



Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together

September 2022 E-Newsletter

Share this newsletter with others who are interested in expanding their workforce through increased training opportunities using curriculum developed in partnership with industry and higher education.

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Grant Updates

A Message from Amy Kox, Dean, Trades and Engineering Technologies:

A few network members from NWTC had the opportunity to attend the High Impact Technology Exchange National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah this summer. The conference's focus is on Advanced Technological Education. We attended presentations by other colleges throughout the country on the innovative ways they have adjusted to the needs and demands of the students entering our college doors. Tom Hebert, Gas Utility Construction & Service Instructor, and Jenny Brinker, Energy Management Instructor, presented and engaged in opportunities for disseminating what we are working on. One of the main points we heard repeatedly is the need for these hands on, technical trainings. Many presented on how we engage with potential students to get them interested in areas like manufacturing, construction, and energy.

Many of the educational institutions in this network have launched or are launching their fall semesters. Here at NWTC we are seeing enrollment inclines that are taking us back to the numbers of students we had prior to COVID. We hope that means more potential employees for all of you soon.

I hope you have a chance to view and share the microsite (<https://ate.is/UECN>) we have created with information we have gathered over the past two years. If you are working with an employer or education partner, please share our contact information and this site with them. We are entering the third year of this National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education, NSF ATE, grant and will be requesting a no-cost extension to take us into year four. We are halfway through and

excited about the work we have done, will be doing, and will be sharing with all of you.



UECN and the Smart Start grant

Jenny Brinker, Energy Management Instructor:

Building Automation Systems have been providing data used to manage utility costs for decades, and jobs in building automation are growing in number. Building control companies informed NWTC curriculum that will be taught in five high schools, providing college credit. The new transcribed credit course being taught in high schools and at NWTC is called Smart Start to Building Automation Systems. Tech Ed teachers learned to teach about power demand utility rates, as well as how to measure & manage temperature, humidity, and ventilation to save energy after a workshop at NWTC in May. One of the attendees from a local controls company expressed, "It will be nice to have some young people to work alongside." The new Smart Start to BAS course is part of an energy pathway certificate called Building Energy & Comfort Controls. The course and certificate development are funded by a National Science Foundation-Advanced Technology Education grant.



Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

For the latest in training and seminars, visit:

- **NWTC Corporate Training and Economic Development (CTED) Training & Seminars:** Offers a wide range of specific training that brings together industry experts, relevant topics, and best practices to impact workplace performance.
- **Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education (CREATE):** Addresses the needs of energy faculty and programs nationwide while building the capacity for U.S. industry to compete in the growing energy marketplace that underpins the global economy.
- **Slipstream:** Discovers, tests, and scales climate solutions in building and communities to create a healthier, more equitable future.
- **Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC):** Builds the foundation for rapid adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency to benefit people, the economy, and our planet.

- **Midwest Energy Association (MEA):** Serves the people that deliver electricity and natural gas to homes and businesses with the goal to improve safety and efficiency through education, leadership development, and industry connections.
- **Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA):** Promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration.
- **Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATTEC):** Advances water, environmental, and energy technology education through curriculum, professional, and program development.
- **Necessary Skills Now Network:** Supports integrated instruction around employability skills in two disciplines—Cybersecurity and Advanced Manufacturing.

To have your training opportunities listed, email bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu.

This and That

Gas Utility Construction and Service:

The Gas Utility instructor team reviewed the survey results. Their recommendations for curriculum changes will be presented on September 23 at the Gas Utility fall Advisory Committee meeting. If you responded to the survey, you should have received the results as well as an invitation to attend the meeting. If you would like to attend the meeting or receive a copy of the survey results, **contact Bonnie Willems**. Join us to be part of the discussion and decision process.



Telecommunications:

- Outreach continues for the program, including a **segment on Green Bay's Fox 11 News** about Emerging Careers on Monday, 8/22/22.
- Wireless classes are underway, and initial Fiber Optic design classes will begin for the 2023 Spring Semester.
- Curriculum development for additional class offerings is in progress.

