

# RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • NOVEMBER 2023

## Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

This month's funding opportunity in focus is a U.S. Department of Energy's request for information on *Growing Carbon Management Education Capacity at Minority Serving Institutions through the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management University Training and Research Program* with a response deadline of January 5, 2024.

In the DOE STEM Rising section of this month's e-note is the announcement of a second round of the *National Science Foundation-Department of Energy Geothermal Internship Supporting Growth of Geothermal Energy Workforce*. Deadline and qualification information can be found by following the link. As always, feel free to reach out to us at [NETL.RWFI@netl.doe.gov](mailto:NETL.RWFI@netl.doe.gov) if you have any suggestions for information to present in future E-notes. Please also check final deadline dates with original links.

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– Sincerely, The NETL RWFI Team

## Workforce Funding Announcements

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



*Request for Information (RFI): Growing Carbon Management Education Capacity at Minority Serving Institutions through the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) University Training and Research (UTR) Program*

**U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, January 5, 2024**

This is an RFI issued by FECM. The purpose of this RFI is to seek input on various questions regarding potential funding for workforce development efforts through new curricula on carbon management informed by community knowledge and values through FECM's UTR program. Information on curricula components, staffing, time, recruitment and accessibility, and cost related to the following comments and questions is requested. Input is sought from universities, colleges, other leaders in education, tribal governments, philanthropies, non-profit organizations, community leaders, government agencies, labor unions and organizations, and other

relevant stakeholders. This is solely an RFI and is not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The DOE is not accepting applications to this RFI.

*Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRCs) Program*

**National Science Foundation, Deadline, Dec. 13, 2023**

The IUCRC program catalyzes breakthrough pre-competitive research by enabling close and sustained engagement between industry innovators, world-class academic teams, and government agencies. IUCRCs help industry partners and government agencies connect directly and efficiently with university researchers to achieve three primary objectives: conduct high-impact research to meet shared and critical industrial needs in companies of all sizes; enhance U.S. global leadership in driving innovative technology development; and identify, mentor and develop a diverse, highly skilled science and engineering workforce.

*Advancing U.S. Thin-Film Solar Photovoltaics (PVs)*

**U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, Dec. 18, 2023**

The Advancing U.S. Thin-Film Solar PVs FOA will focus on accelerating the capabilities of two thin-film PV technologies: metal-halide perovskite PV and cadmium telluride (CdTe) PV technologies. It will fund innovative industrial R&D projects that will enable future commercialization of hybrid tandem perovskite PV, defined as a perovskite PV in combination with another technology such as silicon or CdTe. It will also fund industrial research, development, and demonstration projects across the materials, equipment, installation, and performance monitoring sectors to improve the competitiveness of the domestic CdTe PV industry. This FOA promotes U.S. leadership in thin-film PV technology by promoting the domestic manufacture of thin-film PV modules. With this goal in mind, only for-profit entities and teams led by for-profit entities may apply to this FOA, and all work must be performed in the United States.

*Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Weatherization Program Assistance (WAP) Enhancement & Innovation*

**U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, January 5, 2024**

This FOA is for the WAP Enhancement & Innovation grant, in support of Section 40551 of the BIL, issued by the DOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs. This FOA provides \$25M in competitive funding for WAP Grantees and Subgrantees (state, local, or tribal governments) and non-profit organizations, with a \$2M maximum per award. This FOA seeks applications to expand the impact of DOE's existing residential weatherization programs by utilizing leveraged resources and enhanced community partnerships to perform deep energy retrofits of low-income residential buildings and empower local

community representation within the energy workforce. DOE seeks proposals that drive innovative approaches to program coordination and service delivery, while fostering the collaboration of dynamic and diverse teams. Applicants can apply for one of the following three topic areas: Multifamily Housing, Single Family and Manufactured Housing, and Workforce Development. While cost share is not required, applicants are encouraged to use awarded enhancement & innovation funds in conjunction with DOE WAP formula awards and leverage other funding sources to deploy demonstration projects that have potential to be scaled nationally, enhance the benefits realized by underserved communities, and accelerate an equitable transition to a clean-energy economy.

