

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • JANUARY 2018

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders.

Happy New Year! The NETL RWFI staff is looking forward to another year of positive engagements and collaborative efforts to increase the energy, advanced manufacturing, economic, and workforce development activity in the region. In this first E-Note of 2018, you will find an upcoming funding opportunity for STEM programs from the National Science Foundation, and a new round of Small Business Innovation Research Grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which include topics in energy. You will also find information about preparatory workshops for the upcoming 2018 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Grants. POWER is a congressionally-funded initiative that targets federal resources for communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

Feel free to reach out to us at NETL.RWFI@netl.doe.gov if you have any suggestions for information to present in future E-notes.

— Sincerely, The NETL Regional Workforce Initiative Team

Workforce Funding Announcements

Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) Phase II

USDA SBIR, **Deadline March 8, 2018**

The USDA SBIR program is soliciting projects dealing with agriculturally-related manufacturing, and alternative and renewable energy technologies. All Phase II projects must have previously completed a successful USDA Phase I project before applying for a Phase II grant. Success rates for applicants have been 50-60% for Phase II.



National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program

NSF, **Deadline March 29, 2018**

Open to institutes of higher education including two-year institutions, the NSF is actively seeking program award proposals for its NSF Scholarships in the STEM program. These awards vary from 650K to 5M, and support 3 types of projects for higher education institutes; Institutional Capacity Building (650K), Design and Development for a single institution not exceeding 1M, and design and development for multi-institutional consortia not exceeding 5M. The program seeks: 1) to increase the number of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need obtaining degrees in STEM and entering the workforce or graduate programs in STEM; 2) to improve the education of future scientists, engineers, and technicians, with a focus on academically talented low-income students; and 3) to generate knowledge to advance understanding of how factors or evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities affect the success, retention, transfer, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM of low-income students. The S-STEM program particularly encourages proposals from 2-year institutions, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), tribal colleges, and urban public and rural institutions.

NETL Meetings and Events

Registration Now Open for ARC Workshops on POWER Funding Opportunities for Coal-Impacted Communities

February through March 2018

The Appalachian Regional Commission will hold five free workshops across the Region in February and March to help coal-impacted communities learn about the objectives of the 2018 *POWER Initiative*, which organizations are eligible for this funding, and how to develop a competitive funding proposal. ARC will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2018 POWER funding soon. [Register now](#). Locations of workshops are below.

- **California, Pennsylvania: Wednesday, February 14, 2018**
California University of Pennsylvania
- **Greenville, South Carolina: Tuesday, February 20, 2018**
The Westin Poinsett Greenville
- **Daniels, West Virginia: Wednesday, February 28, 2018**
The Resort at Glade Springs
- **Hazard, Kentucky: Thursday, March 8, 2018**
Hazard Community and Technical College
- **Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Wednesday, March 14, 2018**
Bryant Conference Center—University of Alabama

Forum: Expanding Apprenticeships through Apprenticeship Works

March 6, 2018; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST; Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio

This event is ideal for employers, operations managers, plant managers, HR managers, and anyone else interested in finding out; what an apprenticeship program is, what it offers an organization, and what it takes to launch an apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship programs help employers upskill incumbent workers, allow employers to hire unskilled workers, and lead them on a journey to become highly skilled workers. This event is supported by the U.S. Department of Labor’s American Apprenticeship Initiative. [You can register here.](#)

NETL Engineers Provide Knowledge to the Local Community on Green Roof Installation

NETL provided first-hand knowledge to the City of Morgantown Engineering and Urban Landscape Departments on the energy efficiency of adding a green roof to the City Hall building. The Morgantown Engineering and Urban Landscape Departments visited the NETL Morgantown Site for a presentation by Facility Operations Engineering and Operations Team engineers on the Technology Support Facility’s (TSF) Green Roof build followed by a tour.

