


**DISCOVER YOUR NEW SALES ENGINE**
[Learn more >>](#)


**EXCLUSIVE REPORTS**

[Kansas City](#) > [Print Edition](#) > [Industries](#) > [Education](#)

[Subscribe to Kansas City Business Journal](#)

Friday, January 15, 2010

# Metropolitan Community College seeks \$2.5M for smart-grid training

Kansas City Business Journal - by [Mike Sherry](#) Staff Writer

[Print](#) | [Email](#) | [Reprints](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Share](#) | [Comments](#)

**Related News**

- [Report: Kansas, Missouri make strides on renewables](#)
- [C.S. Humphrey finds new efficiency groove, builds up revenue](#)
- [Kansas City's Broadway could have start of health care corridor](#)
- [Obama awards \\$3.4B for 'smart grid' projects: SBA loan breaks could cost \\$479M](#)
- [UT snags \\$56M in stimulus grants](#)

It stands to reason that it will take smart people to operate the "smart grid" — the term for the energy-delivery technology of tomorrow.



Deborah Goodall  
[View Larger](#)

**Metropolitan Community College** is leading a consortium aiming to use \$2.5 million in stimulus money to help create a smart-grid-ready work force. The group includes **Kansas City**

**Power & Light Co.**, the **University of Central Missouri** and **Sega Inc.**, an Overland Park-based engineering firm that specializes in the design and operation of power plants.

The coalition is seeking the financing through the **Department of Energy's** Strategic Training and Education in Power Systems program. Word on the grant award is expected this month, said Deborah Goodall, president of MCC's Business & Technology Campus.

The proposal calls for Metropolitan Community College and its partners to develop a curriculum that includes everything from continuing education for utility workers to degree programs at the colleges. The coalition also includes three other Missouri community colleges in Sedalia, Trenton and Neosho.

Existing smart-grid technologies include thermostats that — with the customers' permission — utilities can briefly shut off during times of peak demand. Goodall said the energy system of the future probably will include increasing use of solar panels and wind turbines at homes.

Plus, she said, power plants will become increasingly complex to operate.

"The technicians that work on the system need to be familiar with the technologies. They need to know how to install them, test them, troubleshoot them, repair them, etc.," Goodall said. "And so, those skill sets simply are not there."

She said Sega's role is key because the firm would develop a simulator for the curriculum.

The effort also would benefit the firm, said Bruce Kelly, manager of plant operation services for Sega.

"We, like everybody else, are interested in how this smart grid is going to evolve," he said. "This gives us a chance to focus on that right now."

[msherry@bizjournals.com](mailto:msherry@bizjournals.com) | 816-777-2214

**Free Research**

- [Connect for the Success of your Organization](#)
- [Improving Lead Quality in B2B Search Marketing](#)
- [Live Webinar - Email Marketing Best Practices for Retailers, Agencies, &...](#)
- [Maximizing Conversions: The Power of Call Tracking and Analytics](#)

[More White Papers](#)

**Search for Jobs** powered by onTargetJobs

[View Kansascity Jobs - 535 jobs today](#)

**DailyUpdate** Get the latest local business news delivered to your inbox every afternoon

Email Address

**Find Executives**

[Kansas City Power & Light Co.](#)

[Sega Inc.](#)

**SITE SECTIONS**

**Small Business Center**

Sponsored by HP

[Visit the Small Business Center](#)

**Entrepreneur Success Stories**


[Find out how they made it](#)

**Daily Update**

[Sign up for the Daily Update](#)

**Company Watch**

[Get started now](#)



**Short-term relief for stressed small businesses through America's Recovery Capital loans**

Online training to help compete for federal Recovery Act contracts

Counseling and training on surviving the tough economy

Additional funding for SBA's Microloan Program

**Featured Kansas City Jobs** powered by [KansasCityHelpWanted.com](#)

- [Credit Analyst - The Office of The State Bank Commissioner](#)