

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

In this month's funding opportunity in focus is the U.S. DOE's The *Industrial Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, and Decarbonization (ISEED) Collaborative*. The DOE Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office (IEDO), in collaboration with the Office of Technology Transitions, today announced \$3M for a new initiative to help grow the readiness of the workforce needed to decarbonize the U.S. industrial sector. More information about this funding opportunity is available in the DOE STEM section of this E-Note.

Also in this E-Note in the Events and Meetings section is an invitation to our second webinar in our Hydrogen 101 series, the *NETL RWFI Hydrogen 101 Webinar: The Hydrogen Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities* on October 15, 2024, from 1:00–2:00 PM EDT.

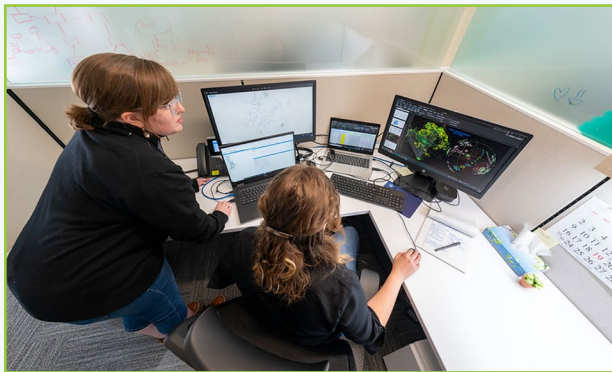
We will hear from the Hydrogen Education for a Decarbonized Global Economy (H₂EDGE) initiative about lessons learned and progress towards creating training and educational content related to the U.S. Hydrogen Economy. Registration is free, but space is limited. Register [here](#) today.

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



2024 DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, Oct. 15, 2024

The mission of DOE-EM is to complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research. This NOFO is focused on enhancing and fostering a sustainable and diverse DOE-EM workforce STEM pipeline. Through technology curriculum and professional development and shared

interest research, DOE-EM will promote the development of a nationally engaged scientific and engineering workforce to conduct basic research that will lead to future career pathways in the DOE-EM complex for underrepresented groups. This is a two-step NOFO. Concept papers are due by October 15, 2024, at 5:00 PM EDT.

Expanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation through Capacity Building and Partnerships (ExpandAI)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Oct. 18, 2024

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and its partners support the continued growth of a broad and diverse interdisciplinary research community for the advancement of AI and AI-powered innovation, providing a unique opportunity to broadly promote the NSF vision and core values, especially inclusion and collaboration. The ExpandAI program aims to significantly broaden participation in AI research, education, and workforce development through capacity development projects and through partnerships within the National AI Research Institutes ecosystem.

Water Power Innovation Network

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, Oct. 23, 2024

The DOE's Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) is issuing this \$4.8M funding opportunity announcement (FOA) "Water Power Innovation Network" to support business creation, entrepreneurship, and regional innovation for water power systems and solutions. WPTO enables research, development, and testing of emerging technologies to advance marine energy as well as next-generation hydropower and pumped storage systems for a flexible, reliable grid.

NSF's Eddie Bernice Johnson Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) Initiative

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Oct. 25, 2024

The INCLUDES Initiative is a comprehensive, national effort to enhance U.S. leadership in STEM discovery and innovation, focused on NSF's commitment to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in STEM fields, as communicated in the *NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2022–2026*. The vision of the INCLUDES Initiative is to catalyze the STEM enterprise to work collaboratively for inclusive change, resulting in a STEM workforce that reflects the diversity of the Nation's population. More specifically, the INCLUDES Initiative seeks to motivate and accelerate collaborative infrastructure building to advance equity and sustain systemic change to broaden participation in STEM fields at scale.

Undocumented Orphaned Well Characterization and Remediation

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, Nov. 13, 2024

Undocumented Orphaned Well Characterization and Remediation This announcement aligns with the DOE's Office of Resource Sustainability's Methane Mitigation Technologies Program to develop advanced tools and technologies that will significantly reduce methane emissions and other environmental impacts associated with undocumented orphaned wells. This announcement will support the undocumented orphaned wells subprogram by soliciting research on new processes and development of new materials, tools, and technologies for wellbore characterization, effective plugging and abandonment operations, and pre and post plugging and abandonment emissions monitoring.

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Nov. 15, 2024

The LSAMP program invests in the nation's colleges and universities to aid student success to create a new generation of STEM discoverers for the national STEM enterprise. The program takes a comprehensive approach to the STEM Learning Ecosystem to impact STEM student development and retention.

Broadening Participation in Engineering (BPE)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Nov. 20, 2024

Through the BPE program, NSF seeks to strengthen the future U.S. engineering workforce by enabling and encouraging the participation of all citizens in the engineering enterprise. The BPE Program seeks to support not only research in the science of broadening participation and equity in engineering, but also collaborative endeavors which foster the professional development of a diverse and well-prepared engineering workforce as well as innovative, if not revolutionary, approaches to building capacity through inclusivity and equity within the engineering academic experience.

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants)

Environmental Protection Agency, Deadline, Nov. 21, 2024

Community Change Grants, created by the Inflation Reduction Act, offers an unprecedented \$2B in grants under this NOFO. The Community Change Grants will fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation.

NETL News



DOE Seeks Information to Develop Consortium for the Safe Transport of CO₂

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) has released a Request for Information that seeks input to assist the DOE in the planning of a consortium that will coordinate CO₂ transport RD&D efforts.



Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH₂) Makes Key Development Strides

ARCH₂—one of three regional hydrogen hubs in which NETL is participating—recently took a major step forward with the opening of a program office in Morgantown, WV, a step that will help jumpstart the region's hydrogen economy.



NETL Postdoctoral Fellow Wins Fan Favorite Award in 2024 Ignite Off! Competition

NETL shined at the 2024 Ignite Off! competition hosted by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.



DOE Announces \$15M To Characterize and Remediate Undocumented Orphan Wells

The DOE's FECM today announced up to \$15M in federal funding to support R&D projects that help reduce methane emissions and other harmful environmental impacts from undocumented orphaned oil and natural gas wells. The focus is on projects that advance cost-effective technologies toward commercialization that address characterization, advanced remediation techniques, and long-term monitoring of undocumented orphaned wells. These technology innovations will help to further the Biden-Harris Administration's goal to cut methane emissions by 30% compared with 2020 levels by 2030.



NETL Projects Result in the Installation of the First of Thousands of Solar and BaNETttery Systems in Puerto Rico

NETL officials joined U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and other DOE personnel to commemorate the installation of the first of thousands of solar and battery systems on low-income homes across Puerto Rico. The DOE anticipates installing up to 3,000 systems by the end of 2024.



NETL Tool that Determines Impact of Energy Production on Water Quality Passes Milestone

NETL's National Energy Water Treatment & Speciation database now contains geochemical, geospatial and other characteristics from more than 400,000 water sample records spanning 48 states, enhancing the ability of the open-source tool to determine the impact of energy production on water quality.



DOE Plans to Advance Technologies for a Secure Domestic Supply of Critical Minerals and Materials

NETL recently announced its NOI to release a FOA that would contribute to the restoration of the United States as a world leader in the extraction, separation and refining of critical minerals and materials (CMM), which are needed to produce consumer goods such as smartphones and other electronics as well as components for defense systems, solar panels, wind turbines and other clean energy technologies.

Events and Meetings

NETL RWFI Hydrogen 101 Webinar: The Hydrogen Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities

October 15, 2024, 1:00–2:00 PM EDT

Join us for our second webinar of the NETL RWFI Hydrogen 101 Series entitled The Hydrogen Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities, where we will hear from the H₂EDGE initiative about lessons learned and progress towards creating training and educational content related to the U.S. Hydrogen Economy.

Lead by the Electric Power Research Institute, the H₂EDGE initiative, supported by the DOE's *Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Office* and the *Low-Carbon Resources Initiative*, is a program currently aimed at developing and training the emerging hydrogen industry workforce through a combination of professional development activities and targeted instruction at the university level. Register [here](#).

Reports and Resources



Missed Opportunities: Credential Shortage in Programs Aligned with High-Paying Middle Skills Jobs in 55 U.S. Metro Areas

Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce

Middle-skills credentials (certificates and associate degrees) can lead to high-paying jobs—including jobs that pay more than most workers earn with a bachelor's degree and similar job experience. In some occupations, there is ample opportunity available to workers with these middle-skills credentials. In fact, the demand in high-paying middle-skills jobs exceeds the supply of available workers in certain sectors and localities.

Missed Opportunities: Credential Shortages in Programs Aligned with High-Paying Middle-Skills Jobs in 55 U.S. Metro Areas examines the production of middle-skills credentials that prepare workers for high-paying occupations nationwide and in metro areas with populations exceeding 1 million. It compares current credential production with the projected number of job openings for workers holding these credentials through 2032.

DOE STEM Rising

DOE Announces \$3M for New Initiative to Support and Expand America's Industrial Decarbonization Workforce

The DOE IEDO, in collaboration with the Office of Technology Transitions, today announced \$3M for a new initiative to help grow the readiness of the workforce needed to decarbonize the U.S. industrial sector. The collaboration will provide assistance to partners across the manufacturing sector to develop and disseminate instructional curricula and training programs focused on industrial sustainability, energy efficiency, and decarbonization. The resources will be available for workers at any level of training and education and designed to empower learners to build the skills and knowledge they need to contribute to sustainable manufacturing that will reduce industrial emissions and move the country towards a net-zero economy by 2050.

DOE National Laboratories, Plants, and Sites Invited to Apply for Commercialization Training Opportunity

The DOE's Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) announced the opening of the Spring 2025 round of the Energy I-Corps program. This opportunity invites DOE National Laboratories, plants, and sites to apply to develop commercialization trainings, to participate in intensive commercialization training, or to receive funding to support the commercialization of a high-potential DOE clean energy technology.

DOE and National Science Foundation Announce Second Intern Cohort to Support Growth of the Geothermal Energy Workforce

The DOE and the NSF announced the second cohort of geothermal interns in the *NSF INTERN program*. Through this collaboration—the second activity coordinated under the *NSF-DOE Memorandum of Understanding*—a diverse group of 24 students will work with geothermal companies, national laboratories, or state agencies on projects that advance geothermal technologies. Work conducted under this internship program will support the goals of the DOE's *Enhanced Geothermal Shot*, which aims to bring enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) to Americans nationwide and reduce the cost of EGS by 90% by 2035 and will also advance low-temperature geothermal applications like district-scale heating and cooling.

DOE Office of Science (SC) Accepting Applications, Offering Workshops for SC Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) Awards

Current U.S. Ph.D. students in qualified graduate programs at accredited U.S. academic institutions who are conducting their graduate thesis research in targeted areas of importance to the DOE OS are invited to apply for the *SCGSR program*. Helpful application assistance workshops will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, 2:00–3:30 PM EDT and Thursday, October 10, 2024, 2:00–4:30 PM EDT.

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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