

Willems, Bonnie M.

From: Amy Kox <amy.kox@nwtc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 12:42 PM
To: Willems, Bonnie M.
Subject: Latest Updates from UECN – June 2023

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Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together June 2023 E-Newsletter

Share this newsletter with anyone interested in collaborating with NWTc to adapt industry approved curriculum to start your own training programs. **Join UECN now!**

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Grant Updates

Finding Diverse & Qualified Workers – by [Tom Hebert](#)

Are you struggling as a company to find diverse and qualified candidates? Your area technical colleges may be an untapped resource for you to find exactly those types of candidates.

As an Operations Manager for a utility and the Weekend Gas Utility Instructor for Northeast Wisconsin Technical College I understand that utilities typically do not have a shortage of applicants for open positions but rather a shortage of qualified and correct fit applicants.

At NWTc we focus heavily on soft skills employees need to navigate work relationships. We believe and have proven that our graduates have not only the technical expertise to perform the job but the skills that are truly desirable and

needed to be a positive addition to any utility team. The program started in 1988 as a collaboration between a technical college and a local utility to fill hiring gaps, and it has truly evolved to benefit today's workforce needs. In recent years, our focus switch to soft skills, engineering, job pricing, and leadership has led to many successful partnerships and hires. We work heavily on our students becoming strong advocates for themselves which in turn builds strong advocates for our college and the hiring companies.

As I look to this year's graduating class (approximately 35 total students), not all were not hired as entry level laborers but as Engineering Techs, Project Manager, Project Coordinator, Call Center Leads, Safety Liaison, and Power Plant Technician. Check out the [Gas Utility Construction and Service program curriculum](#).

If you'd like more information about NWTC curriculum or to share your own success stories, please contact [Howard Herrild](#), 920-498-6317.

This and That

[Apprenticeships](#) – by [Christina Jungwirth](#)

On April 17, NWTC, along with Kaukauna Utilities and CESA 6 Youth Apprenticeship, hosted students to learn about apprenticeships and careers in the utilities industry. Students signed up to spend the day seeing utility workers in action at Kaukauna Utilities, then took a bus to NWTC to learn about the education needed for these careers. While at NWTC, the students got to see the amazing facilities, interact with instructors, and experience hands-on activities. Events like this are helping to get more people interested in pursuing careers in the utilities industry. NWTC provides related instruction for Lineworker, Substation and Meter Technician Apprenticeships. Learn more: nwtc.edu/apprenticeship

[Solar Energy Technology](#) – by [John Hippensteel](#)

- Students continue to assist the City of Green Bay with Solar Site assessments and presented the results to the City Staff, including the mayor. What a great experience packed with useful information for all.
- It was a full house at the Resch Center for Commencement with several Solar Energy Associate Degree and Certificate students walking. All the graduates have jobs, and the booming solar industry needs more!



Gas Utility and Construction – by [Tom Hebert](#)

2023 saw the graduation of 35 students from the Gas Utility program. Close to 100% of those students received utility career positions ranging in pay from \$27-\$52 an hour with job titles ranging from fuser, project coordinator, and engineering apprentice. The program saw great success from regional utility and contractor partners providing shadowing opportunities for students, which gave them an inside look into the companies. We also saw one of Wisconsin's largest contractors provide careers for our students after only eight weeks of formal education. The students worked Monday through Thursday, then attended our weekend Gas Utility program with a very high success rate.

We encourage hiring companies to visit the college campus throughout the year to talk with students and see how they are progressing through the program. If this is of interest to you or your company, please contact [Tom Hebert](#).

