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### **MCC AND IBM COLLABORATE ON GREEN DATA CENTER DEGREE**

OMAHA, Neb. – Metropolitan Community College (MCC) recently collaborated with IBM to develop a first-of-its-kind Green Data Center Management Degree using IBM hardware, software and online skills training resources. The two-year associate degree includes courses to help students gain technical and business skills to prepare them for careers in the design and management of energy efficient data centers.

The new degree comes at a time when U.S. colleges and universities are expected to lead the way in preparing the future workforce with innovative new skills to help boost the economy. Until now, there has been no comprehensive, real-world learning environment for students to get green data center skills at the undergraduate level. Students enrolled in the new program will take 36 credit hours of courses designed specifically for green data center management. IBM technologies used in this program allow MCC to extend the degree to other colleges through a virtual learning program. As a result, all courses in the Green Data Center Management track will be offered online where remote students can gain the same skills as those on campus including virtual access to the physical data center itself.

“IBM’s Academic Initiative will further help ensure that MCC students are developing technology skills that bring together computer science, engineering and sustainability,” said Tom Pensabene, Dean of Information Technology at MCC. “We’re seeing a dramatic increase in demand here in Nebraska for specialists who understand how to help companies reduce the costs associated with running an energy-intensive data center. Now our students are getting exposure to leading edge IBM technologies, increasing their chances of being hired for jobs in this growing area.”

MCC's data center is funded through a three-year \$1.8 million grant that MCC received from the U.S. Department of Labor with the goal of increasing the number of students in IT education.