

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • JULY 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

In this month's funding opportunity in focus is the U.S. Department of Labor's *Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants (Round 5)* program. Also in this month's E-Note is the call for applications for *DOE's 2025 Student Internships opportunities*. And finally, there is an invitation to participate in the *Decarbonization and Energy Bootcamps sponsored by the DOE Better Plants Program*.

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

Strengthening Community Colleges (SCC) Training Grants (Round 5)

U.S. Department of Labor, Deadline, Sept. 24, 2024

The purpose of this grant program is to build community colleges' capacity to meet the skill development needs of employers and equitably support students in obtaining good jobs in in-demand industries. Grantees will enhance sector-based career pathways programs using strategies rooted in evidence and designed to build further evidence on the effectiveness of sector-based career pathways programs in leading to positive employment outcomes. Successful applicants will use the diverse strengths of their SCC Partnership members to accomplish and sustain systems change.

FY25 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. This can involve the assessment and cleanup of solid and hazardous waste, chemical risk management, stormwater management relating to site cleanup, planning and site preparation for low impact development activities, planning and site preparation for green infrastructure installation and maintenance, and vulnerability assessment and contamination mitigation planning. Applicants will be evaluated on the extent to which they partner with

and secure hiring commitments from local contractors and other stakeholders in communities where EPA-funded projects are located.

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.

Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Sept. 3, 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; and computer science—including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, quantum information science, and cybersecurity), as well as research and outreach.

Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Sept. 15, 2024

The contemporary research landscape is a collaborative and international enterprise requiring high level coordination among multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural teams. As such, the Accelerating Research through International Network-to-Network Collaborations program values cooperation over competition. Program goals are to leverage prior National Science Foundation support for building research capacity towards activities that launch international research network of networks that will lead to an accelerated advancement of an area of science after the award period and recruit and foster a diverse and internationally competent U.S.-based workforce trained in conducting and leading multi-team international collaboration.

NETL News



Two Additional Projects Selected to Advance Rare Earth Element (REE) and Critical Mineral (CM) and Material Processing Technologies Using Coal and Coal Byproducts as Feedstocks

As part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the DOE today announced nearly \$10M for two projects that will help lower the costs and reduce the environmental impact of producing REEs and CMs and materials from coal, coal wastes, and coal by-products. Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the selected projects will help meet the growing demand for critical minerals and materials in the United States, while reducing our reliance on foreign supply chains. REEs and CMs and materials are incorporated into many products, including U.S.-manufactured clean energy technologies—such as solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, and hydrogen fuel cells that are advancing President Biden’s historic climate agenda.



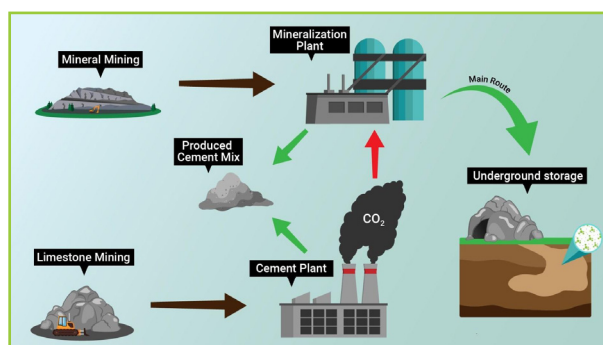
NETL, Partners Report Breakthrough Research Results to Advance Geothermal Technology

The successful completion of field operations supported by NETL in southwest Utah represents a significant step forward to advance geothermal energy as a resource that will produce renewable clean electricity for the nation’s power grid.



DOE Issues Notice of Intent to Fund Undocumented Orphan Well (UOW) Characterization and Remediation Technology Development and Deployment

The DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) today announced its intent to issue funding to support research and development projects focused on advancing cost-effective technology options toward commercialization that can more efficiently characterize the condition of UOWs and provide a range of remediation options.



NETL Carbon Mineralization Article Highlights Lab’s Achievements in Research Field

NETL’s work in developing carbon mineralization technologies, which presents an alternative pathway toward a decarbonized power sector and economy, is gaining widespread recognition from the greater research community.



