

## NABCEP CERTIFICANT PROFILE

# Blake Jones



Blake Jones of Namaste Solar shows President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden the ballast trays of a T-10 flat roof mounting system on top of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, February 2009.

**Blake Jones** holds the NABCEP PV Solar Installer Certification. Blake is a co-founder of employee-owned Namaste Solar located in the Boulder/Denver metropolitan area in Colorado. Namaste Solar provides residential and commercial, governmental and non-profit “turn-key” solar PV installations.

“After graduating from college I got a civil engineering job in the oil and gas industry. With help from my older brother I gradually awoke to the benefits of renewable energy and the disadvantages of our over-dependence on fossil fuels.”

“In pursuit of my newfound interest in renewable energy, I went to Nepal for three years and installed solar, micro hydro, and wind systems for a Nepali renewable energy company based in Kathmandu. When I returned to Colorado in late 2004, I co-founded Namaste Solar with two colleagues because I wanted to continue the type of work I had done in Nepal.”

“In Colorado, the solar incentives program began in 2006 so I decided to take the NABCEP exam. I was attracted to the NABCEP certification because of the skills and knowledge it represented. I also wanted to support NABCEP because I believe that its certifications are very beneficial to the solar industry.”

“At Namaste Solar there are 22 individuals who are NABCEP certified. Our company cares a lot about individual professional development and NABCEP certifications are something to shoot for since they promote individual pride and validate their skills and knowledge. As a result, we provide lots of encouragement and support for our colleagues to learn, grow, and get certified.”

“NABCEP certifications establish credibility and instill confidence with vendors, installers, and other industry partners. While the specific benefits of certification are difficult to quantify with customers, the value attached to NABCEP certifications is gaining traction.”

“When I was working on new Colorado solar legislation with the local chapters of the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (CoSEIA), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC), one area of common ground that all of the stakeholders could agree on was to use the NABCEP certification as the skills requirement standard.”

“I have already recertified once and plan to continue recertifying because NABCEP is the type of organization that I want to support.”