Electrical Power Distribution:

- There are 40 students in this year's program at NWTC.
 - To keep current with industry, the College is looking to update an area in the URD training field to a 600amp facility to replace some 200amp equipment.
 - New electrical lines are going more underground. To help with the instruction, a Ditch Witch trencher was purchased.
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Apprenticeship:

We are excited to have the three utility apprenticeship programs at NWTC who just completed their first week of class.

- Line Worker Apprenticeship has 63 students.
 - Apprenticeship has 7 students.
 - New to NWTC are 15 Meter Tech Apprenticeship students.
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Solar Energy Technology:

- Fall semester is underway and students plan to break ground soon on a **20 KW Ground Mount PV Array** that will bring the Great Lakes Energy Education Center close to 200KW of installed PV. This array will allow for a comparison of monocrystalline modules to bifacial modules for energy production and ability to shed snow.



- The **DOE/MREA Solar Ready Grant** will phase out late October. It continues to provide valuable contributions to our Solar Energy Program with PV system trainers, PV system components, and curriculum development.



- **Wisconsin Energy Innovation Grant** for Energy Storage for the Great Lakes Energy Education Center is forthcoming and system design evaluation and vendors are being evaluated.



- The future looks bright!
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Potential Telecommunication Grants:

The Broadband Infrastructure Bill (BIL) includes a Broadband Workforce Development funding opportunity for Technical Colleges. NWTC attended virtual meetings with the White House regarding the Talent Pipeline Challenge and will

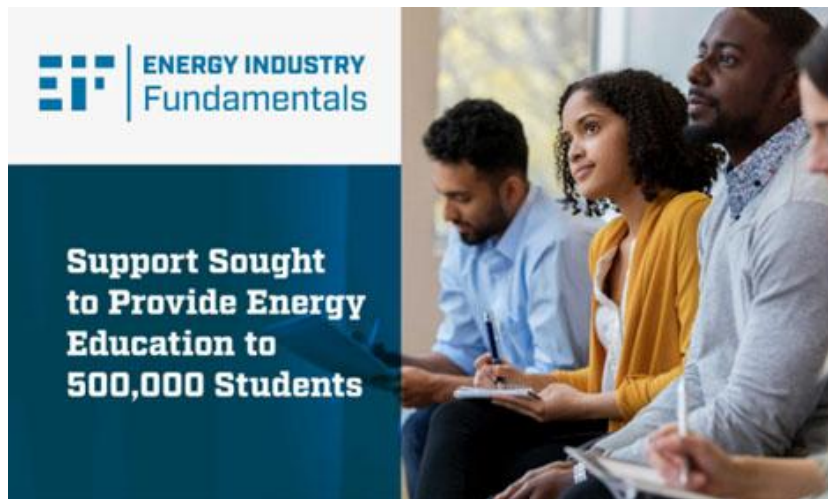
continue to gather information on this opportunity. The Telecommunications program is aligned perfectly for this grant opportunity and will remain a priority.



White House Talent Pipeline Challenge:

CEWD has signed the White House Talent Pipeline Challenge, which supports equitable workforce development goals to help enable historic infrastructure investments.

- [Sign the pledge.](#)
 - Review the [fact sheet](#) and [pledge](#).
 - [Let CEWD know](#) you have signed the pledge.
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Center for Energy Workforce Development Seeks Volunteers to Guide Reimagined Energy Industry Fundamentals Curriculum:

The CEWD is ready to put pen to paper on the reimagination of the Energy Industry Fundamentals (EIF) curriculum! Strategists eager to impact how and what students learn about the energy industry and the careers it offers will begin their work in early September, advancing the new program – that will include robust and modern curriculum and an engaging online delivery – for a debut in time for the 2023-2024 school year. Once launched, DEWD expects to educate 500,000 students about energy careers over the next ten years. Interested in being a part of this project?

[Contact Kristie Kelley](#) for more information.

Connect With Us

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