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Ferris HVACR Helps Promote Green Education

The “Green Trailer” made a stop at Ferris State University on September 24, 2008. Al Balcam (T’89) was on hand to help educate people about the possibilities of sustainable energy.

Al commented, “We want to give people the right information about these energy sources – there’s a lot of misinformation out there,” said Balcam. The Advantage Mechanical-Refrigeration, Inc. employee staffed the trailer during the mid-Michigan portion of its nationwide tour. Balcam is becoming a certified instructor for the United Association of Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA), one of the trailer’s sponsors. “I’ve had people who thought they knew about geothermal, for example, who were totally wrong.” He should know. The 44-foot-long trailer is equipped with eight hands-on workstations for training and demonstration of state-of-the-art green building technologies including wind, solar and fuel cell.

The trailer is sponsored by the Partnership for Environmental Leadership whose members include the UA; Mechanical Service Contractors of America (MSCA); Mechanical Contractors Association of America; Plumbing Contractors of America United States Green Building Counsel; and the Green Mechanical Counsel which Ferris is a founding member. Additionally, Russ Borst, vice president of Hurst Mechanical in Grand Rapids, Mich. was the one who arranged for the trailer to make a stop at Ferris State University.