Careers in Energy Week celebrated by statewide events Oct. 15 - 19

Almost half of today’s energy workforce will be retiring in the next decade. As technology within the industry quickly increases, so does the need for a tech-savvy workforce to support high-skill, high-wage jobs. The right education and training will provide men and women a rewarding, well-paying career that benefits millions of people every day.

The Washington State Labor Council and the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE), a Centralia College partnership, are organizing statewide events for a national initiative that will engage students of all ages, teachers and school counselors in activities to support Careers in Energy Week (Oct. 15 – 19).

“The week offers an opportunity to reach out to K-12 students, faculty and parents about the energy industry and great careers it provides,” Barbara Hins-Turner, executive director of PNCECE said. “It’s not an industry that students immediately think of (when planning their futures). We need these opportunities to increase awareness and engage students and faculty in energy.”

Governor Gregoire and Washington mayors have signed proclamations to support awareness of energy careers. School instructors and counselors will earn clock hours as they tour facilities and try first-hand what being an apprentice is all about. Other events have been created to educate veterans, students, parents and the general public. Events for the week include:

- Oct 9: Proclamation signed and read at Centralia City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- Oct. 15: Newport School District/Box Canyon Dam: for high school students and faculty
Oct. 16: Avista Line School in Spokane, for educators and counselors
Oct. 16 – 18: Mobius Science Center, Spokane, for the general public
Oct. 17: Spokane CC and Gonzaga University, for 6th-8th grade students; afterschool event
Oct. 18: Spokane Regional Solid Waste System Steam Plant Tours for the general public
Oct. 18: Regional Education and Training Center at Satsop in Elma, energy workshops for high school students and teachers
Oct. 19: Tacoma Power/Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and dam tour for educators and counselors
Oct. 20: Expand Your Horizons, Centralia College for 7th-9th grade girls
Oct. 20: Gonzaga University and Avista Veterans’ Outreach/ZagOps for veterans
November 7: Expand Your Horizons, Gonzaga University for 6th – 9th grade girls