

# Greening Lakewood Businesses Partnership



Veteran Intern Adam Redgrave (second from left) appears with Governor Ritter at the Governor's Jobs Cabinet Press Event.



Instructors Deacon Taylor and Ed Hegwood with student interns conducting blower door testing at The Learning Source.

## Greening Lakewood Business Partnership members

**Alameda Corridor Business  
Improvement District**

**Alameda Gateway Community  
Association**

**American Mechanical Services**

**Better Business Bureau**

**City of Lakewood**

**Envergent Building Science**

**IceCOLD**

**Jefferson County Workforce Center**

**Johnson Controls**

**Lightly Treading**

**Red Rocks Community College**

**Sholar Architecture/Construction**

**Veterans Green Jobs**

For more information on the Energy Efficiency and Energy Audit certificate programs at RRCC, contact Joan Smith at [joan.smith@rrcc.edu](mailto:joan.smith@rrcc.edu).

Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) has teamed up with the Alameda Gateway Community Association and other Lakewood organizations to form the Greening Lakewood Business Partnership. The goal of this public-private partnership is to develop a sustainable model for a citywide conversion of commercial properties (of less than 50,000 square feet) to optimum energy efficient standards.

A key feature of the partnership is the educational component provided by RRCC. A leader in training for workforce development, RRCC provides coursework and internships to educate and retrain veterans and students from all backgrounds for employment in the private sector. This training creates a cycle of education, employment, and refurbishment potentially affecting 250 properties and 4,000 students/employees in Lakewood over the next 10 years. Commercial property conversions began in fall of 2009 at two non-profit organizations—The Learning Source and Easter Seals of Colorado.

The Greening Lakewood Business Partnership is also supported by Veterans Green Jobs, who mobilized experienced veterans to initiate

the program. Another partner, Jefferson County Workforce Center, has coordinated Federal stimulus funds to provide paid internships for the RRCC student/veteran participants. As the commercial audits are completed, the partners are pursuing financing vehicles to assist business owners with high return energy efficiency conversions that will engage additional student interns.

The first group of audit interns is working under the direction of experienced proctors from Lightly Treading and American Mechanical Services. The students are gaining the field experience required to sit for industry auditing certifications. The Colorado Department of Higher Education recently approved the Energy Efficiency and Energy Audit Certificates developed by RRCC and its industry partners.

The goal of the Greening Lakewood Business Partnership is the creation of an economic sector out of Lakewood's inventory of small- to medium-size commercial properties. They believe that by taking on this huge task, they will help owners of properties realize energy savings, reduce operating costs and stabilize their businesses.