation is pleased to support AACC and the innovative SEED colleges that are leading these efforts."

For more information about what these colleges have accomplished, visit the Green Genome page, <http://theseedcenter.org/2014GreenGenome>.

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### **About SEED**

AACC's Sustainability Education & Economic Development Initiative, SEED, advances sustainability and green workforce development practices at community colleges by sharing innovative models and FREE resources to increase the capacity of college leaders, faculty, and staff to build the green economy. The SEED Initiative was created in partnership with ecoAmerica and has received support from the Kresge, Flora Family, and Surdna Foundations and corporate partners Bahco/Snap-on and Pearson Higher Education. [www.theSEEDcenter.org](http://www.theSEEDcenter.org)

### **About the American Association of Community Colleges**

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the American Association of Community Colleges is the leading advocacy organization representing more than to 1,100 community, junior and technical colleges nationwide. Community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education, enrolling 13.4 million credit and non-credit students each year. [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)

### **About Snap-on**

Snap-on Incorporated is a leading global innovator, manufacturer and marketer of tools, equipment, diagnostics, repair information and systems solutions for professional users performing critical tasks. Founded in 1920, Snap-on is a \$2.9 billion, S&P 500 company headquartered in Kenosha, Wisconsin. [www.snapon.com](http://www.snapon.com)

### **About The Kresge Foundation**

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health,

human services, community development and our place-based efforts in Detroit. In 2013, the Board of Trustees approved 316 awards totaling \$122 million; \$128 million was paid out to grantees over the course of the year. In addition, our Social Investment Practice made commitments totaling \$16 million in 2013.

[www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org).