

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • MAY 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

In this month's funding opportunity in focus is the *EPA's Brownfield Job Training Grants* program with a deadline of August 15, 2024.

Also, join us for our first webinar of the NETL RWFI Hydrogen 101 Series entitled *Building Effective Community Engagement Strategies, June 6, 2024, from 11:00 AM–12:00 PM*, where we delve into the findings of the Energy Futures Initiatives (EFI) Factbook/Report: "Building Stronger Community Engagement in Hydrogen Hubs." The factbook presents insights garnered from a comprehensive survey of nearly 5,000 individuals hailing from disadvantaged, tribal, labor, and environmental justice communities. Madeline Schomburg Director of Research at EFI will be presenting the findings of the report as well as providing a regional lens to the results. The report itself can be found in this month's Reports and Resources section. [Register by clicking here.](#)

Attached to this email is a hyperlinked PDF version of this note. If you would like to unsubscribe, please reply "unsubscribe" to this email.

– Sincerely, The NETL RWFI Team

Workforce Funding Announcements

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT



Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Brownfields Job Training Grants

Environmental Protection Agency, Deadline, Aug. 15, 2024

Training programs funded by the Brownfields Job Training Grant provide program graduates with the opportunity to seek and obtain environmental jobs that contractors may otherwise fill from outside the affected community. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to use this grant opportunity to support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and the incorporation of strong labor standards and workforce programs. Brownfields Job Training Grants help residents take advantage of jobs across a spectrum of brownfield related activities, including the assessment, cleanup, remediation, and planning/site preparation for the revitalization of brownfields.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022: State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Competitive Grant Program

Department of Energy, Deadline, July 12, 2024

IRA of 2022: State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Competitive Grant Program: The State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants, also known as the Training for Residential Energy Contractors Program, seeks to accomplish three goals: reduce the cost of training contractor employees by providing workforce development tools for contractors, their employees, and individuals including, but not limited to, subsidizing available training, testing certifications, and licenses for high-quality jobs; provide testing and certifications of contractors trained and educated to install home energy efficiency and electrification technologies and deliver residential energy efficiency and electrification improvements; and fund states to partner with nonprofit organizations to develop and implement a State sponsored workforce program that attracts and trains a diverse set of local workers to deliver the influx of new federally-funded energy efficiency and electrification programs—including the IRA-funded Home Efficiency Rebates Program, Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (Home Energy Rebates Programs) and Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Credit.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – Joint Office of Energy and Transportation: Communities Taking Charge Accelerator, Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Opportunity Announcement

Department of Energy, Deadline, July 16, 2024

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – Joint Office of Energy and Transportation: Communities Taking Charge Accelerator, Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Opportunity Announcement. This Funding Opportunity Announcement aims to help everyone ride and drive electric, foster public and private relationships, build interdisciplinary teams, advance the American blueprint for transportation decarbonization, and promote managed charging.

FY24 Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW)

Department of Energy, Deadline, July 23, 2024

RENEW aims to build foundations for Office of Science (SC) research through traineeships at academic institutions that have been historically underrepresented in the SC portfolio. RENEW leverages SC's unique national laboratories, user facilities, and other research infrastructure to provide training opportunities for students and postdoctoral researchers from these institutions. The hands-on experiences gained through RENEW will open new career avenues for trainees, forming a nucleus for a future pool of talented young scientists, engineers, and technicians with the critical skills and expertise needed for the full breadth of SC research activities.

Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Aug. 7, 2024

Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence supports potentially transformative research that develops basic theoretical insights and fundamental knowledge about principles, processes and mechanisms of learning, and about augmented intelligence—how human cognitive function can be augmented through interactions with others or with technology, or through variations in context.

Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Aug. 9, 2024

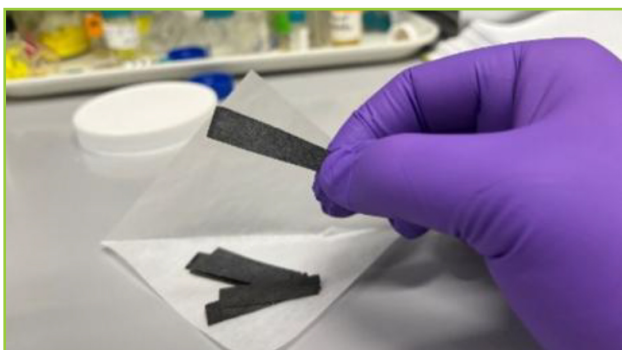
The economic prosperity and national security of the United States is reliant upon the nation’s capacity to remain globally competitive in the technological and computational fields. The nation’s competitiveness, however, is contingent upon its capacity to educate the next generation. Learning and teaching must be reimagined to better represent the diverse composition and perspective of our nation’s people and be expanded to encompass all pathways for students to receive a high-quality STEM education.

FY24 Department of Navy (DON) STEM Education and Workforce Program

Office of Naval Research, Deadline, Aug. 30, 2024

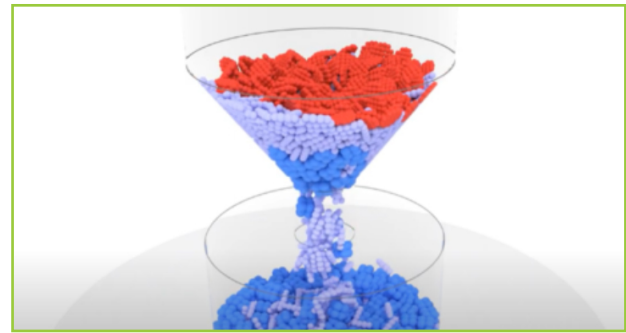
The Office of Naval Research is interested in receiving a broad range of proposals for augmenting existing and/or developing innovative solutions that directly maintain, and/or cultivate a diverse, world-class STEM workforce to maintain the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps’ technological superiority. The goal of proposed efforts must provide solutions that establish, build, and/or maintain STEM educational pathways of U.S. citizens directly relevant to the needs of DON’s current and future workforce.

NETL News



NETL Research Targets Degradation of Sorbents Used in Direct Air Capture (DAC)

NETL researchers are studying how sorbents used in DAC technologies degrade and working on ways to accurately predict sorbent’s lifetimes and limit degradation. In DAC technologies, CO₂ is separated from ambient air and delivered in a compressed form for storage or reuse. Sorbents based on a polymeric amine degrade when exposed to air, humidity, and heat. NETL researchers are testing a sorbent they developed that is based on a molecular amine to understand the aging process.



NETL Releases Latest Version of Multiphase Flow Software to Develop Efficient, Cleaner Energy Systems

NETL has announced the release of MFIX (Multiphase Flow with Interphase eXchanges) Version 24.1, the latest upgrade to multiphase computational fluid dynamics software used to shorten the time and cost associated with developing new power generation technologies.



NETL Pursues Groundbreaking CO₂ Removal Research

CO₂ removal research—efforts to scale-up and commercialize technologies that will offset so-called hard-to-avoid carbon emissions and remove legacy CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it at the gigaton scale—being conducted at NETL will be instrumental in meeting the decarbonization goals of the United States.



DOE Invests Nearly \$32M in Technologies to Help Eliminate Natural Gas Flaring at Oil and Gas Production Operations

The DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) today announced four research and development projects selected to receive nearly \$32M to advance technologies that will help reduce natural gas flaring at oil production sites, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, by transforming gas into valuable products that would otherwise be wasted by those operations. These projects support President Biden’s U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan, which launched a whole-of-government initiative to redouble efforts to significantly reduce methane emissions while

protecting workers and communities, growing jobs, and promoting U.S. technology innovation. Aligned with this action is the EPA's new rule tackling wasteful methane emissions and the Administration's pledge that the United States will work with global partners to reduce the world's methane emissions 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.



NETL's Microwave Chemistry Solvent Process Aims to Decarbonize Plastics Production

NETL, in partnership with Covestro LLC, and RAPID (Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment), has been awarded more than \$1.4M in funding for its proposal to decarbonize commonly used solvent chemistry for the use case of depolymerization using microwave technology.



DOE Issues Notice of Intent to Fund Test Centers to Advance Carbon Capture, Removal, and Conversion Technologies

The FECM today announced their intent to issue funding to support research and development projects focused on facilities to test a variety of carbon management technologies, including carbon capture, removal, and conversion.



