

Center for Environmental and Energy Research receives federal funds

7/29/05

U.S. Representative John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr. (R-Hammondsport) today (July 28) announced that the FY 2006 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill Conference Report includes \$750,000 for the Center for Environmental and Energy Research (CEER) at Alfred University. The Interior & Environment Appropriations Conference Report passed by a vote of 410 to 10. "The CEER program at Alfred has been operating successfully for the past six years, and I'm glad that we were able to provide funds to continue the ground-breaking research in environment and energy conservation going on at Alfred," said Rep. Kuhl. "Putting money into educational institutions like Alfred for high-tech research is one of the most important investments our government can make, and the research at CEER will contribute a lot to our nation through the Environmental Protection Agency's science and technology research program." Coupled with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CEER contributes to our nation's goal of becoming more efficient and self-sufficient in our energy consumption. CEER uses Alfred's expertise in ceramic/glass engineering, materials science, and other engineering and science fields to develop materials and processes for environmental sustainability. CEER has partnerships with numerous with industry and has at its core a solid research program focused on clean, renewable energy alternatives, and improvements in materials efficiency, environmental impact, and recycling. A total of 31 research projects were completed at the Center since its inception September of 2000. CEER success stories include the development of hollow glass microspheres for storing, delivering, and releasing hydrogen in fuel cells and an assessment of the environmental impact of fuel cell power generation systems. Both projects have progressed to outside support, including a \$2.2 million contract from DOE for a continuation of the glass microspheres project. The hydrogen-filled glass microspheres are so small (smaller than the diameter of a human hair) and uniform that they flow like water, yet they are strong enough to withstand a force of about 10,000 pounds per square inch.