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Lt. Gov.: Colleges prepare workers for green jobs

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CHICAGO — Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon says community colleges are playing an important role preparing workers for jobs with the wind energy industry.

Simon spoke Thursday in Chicago at a conference on wind power.

She says the state's first associate degree program for wind turbine technicians was accredited in 2008. This year, 10 community colleges offer degrees or certificates in wind energy technology.

Simon says the community college programs have helped fill jobs supported by the 17 largest wind energy projects in the state.

The lieutenant governor applauded several community colleges for building wind turbines on their campuses. Lake Land College in Mattoon, Richland Community College in Decatur and Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville are among the schools that built wind turbines.