

Latest Updates from UECN – March 2024

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Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together

March 2024 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

Meter Tech Apprenticeship Instructor Needed

The Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Meter Tech Apprenticeship program is seeking an instructor. [Get details and apply now!](#)

Last Network Survey Will be Sent in April; Please Complete – by [Kathleen Dean](#)

On April 2, 2024, you will receive a link to a short survey from our external evaluation team at The Rucks Group designed to help us understand the number and nature of connections you have with other members of the Network. The survey will help us identify how we can continue to support our shared efforts to close the workforce gap in the energy industry.

This survey with subject line *Utilities and Energy Coordination Network Survey* will come from Amy Kox, Dean of Trades and Engineering Technologies at NWTC and

Principal Investigator of the NSF ATE grant (#2000519). When you receive the email with your individualized survey link, please take 10-15 minutes to complete it before Monday, April 22. If you do not receive the survey on April 2, check your spam or promotional folders, as it may get filtered there. If you still cannot find the survey or encounter issues while attempting to complete it, please reach out to Dr. Kathleen Dean at kdean@therucksgroup.com. Thank you for your commitment to being part of our growing Network. We look forward to continuing to work with you!

This and That

Electrical Power Distribution – by [Pete Mleziva](#)



The Electrical Power Distribution program had its program graduation ceremony on March 6, 2024. All 44 students were able to walk across the stage and celebrate the completion on the program. Congratulations, graduates! The next Electrical Power Distribution class will have program orientation on April 9.

Apprenticeships – by [Christina Jungwirth](#)

Congratulations to the NWTC EPD program graduates! Now is a great time to hire them, get them working and sponsor them for an apprenticeship. EPD graduates can start the second year of the line worker apprenticeship, skipping the first year. This class is scheduled to begin August 5-8, 2024, and the Metering Tech Apprenticeship first year class starts August 12-15. To sponsor a WI apprentice, visit the [DWD website](#) or reach out to the DWD Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards.

Telecommunications – by Joel Mikulsky

NWTC has been working with the **Fiber Broadband Association (FBA)** and Central Maine Community College to share our curriculum and assist in the startup of a Telecommunications and FBA OptIC Path Certification Program. NWTC was an early adopter of the FBA OptIC path certification curriculum and will continue to assist other institutions and the FBA to embolden the telecommunications and broadband workforce through accredited educational opportunities.

The first round of NWTC students in the **Telecommunications Engineering Technician Program** have successfully completed their OptIC Path Certifications and are ready to continue sharpening their skills in the final 8 weeks of the program for the **Fiber Optic Engineering Technician Technical Diploma**. Congratulations to all the students who will continue to be advocates in the telecom industry and profess the importance of continued education.



Gas Utility Construction and Service – by Jason Nelson



The Gas Utility students have graduated, and nearly 100% of them are already employed! Students had a productive year, successfully finishing labs and assignments to enhance their skills in the gas field. We are excited for them to begin their new careers. Students are employed by WPS, WE Energies, Michels, NPL, Intercon, Q3, Miller Pipeline, Tilson, Magnolia River, CEC, and MJ to name just a few. Thanks to all faculty, staff, and employers who supported us.

Solar Energy Technology – by John Hippensteel



The Great Lakes Energy Education Center hosted a press conference on March 14, 2024, centering on the expanding Electric Vehicle Market and the role of education, specifically NWTC's Solar Program, in the transition to electrification of transportation. Several speakers addressed policy and infrastructure. John Hippensteel explained that the EV market is closely related to the Solar Energy industry and that all students get experience with installing and maintaining EV Charging Stations. He mentioned that he doesn't know any EV owner that doesn't love to drive on sunshine, and that many have their own solar arrays. The parking lot at NWTC contained well over a dozen EV including NWTC's Electric Ford Lightning truck.

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):** Promoting renewable energy and sustainable living through education and demonstration since 1990. Offering industry-leading professional training for solar photovoltaics

(PV) for all experience levels.

- **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.

Connect With Us

Visit our website: nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork

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