### *Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)*

#### **National Science Foundation, January 10, 2024**

TCUP provides awards to federally recognized Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality STEM education (including sociology, psychology, anthropology, linguistics, economics and bioeconomics, statistics, and other social and behavioral sciences; natural sciences; computer science, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, quantum information science, and cybersecurity), research, and outreach. Support is available to TCUP-eligible institutions (see the Additional Eligibility subsection of Section IV of this solicitation) for transformative capacity-building or community engagement projects through Instructional Capacity Excellence in TCUP Institutions; Targeted STEM Infusion Projects; TCUP for Secondary and Elementary Teachers in STEM; TCU Enterprise Advancement Centers; Cyberinfrastructure Health, Assistance, and Improvements; and Preparing for TCUP Implementation.

### *Solar-thermal Fuels and Thermal Energy Storage via Concentrated Solar-thermal Energy*

#### **Department of Energy, January 12, 2024**

This FOA will implement two approaches to energy storage in concentrated solar-thermal systems: thermochemical storage via solar fuel production and local thermal energy storage for dispatchable energy. The two technologies will support the government-wide approach to the climate crisis by driving the innovation that can lead to the deployment of clean energy technologies, which are critical for climate protection.

### *Challenges and Opportunities at the interface of Wind Energy and Radar Technology*

#### **Department of Energy, January 12, 2024**

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit public feedback to help inform DOE's implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also commonly known as the BIL. To help inform DOE's implementation of BIL funds under the provision referenced above, this RFI seeks input on siting challenges of wind energy developers related to radar interference, potential mitigation technologies at the radar and/or turbine level that currently exist or are in development to address wind turbine-radar interference, commercialization and market adoption of wind-radar interference mitigation measures, and what obstacles need to be overcome to accelerate commercialization and maximize adoption, and BIL Provisions and Requirements and Buy America Requirements. This is solely an RFI and not a FOA. The Office

of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is not accepting applications. This is an RFI only. DOE will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. DOE may or may not issue a FOA based on consideration of the input received from this RFI. Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to [WindEnergyRFI@ee.doe.gov](mailto:WindEnergyRFI@ee.doe.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, January 12, 2024. Responses must be provided as attachments to an email.

### *Training-based Workforce Development for Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (CI)*

#### **National Science Foundation, January 18, 2024**

This program seeks to prepare, nurture, and grow the national scientific research workforce for creating, utilizing, and supporting advanced CI to enable and potentially transform fundamental science and engineering research and education and contribute to the nation's overall economic competitiveness and security. The goals of this solicitation are to ensure broad adoption of CI tools, methods, and resources by the research community in order to catalyze major research advances and to enhance researchers' abilities to lead the development of new CI and integrate core literacy and discipline-appropriate advanced skills in advanced CI (as well as computational and data-driven methods for advancing fundamental research) into the nation's undergraduate and graduate educational curriculum/instructional materials.

### *RFI DE-FOA-0003251: Clean Energy Careers for All Program*

#### **Department of Energy, January 26, 2024**

The Biden Administration is committed to ensuring that overburdened, underserved, and underrepresented individuals and communities have access to federal resources, and specifically that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities, as described in its Justice40 Initiative. The clean energy transition should advance equity for people of color, people with disabilities, and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the entire government. As part of the whole of government approach, DOE is taking proactive steps to lower barriers to entry. The EERE supports research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. DOE funds RDD&D activities in climate and energy technologies through a variety of mechanisms, including external competitive solicitations and through its 17 national laboratories. In addition, DOE programs support building and sustaining an innovation ecosystem for climate and energy technologies, encompassing early career and workforce development, entrepreneurial programs and resources for individuals and organizations, and technical and financial assistance for communities and regions. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit public feedback about issues related to educational and professional development programming—created and delivered by diverse science and engineering non-profits—that inspires students, alumni, and professionals to explore, pursue, and succeed in STEM-related careers in clean energy.

*DE-FOA-0003138 Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0003139 - Distributed Energy Systems Demonstrations*

**Department of Energy, January 29, 2024**

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations intends to issue a FOA entitled "Distributed Energy Systems Demonstrations Funding Opportunity Announcement." The goal of this new investment area is to support demonstrations that de-risk technologies needed to manage variable generation; control flexible loads; and integrate energy storage, electric vehicle charging, and other facilities into the U.S. transmission and distribution grids.

