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HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE WINS INAUGURAL GREEN GENOME AWARD
Outstanding Sustainability, Training Efforts Driving “Green” Transformation
Garner National Recognition

Tampa – As part of an expanding national effort by the American Association of Community Colleges to support “green” practices, programs, and training at the nation’s more than 1,100 community colleges, Hillsborough Community College has been recognized as the first winner of the AACC Green Genome Award. HCC was recognized for its comprehensive leadership in addressing four key areas critical to holistic green college transformation: community engagement, governance, program design and delivery, and strategic partnerships. In addition to the award, HCC will be awarded $8,000 plus a set of state-of-the-art Bahco brand Snap-on tools and horticulture equipment.

“Linking education, economics, and the environment is something that HCC is wholly committed to,” said HCC President Dr. Ken Atwater. “We are pleased to be recognized as a national model among community colleges in ensuring that sustainability and clean economy training are fully integrated into our college and community. We already know that the results are impactful and will be long-lasting for the citizens of Hillsborough County.”

The awards are part of a larger Green Genome Initiative sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and its Sustainability Education and Economic Development Center (SEED). In the past two years, more than 460 community colleges representing over three million students have joined AACC’s SEED Center, pledging their support of green workforce and economic development.

“We recognize that colleges serve their communities and employers better when campus green initiatives are strategically aligned with community need,” said Walter G. Bumphus, AACC President and CEO. “Through Green Genome, AACC’s SEED is helping to provide colleges a roadmap to becoming more sustainable and building strong energy and trades education partnerships.”

About HCC
Hillsborough Community College serves nearly 48,000 students annually on five campuses and three centers throughout Hillsborough County. HCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

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 Snap-on and Pearson Higher Education. www.theSEEDcenter.org
About the American Association of Community Colleges
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s more than 1,100 community, junior, and technical colleges and their more than 13 million students. Community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AACC has been in operation since 1920. For more information about AACC and community colleges, see www.aacc.nche.edu.

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