NETL News

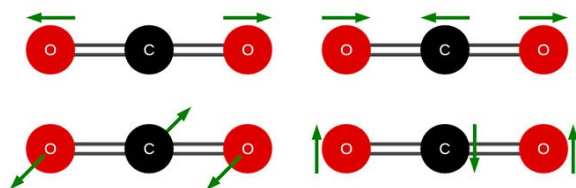
DOE Announces Funding for New HPC4Manufacturing Industry Projects

The Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) announced the funding of \$1.87 million for seven new industry projects under an ongoing initiative designed to utilize DOE’s high-performance computing (HPC) resources and expertise to advance U.S. manufacturing and clean energy technologies.

Reducing Power Failures with NETL’s Low-Cost Electrical Asset Monitoring Sensor Technology

When the power goes out unexpectedly, people understandably grow concerned, especially if they are left without electricity for an extended period of time. For many, this amounts to a temporary inconvenience, but some power failures can be catastrophic – costing millions of dollars and creating extreme safety hazards. NETL and the University of Pittsburgh are hoping to reduce some of these power failures in the future by developing advanced fiber optic sensing technology that can alert utility companies of an impending power transformer failure before it’s too late.

Patented Solvent Technology Offers Efficient Process for CO₂ Capture



A patented technology from NETL inventors offers a cost-effective way to enable low-carbon electricity generation and efficient fuel processing, among other benefits. This game-changing technology is a physical solvent that selectively removes weak acid gases, such as CO₂, from high-pressure gas streams composed of CO₂ and hydrogen, such as those found in carbon capture, hydrogen purification, and natural gas sweetening applications. What makes NETL’s solvents unique is its ability to use waste heat rather than electricity to drive the solvent’s regeneration.

National Manufacturing Initiatives News

RAPID Institute Announces First Project Selections

Leaders of the Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment (RAPID) Manufacturing Institute of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) announced the first round of public-private partnership projects selected for negotiation at AIChE’s Annual Meeting. Eighty-five institutions joined in submitting more than 70 proposals in six technology focus areas: chemical and commodity processing, renewable bioproducts, natural gas upgrading, modeling and simulation, module manufacturing, and intensified process fundamentals.

Workforce Conferences, Meetings, and Summits



Development District Association of Appalachia Annual Conference

March 18-24, 2018, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA; The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) is a membership organization of the 73 Local Development Districts (LDD’s) serving the 420 counties of the Appalachia Region. The DDAA works to strengthen LDDs and their member governments and to provide leadership to support the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) federal-state-local partnership. The DDAA Annual Conference will be held in conjunction with the NADO (National Association of Development Organizations) Washington Conference. Whereas in previous years there were two separate registrations for two conferences, this year there is only a single registration process for a combined conference. In other words, if in past years you registered separately for each conference, this year you only need to complete a single registration process and pay a single registration fee. The conference is set to begin with the Opening Reception at 5:30 p.m. on Sun., March 18 and end with the Closing Plenary at 11:00 a.m. on Wed., March 21 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. For more information and to register [click here.](#)

National Association of Workforce Boards 2018 Annual Summit- Fueling Talent, Forging Change

March 24–27, 2018, Washington, Hilton, Washington, DC; The Forum convenes leaders, advocates, and changemakers in business, government, labor, and education to: 1) network and share insights; 2) address key issues affecting U.S. workforce development; 3) consider the goals and policy framework affecting the future of human capital and economic growth.

Reports and Resources



New Research about Communicating About the Opioid Epidemic in Appalachia

Researchers with Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), released *Communicating about the Opioid Epidemic in Appalachia*, a new report to better understand how opioids are impacting Appalachia and to establish communication best practices to address the issue. A joint effort between ORAU, ARC, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, the report finds there is good general awareness of the epidemic and the various health impacts attributed to opioid addiction in Appalachia. However, the report recommends that messaging used to communicate about the crisis needs to change.

Postsecondary Education and STEM Employment in the United States, An Analysis of National Trends with a Focus on the Natural Gas and Oil Industry

The RAND Corporation's report aims to contribute new knowledge to understanding the role that postsecondary education — including bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees, and sub-baccalaureate credentialing programs — plays in meeting the increasing demands of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce, and particularly in the oil and natural gas 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.

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's 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

Matt Garcia
Regional Workforce Initiative
Coordinator
956-314-0645
matthewgarcia@gmail.com

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

Walter Perry
Communications Team Lead
304-285-4263
walter.perry@netl.doe.gov

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