

MEMORANDUM

To: Eileen Cashman

From: Kathleen Madrid, ERE 115 student

Subject: CCAT and SERC trip memo

Date: 2 December 2016

Purpose

The purpose of the trip to the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT) and The Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC) was to give the Engineering 115 students of an idea of different ways Humboldt State is attempting to utilize renewable and sustainable energy practices.

Discussion

A program that CCAT has been conducting includes the “MEOW”, which stands for Mobile Energy on Wheels. This is a trailer that includes multiple bikes as students and faculty attempt to generate energy through the cycling of the wheels. This creates a zero energy waste environment, in hopes to create a more sustainable energy source. This may not exactly create any environmental costs, however, the CCAT staff is having trouble with financial costs as well as licenses. It is also difficult to transport the large trailer to multiple locations, so the MEOW is mainly used for on campus events.

As far as getting involved with either one of these programs, I know that SERC offers a volunteer program for undergraduate students called, Docent. I think this would be a great way to get more involved and expand my knowledge in this aspect of Engineering. This allows me to be exposed to the research side of the field and allows me to get a general idea of what I want to do with my degree. At CCAT, it is more of a hands on program where students are able to design different systems to create a “greener” environment. This would also be great exposure as an undergraduate.

The most interesting thing throughout this whole trip would be learning about the different organizations on HSU campus. I had no idea any of these building existed on campus and it is incredibly interesting to know I have these resources. While at CCAT, I enjoyed how they utilized the tires to uphold the hill. The toxins and chemicals in the rubber of the tire disallows students to use them for any other purpose and instead of letting them decompose, they used them for architectural purposes.

Conclusion

Overall, the entire experience was interesting, as I stated earlier, I had no idea what any of those buildings were. This trip itself made me more interesting in the field I hope to enter and gave me a general idea of what to do with my degree.