Telecommunications – by [Joel Mikulsky](#)

- The Telecommunications Program Advisory Committee meeting provided valuable feedback and suggestions for the Telecom industry survey. Our trusted partners continue to help steer our curriculum toward industry needs.
- The Telecommunications Program survey has been sent out to our industry contacts to gauge current workforce needs and required skillsets. The survey is already generating good participation and will be closed this month. Once complete, the information and data will be shared throughout the network.
- Collaboration with the Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) is ongoing to connect with the industry's vendors, manufacturers, technicians, and engineers to stay current in the ever-changing technology. NWTC attended the Regional Fiber Connect conference in Oklahoma City to learn more about opportunities for workforce development and grow our network.
- Joel Mikulsky, Telecommunications Instructor, has been accredited as a "Train the Trainer" for the FBA's Optic Path program. This will allow NWTC to deliver OpTIC Path certifications to our graduating students that meet the criteria set forth by FBA in the disciplines of installation, testing, and troubleshooting fiber optic networks.

FBA OpTIC Path™

Optical Telecom Installer Certification



Energy Management – by [Jenny Brinker](#)

Smart Start to Building Automation Systems (BAS) curriculum has been implemented with great success according to feedback from five high school tech ed instructors. This curriculum was developed with funding from a National Science Foundation - Advanced Technical Education grant. The curriculum introduces students to managing commercial building HVAC systems using BAS. By the end of the course, students utilize data loggers to analyze building temperature, relative humidity, and CO2 levels, and use a building operator screen to schedule a Variable Air Volume box to save energy with an occupancy schedule. Over 20 HVAC and Building Controls instructors viewed and discussed the curriculum during a [BEST Center](#) Workshop and many are excited to implement the ready-to-use lessons in their curriculum. For more info about BAS curriculum, contact [Howard Herrild](#).

Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

Building Energy Modeling - Sketchbox as a Teaching Tool – \$250 stipend available

Please join KEEP & Slipstream for this free virtual workshop. Guest facilitator Jim Reichling (high school math & physics teacher) will introduce Sketchbox and explore how students can build an energy model and analyze impacts of energy efficiency technologies in buildings.

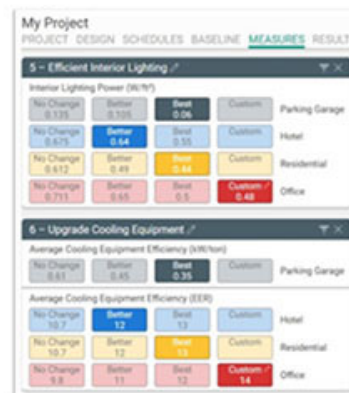
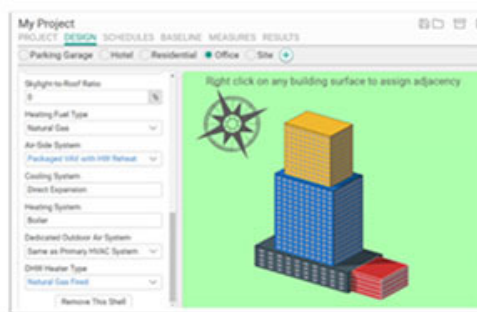
When: Thursday, July 20, 2023, 9AM - 3PM

Where: Zoom virtual workshop

Cost: FREE!

[GET DETAILS AND REGISTER NOW](#)

Wisconsin high school educators who attend the full workshop are eligible to receive a **\$250 stipend** upon completing and submitting an assignment that will be uploaded to DPI WiseLearn.



For the latest in training and seminars, visit:

- **NWTC Corporate Training and Economic Development (CTED):** Training and services tailored to individual company needs.
- **Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education (CREATE):** Creating a skilled technical workforce to implement the transformation of the world's energy industries.
- **Slipstream:** Discovers, tests, and scales climate solutions in buildings and communities.
- **Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC):** Builds the foundation for rapid adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency, toward a 100% clean energy future that is reliable, resilient, and equitable.
- **Midwest Energy Association (MEA):** Empowering the energy industry through education, leadership development, and industry connections.
- **Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA):** Promotes renewable energy and sustainable living through education and demonstration.

- **Environmental and Natural Resources Technology (EARTH) – formerly Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATTEC):**
Advances environmental and natural resources education through curriculum, professional, and program development.

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

Connect With Us

Visit our website: nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork

Email Bonnie Willems: bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu

Grant Contacts

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