*Enabling a Reduced Carbon Footprint for CO<sub>2</sub> Enhanced Oil Recovery (CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR)/Storage Field Test Sites in Unconventional Reservoirs*

**Department of Energy, January 29, 2024**

This funding opportunity announcement supports the DOE by investing in research through a field laboratory well, or wells, established in collaboration with industry and academic research partners to expand public understanding of the overall effectiveness of CO<sub>2</sub> EOR in unconventional oil reservoirs, the possibility of combining EOR and associated CO<sub>2</sub> storage in horizontal, hydraulically fractured unconventional oil wells, and the potential for combining EOR and associated CO<sub>2</sub> storage in a manner that results in a reduced carbon footprint oil classification for the incremental oil produced, aligned with the Administration's "net zero" carbon economy 2050 goal.

**NETL News**



*NETL's Hannah Sieger Supporting Upcoming Direct Air Capture (DAC) Center to Address Climate Change*

Hannah Sieger, NETL's contracting officer representative for the upcoming DAC Center, grew up watching as evidence and effects of climate change mounted, and today she stands ready to support the Lab as it works to address this challenge. The testing and development of DAC technologies is an essential component of achieving a low-carbon economy and a tool to help mitigate some of the environmental issues the nation is facing.



*DOE Invests More Than \$444M for Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise (CarbonSAFE) Projects*

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the DOE today announced over \$444M to support sixteen selected projects across twelve states that will fight climate change by bolstering the nation's carbon management industry.



*Carbon Matchmaker Builds Bridges Across Carbon Management Community*

Developed by NETL researchers in coordination with the FECM, Carbon Matchmaker (an online information hub) connects users across the carbon capture, utilization and storage community and CO<sub>2</sub> removal supply chains, helping to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through strong public-private partnerships in a just and sustainable way.





**NETL Talks DAC With Tech Developers, Policymakers from Around the World**

NETL experts took part in the recent Global DAC Conference, a two-day event that brought together global leaders and innovators who are working to develop DAC as a robust, cost-effective and environmentally just technology to remove greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

**Reports and Resources**

*Workforce of the Future Initiative*

**Brookings Institute**

A variety of economic forces—most prominently, globalization and automation—have reduced the availability of middle-class jobs. This has contributed to a stagnation in real wages and a decline in upward mobility for millions of workers, particularly those without a college degree. Led by Brookings fellow Greg Wright—and founded by former Brookings senior fellow Marcela Escobari in 2018—the Workforce of the Future initiative produces research and online tools to diagnose and counter these trends.

**DOE STEM Rising**



**DOE Scholars/ Federal Energy Management Program Alumnus Joins Environmental Protection Agency as an Engineer**

Throughout his years of experience in both the military and as a civilian, Jose Santiago Roque noticed that safety components within environmental health and engineering practices can often be overlooked or underestimated if they are not well designed, properly practiced and meticulously monitored.



**Paducah Site Showcases Careers at STEM 4 Girls Event**

As women account for about half of U.S. workers in the fields of math and physical science, the Office of *Environmental Management's Paducah Site* continues to ensure young girls are exposed to opportunities in such STEM fields. That's why employees from Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership, the deactivation and remediation contractor for the Paducah Site, showcased career possibilities during this year's Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce STEM 4 Girls event.



**National Science Foundation (NSF)-DOE Internships for Graduate Students in Geothermal Energy Supplemental Funding Opportunity (Geothermal INTERN) Opportunity Supports Growth of Geothermal Energy Workforce**

The DOE and the NSF today announced the second round of the *Geothermal INTERN opportunity* is open and actively accepting applications. This NSF-DOE collaboration supports 10 to 20 research internships per year to work on projects that advance geothermal technologies. With their principal investigators, students selected for this opportunity can create their own internship that applies their academic interests with a host organization in the geothermal industry.

## ABOUT NETL



*NETL*, owned and operated by DOE, is one of the Department's 17 National Laboratories. NETL supports DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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