DOE Announces up to \$16M to Develop Carbon Conversion Pathways

As part of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, the FECM today announced up to \$16M in federal funding for large-scale conversion of carbon dioxide emissions into environmentally responsible and economically valuable products. With funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, projects will develop the sustainable feedstocks and conversion technologies necessary to produce crucial fuels, materials, and other carbon-based products that are better for the environment than current petroleum-derived equivalents. This effort supports the Biden-Harris Administration’s

climate goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, as well as the goals of DOE's Clean Fuels and Products Energy Earthshot, which aims to meet projected 2050 net-zero emissions demands for 100% of aviation fuel; 50% of maritime, rail, and off-road fuel; and 50% of carbon-based chemicals by using sustainable carbon resources.

Events

Decarbonization and Energy Bootcamps, DOE Better Plants Program

The DOE Better Plants program will have two Bootcamps (*Decarbonization Bootcamp* from Sept. 10–13, 2024, and *Energy Bootcamp* from Oct. 28–Nov. 1, 2024) for the rest of the year. The last day to register for the Decarbonization training course is Monday, August 26, 2024 (if you are a foreign national the deadline to register is Monday, July 22, 2024). The last day to register for the Energy training course is Monday, Oct. 14, 2024 (if you are a foreign national the deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 9, 2024). You can register for the Decarbonization Bootcamp [here](#) and the Energy Bootcamp [here](#).

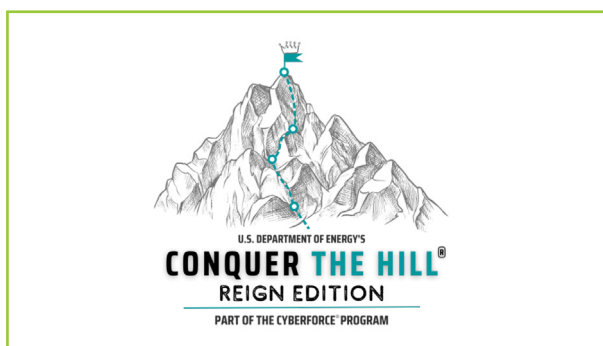
Reports and Resources



National Wind Workforce Assessment: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Needs

A new National Renewable Energy Laboratory report—National Wind Workforce Assessment: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Needs—estimates that in 2030, the demand for workers could reach 258,000, whereas the supply of full-time workers might reach only 134,000—a shortfall of approximately 124,000 workers.

DOE STEM Rising



Collegiate Competitors Prevail in DOE's 2024 CyberForce® Conquer the Hill® Reign Competition

After hours of puzzling and problem-solving, Hunter Wittenborn, a student from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, AL, emerged as champion of the DOE's 2024 CyberForce® Conquer the Hill® Reign

Competition. Hosted by DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response and the Argonne National Laboratory, Hunter Wittenborn competed with other collegiate students studying cybersecurity to tackle a series of challenges in a video game style escape room.



Design for a Better-Built World—Join the Solar Decathlon 2025 Design Challenge!

Registration is now open for the DOE *Solar Decathlon® 2025 Design Challenge!* In this challenge, interdisciplinary collegiate teams will create efficient, resilient, and sustainable buildings that meet community needs as part of DOE's longest-running student competition. Each year, Design Challenge teams compete to create high-performance, low-carbon building designs that address real-world issues such as existing building retrofits, community impacts, affordability, and resilience. Learn more about the competition through the [2024 Design Challenge Recap video](#).



Scaling up the Bioeconomy Workforce: Welcoming a New Wave of Bioprocessing Graduates

As a recent college graduate, Javier Santana was working in the petrochemical industry when he decided to make a career change. Seeking more opportunities for innovation, he turned to biomanufacturing—a growing industry that uses microbes to create sustainable chemicals, fuels, materials, and food products. Santana was drawn to opportunities for research and development in the nascent biomanufacturing sector compared to his previous experience. A chemical engineer by training, he had one piece of the puzzle. However, he knew he would need additional training in biology and experience working with bioprocessing equipment in order to enter this field. After researching post-grad training options online, he came across the University of California, Berkeley's *Master of Bioprocess Engineering program*.

Jump Start Your Science Career: DOE Applications for 2025 Student Internships Open

Applications are currently being accepted for the Spring 2025 term of two programs offered by the DOE Office of Science: the *Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships* program and the Community College Internships program. The application deadline for the two programs is 5:00 pm (EDT) October 2, 2024.

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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