

**U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Office of Public Affairs
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NETL NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8/24/2012**

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NETL Researcher Receives Outstanding Technical Achievement Award

Pittsburgh, Pa. —



The National Energy Technology Laboratory's (NETL) Dr. Alexandra Hakala has been honored with the Great Minds in STEM Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) award for Outstanding Technical Achievement. In just 3 years as a research scientist at NETL, Dr. Hakala has proven innovative, inspirational, and driven: qualities sought for such awards. She currently serves as the technical coordinator for shale gas research, managing multiple projects within NETL's Office of Research and Development. She also leads teams investigating shale gas geochemistry and geothermal energy resources, in addition to being part of other teams studying water quality prediction models to protect groundwater quality near CO₂ storage sites.

Dr. Hakala will receive her award at the 24th Annual HENAAC Conference, "STEM, Excellence, and the Pursuit of Innovation," on October 12, 2012. [Great Minds in STEM™](#) considers nominees for their awards to be "top role models" in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields and uses the HENAAC awards to "promote and highlight Hispanic engineers and scientists." These awards spotlight rising stars in STEM to encourage the next generation to pursue careers in these fields and motivate current STEM innovators to continue to connect with their Hispanic heritage.

Dr. Hakala grew up in eight different locations across the United States and South America, and while she calls the Pittsburgh region "home" (Homestead, Pa.) her parents reside in Marietta, Ga. She earned a B.A. in geosciences with a certificate in

environmental studies from Princeton University (Princeton, N.J.) and a Ph.D. from the School of Earth Sciences at The Ohio State University (Columbus, Ohio).

NETL is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory that produces technological solutions to America's energy challenges. For more than 100 years, the laboratory has focused on developing tools and processes to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to the American people. Three NETL research sites—Albany, Ore., Morgantown, W.Va., and Pittsburgh, Pa.—conduct a broad range of energy and environmental research and development activities that support DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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