



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CERT Announces Major Partnership with the Oil & Gas Industry**

*Energy Camp will be offered to students in seven area Parishes beginning Summer 2010*

**SHREVEPORT, February 11, 2010** – The Consortium for Education, Research and Technology of North Louisiana (CERT) has formed a major partnership with the oil & gas industry to offer Energy Camps to students in seven area Parishes. Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> graders from Caddo, Bossier, Bienville, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parishes will be eligible to participate in the Energy Camps beginning summer 2010. Presenting sponsor, EnCana Oil and Gas established the program with a grant for \$110,000.

“Representatives from EnCana approached us early last year with the idea and have really been the catalysts to make Energy Camp possible in northwest Louisiana,” said Patti Trudell, CERT’s Executive Director. “We can’t thank them enough for their leadership and considerable financial support. This partnership has been forged out of a shared goal to develop educational resources for our community. We are excited to be involved with them and are looking forward to kicking off Energy Camp this summer.”

“We are so proud to be working with CERT to establish the summer Energy Camps in Louisiana,” said Don McClure, Vice President at EnCana Oil and Gas. “Education is a key factor in EnCana’s commitment to the communities where we operate and something we see as vital to growing the future workforce. Our hope is to introduce students to energy in a fun environment at summer camp at an age when they will begin to think about their career plans. These kids are stakeholders in the future of energy, and we hope the information and influence these energy camps provide will have a lifelong, positive impact for each student that participates.”

Four week-long sessions of Energy Camp will be offered this summer on the campuses of Southern University at Shreveport and Bossier Parish Community College during June and July. Free to participating students, Energy Camp will be a fun week of hands-on learning about the different sources

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of energy, and energy efficiency and conservation. In addition to classroom and lab activities, students will participate in multiple off-site fieldtrips where they will have the chance to see energy resources first-hand and learn how they are developed and used in our society.

CERT has hired two highly respected teachers from the area to present the inaugural Energy Camps this summer. Cathy Williamson is employed by Caddo Parish Schools as the Educational Coordinator at Sci-Port LOUISIANA'S Science Center. She has taught biological sciences and scientific research for 28 years and has coordinated programs in all disciplines of the sciences at Sci-Port for eight years. She has been Caddo Parish and Region VII Teacher-of-the-Year as well as participated in a number of national professional development projects in everything from robotics to biotechnology. Bossier Parish teacher Mary Marston serves as the Chair of the Science Department and teaches physics and physical science at Haughton High School. A 20-year veteran, Marston is certified to teach physics, chemistry, earth science and general science and attended The University of New Orleans pursuing a Master's Degree in Geology. Both Marston and Williamson are directly involved in shaping the curriculum to be offered at Energy Camp, modeled after Energy Venture Camps offered at San Jacinto Community College in Houston, Texas.

Shell Oil Company has also joined the partnership as a sponsor of Energy Camp and presented a \$25,000 grant to CERT. "Shell is committed to the Louisiana communities where we live and operate. We are very excited to be a part of this educational collaboration, where we can actively engage in developing the technical workforce critical to our company and our industry," said James Blanton, Operations Manager of shale gas for Shell Exploration & Production Company.

Energy Camp brochures and applications will be made available to students via school districts later this spring. Students who will be considered 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall of 2010 will be eligible to apply. For more information please contact CERT at (318)795-2485 or visit their website at [www.certla.org](http://www.certla.org).

CERT was established in 1996 as a non-profit, regional higher education consortium. CERT serves as a convener and connects its 12 member institutions—11 colleges and universities and the Biomedical Research Foundation—with K-12 education, with business and industry, and economic and workforce development partners.