NETL Report Examines Technologies for Reducing Emissions from Gas Flaring

Flaring, often used in the oil and gas industry to dispose of gases not processed and sold as part of normal operations, has been a

common practice for nearly 160 years but is a source of greenhouse gas emissions—most notably methane. A new comprehensive evaluation of gas flare technologies, conducted by NETL, suggests that significant emissions reduction will depend largely upon low-cost improvements to existing technologies backed by strategic federal investment.

Reports and Resources



Building Stronger Community Engagement in Hydrogen Hubs

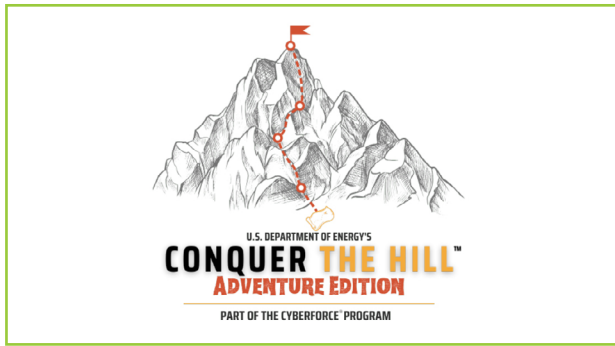
Building Stronger Community Engagement in Hydrogen Hubs is a factbook reporting the results of a survey of nearly 5,000 respondents from disadvantaged, tribal, labor, and environmental justice communities on their attitudes toward hydrogen hubs and community engagement. It contributes to ongoing efforts by communities, hydrogen hub developers, and the DOE to align on community engagement approaches and best practices for DOE's \$7B Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program.

DOE STEM Rising



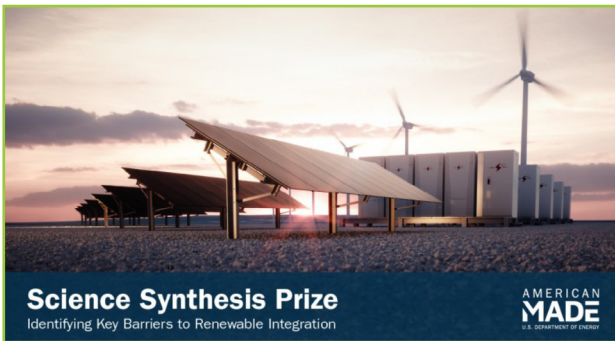
The Office of Legacy Management (LM) Plans and Co-Sponsors Miss Navajo Nation STEM-Sation Event at Arizona High School

The LM recently coordinated and co-sponsored the second annual Miss Navajo Nation STEM-sation event at Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, AZ. The STEM-sation event has become one of LM's signature Navajo Nation STEM events. The event takes place each year in partnership with the Office of Miss Navajo Nation, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Diné College Land Grant Office, Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department, Arizona Public Service, and BHP.



University Students “Adventure” Forward in CyberForce—Conquer the Hill Competition

The DOE’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response and Argonne National Laboratory, a DOE national laboratory, announced Cameron Whitehead of the University of Central Florida as the winner of the 2024 CyberForce Conquer the Hill: Adventure Competition.



U.S. DOE Announces Science Synthesis Prize Launch

The DOE’s Office of Electricity launches the new Science Synthesis Prize: Identifying Key Barriers to Renewable Integration. This one-phase competition aims to address opportunities and challenges as renewable technologies are integrated onto the electric grid. The Science Synthesis Prize is part of *the American-Made Challenges Program*.

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.

1450 Queen Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321-2198
541-967-5892

3610 Collins Ferry Road
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880
304-285-4764

626 Cochran Mill Road
P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940
412-386-4687

Program staff are also located in Houston, Texas and Anchorage, Alaska

WEBSITE: www.netl.doe.gov

CONTACTS

Anthony Armaly
NETL RWFI Federal Coordinator
412-386-6040
Anthony.Armaly@netl.doe.gov

Kirk Gerdes
Regional Workforce Initiative Coordinator
304-285-4342
Kirk.Gerdes@netl.doe.gov

Mike Knaggs
Associate Director of Partnerships
304-285-4926
Michael.Knaggs@netl.doe.gov

Matthew Garcia
Regional Workforce Initiative Consultant
956-314-0645
Matthew.Garcia@netl.doe.gov