

**Willems, Bonnie M.**

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**From:** Kox, Amy L.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:52 AM  
**To:** Willems, Bonnie M.  
**Subject:** FW: Latest Updates from UECN – September 2023

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**From:** Amy Kox <amy.kox@nwtc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:37 AM  
**To:** Kox, Amy L. <Amy.Kox@NWTC.EDU>  
**Subject:** Latest Updates from UECN – September 2023

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## *Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together*

### September 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

**Apprenticeship Provides Hands-on Training and Education for Careers in Utilities** – by [Christina Jungwirth](#)

Wisconsin was first in the country to establish laws on apprenticeship in 1911, and this served as a model for the federal apprenticeship program. The following year, a

vocational school – now evolved into Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) – was established in Green Bay, WI to educate apprentices. NWTC is now part of the WI Technical College System that includes 16 colleges throughout the state. While the colleges still provide education for apprentices (administered by the Dept. of Workforce Development), they also provide many other programs.

Apprenticeship is 90% on-the-job training and 10% classroom instruction, with apprentices paid for both their working and class time. For the utility apprenticeships at NWTC ([Line Worker](#), [Meter Tech](#), and [Sub Station](#) ), apprentices attend classes one week four times a year to fulfill their related instruction requirements. The Line Worker and Sub Station apprenticeships are four years, and the Metering Tech apprenticeship is three years. Each apprenticeship requires a certain number of hours worked in different competencies to make sure the apprentice gets a well-rounded on-the-job training experience. Upon completion of a WI Apprenticeship, one is considered a Journey-level worker.

Learn more about [Utilities Registered Apprenticeships in Wisconsin](#) and [Apprenticeships at NWTC](#).

## This and That



### Utility Preview Day Experience

Join NWTC for an open house-style experience to learn about Electrical Power Distribution, Gas Utility Construction and Service, and Telecommunications. Explore the Utility Education Field where current students help attendees climb a pole or cell tower, fuse fiber optic or gas pipe, and operate a backhoe. Industry reps, school advisors, and program instructors will be available to answer questions. Registration is required for students; parents and other family members are invited to attend but do not need to register.

[Learn more or register now.](#)

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### Explore Trades Day Open House

Interested in a hands-on career in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, or energy? Don't miss the Open House on the NWTC Green Bay Campus on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. No need to register – just stop in! [Get more details.](#)

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## Telecommunications – by Joel Mikulsky

Joel Mikulsky and Bonnie Willems met with representatives from the [Fiber Broadband Association \(FBA\)](#) to collaborate on NWTC's UECN initiative and bring awareness to NWTC's program that includes FBA OpTIC Path certification.

A joint event is in the initial planning stages to showcase the UECN, NWTC and FBA's effort to connect industry partners and educational resources to embolden the Telecommunications and Broadband workforce. Installation contractors, engineering firms, equipment manufacturers, material distributors, community members and prospective students will be invited to see all that a career in telecommunications has to offer. This event is in its early planning stages but is currently targeted to take place in Spring 2024.



## Solar Energy Technology – by John Hippensteel

Energy Storage comes to the Great Lakes Energy Education Center along with the addition of a 4-credit class on Solar + Storage & EV Charging. Thanks to the Wisconsin Energy Innovation Grant, NWTC is installing energy storage that will capture excess solar energy for later use. It will reduce the amount of energy sold back to the grid, allowing more of the energy produced by the solar to be used on site, when the sun isn't shining. This goes well with the new advanced class on Solar + Storage.

## Gas Utility Construction & Service – by Jason Nelson

Gas Utility program students are helping out on the NWTC campus. They are learning how to use the Hydro-Vac to safely excavate material around a water valve box that was hit by a snowplow last winter. Students were able to excavate and replace the valve box so the hydrant valve is accessible.



## Electrical Power Distribution – by Pete Mleziva

There are currently 44 students enrolled in the EPD program and we are halfway through our second eight weeks. The students are working on underground distribution installation, maintenance and troubleshooting. We are also in the process of making many upgrades to the training yard. There will be a new three-phase underground training area and most of the three-phase overhead is being upgraded to suit the needs of the industry.

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## Apprenticeship

Enrollment for the Line Worker Apprenticeship program is at 60 students. The Meter Tech Apprenticeship program is at 27 students, and the Substation Tech Apprenticeship program is at 8 students.

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## Energy Management

The two-year Energy Management Technology program is no longer being offered at NWTC. To continue teaching some of the important energy saving concepts, a specialized 7-credit [Building Energy and Comfort Controls Certificate](#) has been introduced. This certificate includes instruction in basic electricity, commercial utility billing and costs, environmental comfort variables (such as humidity and temperature), basic HVAC mechanics, basic building automation controls and sequences of building operation. Graduates will be prepared to enter the workforce at an informed and skilled level that allows them to quickly grasp concepts and operational procedures based on employer specific equipment, processes, and comfort controlled smart logic. To learn more, contact [Howard Herrild](#).

## Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

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.
- **Fiber Broadband Association** – Works toward a world where communications are limitless, advancing the quality of life and digital equity anywhere and everywhere.

*To have your training opportunities listed, email [bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu](mailto:bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu).*

## Connect With Us

Visit our website: [nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork](http://nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork)

Email Bonnie Willems: [bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu](mailto:bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu)

## Grant Contacts

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