



Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE)
Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
May 10, 2013 @ Centralia College
9 - 11:30am

Randy Bachtell; New Market Skills Center
Candice Bluechel; NUTEC
Nancy Estergard; Grays Harbor College
Clayton Gibson; Columbia Basin College
Micah Goo; Centralia City Light
Judy Guenther; Scholarship Auction Coordinator
Bob Guenther; IBEW Local 77
Alan Hardcastle; WSU Energy Program
Martha Henderson; The Evergreen State College
Chuck Higgins; TransAlta
Daniel Kay; Lewis County PUD
Dick Larman; Lewis County EDC
PJ LeCompte; BPA
Tom Lindmark; PGE
Jim Lowery; Centralia College
Jim Malinowski; Clark College
Pat McCarty; Tacoma Power
ML Norton; Centralia City Light
Shana Peschek; Construction Center of Excellence
Kairie Pierce; Washington State Labor Council
John Steidel; Centralia College
Bob Topping; RETC
Jim Walton; Centralia College
PNCECE Staff: Jenni Bitner, Monica Brummer, Barbara Hins-Turner, Andreas Keodara, and Jamie Krause
Teleconference: Mike Hanson; AVISTA

Call to Order – Pat McCarty, Chair

- Introductions
 - Welcome!
- National Hydro Assc Convention/Workforce Center report, Pat McCarty and Alan Hardcastle
 - This convention in Washington, D.C. focused on workforce challenges specific to Hydro power.
 - Attendees looked at the trends of retirement planning and succession to ensure that there is a skilled workforce.
 - Pat McCarty reported the unanimous approval of Kathy McMorris-Rodgers co-authored bill in the House of Representatives in regards to increasing the development of small hydropower and conduit projects.

Columbia Basin College (CBC) – Clayton Gibson, Nuclear Program, Director

- The Nuclear Technology program is in its 5th year at CBC
 - There is an observed, strong need for a new generation of workers as much of current workforce pipeline is on way to retirement.
- CBC's Nuclear Technology program is one of 37 two-year colleges in the nation who are part of the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program (NUCP)
 - NUCP includes an industry guided curriculum with intent that its graduates could be waived or exempted from portions of the required initial training within the nuclear power field.

- Collaborates with Columbia Generating Station as well as the National Lab, Areva, Permafix, etc.
- Offer three different AAS degree tracks: Radiation Protection, Power Plant Operator (Non-Licensed Nuclear Operator) and Instrumentation and Control Technician.
- Nationally-recognized certificate through Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Institute of Nuclear Power Operations also offered in addition to the AAS degree.

Education Program Reports

Centralia College/IncSys update, John Steidel

- There are currently 42 students total in first-year cohort.
 - The interview/job preparation summer course will be taught over six consecutive days, followed by a break, then back to the six-day schedule. This will help with the continuity of class curriculum.
- There are currently 41 students total in second-year cohort.
 - Students are beginning to get job interviews.
 - The new NERC course in collaboration with IncSys began this year. Twenty students were in the 1st course, with 12 students continuing on to the 2nd course.

Clark College, Jim Malinowski

- Five students are completing the 1st year of the Engineering Technician/Estimator AA degree.
 - This is made possible by taking certificate in Electronics Technology, along with other courses such as project management that help works towards the Engineering Technician/Estimator AA degree.
- Planning to develop a systems protection engineering program in the future by possibly collaborating with Washington State University – Vancouver.

Grays Harbor College (GHC), Nancy Estergard

- Currently 12 students in the first-year cohort.
- Currently about 15 students in the second-year cohort.
- Eight students started in the NERC prep program, this number is down to six.
- A couple of students from GHC are interviewing in Idaho and New Mexico.

Job Seekers' Workshop Report

- Daniel Kay praised the workshop and expressed the importance of customer service, etiquette and other soft skills with potential candidates for job placement.
 - Students did mock interviews, resume building, etc.
 - Students' level of preparation varied from unprepared to very prepared
 - Nancy Estergard stated that GHC students valued the workshop and believes it played a large role in gaining job interviews.

Spokane Community College/Avista, Mike Hanson

- Recently completed a pre-apprentice line cohort, resulting in 30 of 36 graduates placed.
- As part of an effort with the smart grid grant, helped develop training on smart grid devices and how they work within the system.
- “Safe City” and training substation created with smart grid devices feeding small buildings to simulate how this system works.
- Training platforms to apply to this system is also being developed.

New Market Skills Center (NMSC), Randy Bachtell

- NMSC provides overview of entire electrical industry to their students.
- Thirty-two students total currently in the energy program.
- Job shadow sequence is just beginning.
 - Students are assigned to write a request for job shadows instead of doing mock interviews with four of them being immediately successful in getting securing an opportunity.
- Recently held open house for summer school registration. The summer course for the energy program consists of a tour of numerous facilities in the region.
 - Before taking the tour of power facilities, students gain a basic understand of electrical systems to maximize their learning outcomes

- Student visitation sites include: Mossyrock Hydroelectric Dam, Grays Harbor PUD, Wild Horse Wind Farm, local Olympia solar and residential installs, etc.

National Training and Education Resource (NTER) Tour – Bob Topping

NTER, Dept of Energy's (DoE) online training site, will be used to house 50 smart grid courses. The free open-source training will include curriculum and videos developed through the smart grid project.

- Online web portal available through the Department of Energy to be a storage system for shared curriculum related to energy throughout the nation. NTER will be used as a “competency-based” learning management system where learners demonstrate their proficiency within a studied concept/curriculum.
- NTER is a competency-based model encourages proficiency so individuals can perform to the level that is needed by industry and also provides a competitive edge to potential employees.
- NTER creates a link between industry and academics and is especially helpful in establishing important standards such as agreed-upon language.
- There have been three phases in working on this project.
 - Phase 1 – Met with industry, find out needs, collaborate, etc. – How are we going to acquire, shape, and design curriculum for this project?
 - Phase 2 – Working with the online curriculum to ensure their usability for everyone.
 - Phase 3 – Seeking new curriculum authors to make material for NTER.
- During Phase 2, the DoE has been good to work with to modify system to ensure compatibility, ease of use, and to meet other requirements and deliverables such as:
 - Compatibility with Mac OS, various browsers, etc.
 - ADA compliancy by have voiceover.
 - The development of student guidebooks.
 - Accessibility to instructors to download.
 - Using MP4s for audio with PowerPoint.
- The project is still currently in Phase 2 and on schedule to be completed by the Energy Summit in June 2013 with a demonstration planned for the Educator's Institute.
- This format of learning looks at the learning objectives of a course, which are turned into modules.
 - There are four chapters within a module:
 - 1: New Content
 - 2: Skill standards
 - 3: Demonstration of Proficiency
 - 4: Examination/Credentialing Process
- NTER helps break up full courses by specific skill standards and there is immense potential for sustainability of this type of curriculum.
- WSU CSR skill standards provides a model for these competency-based curricula
- For Phase 3, the project will seek curriculum authors to create to material for NTER.

PNCECE WebWalk, Monica Brummer

- Pat McCarty suggested that push updates could be available for the PNCECE website
- Skill Panel page includes all the documents created for the energy industry, covering numerous skill standards, including the newest edition focused on CSR.
- Through a partnership with Utah, a smart grid resource guide is available on the website with over 10,000 documents.
 - This can serve as a resource to students, researchers, etc. for information regarding smart grid and other energy technology.
- College Programs page across the five-state partner region (ID, MT, OR, UT, and WA) lists all energy degrees and certificates offered.
 - Programs are organized by individual states as well as field of study and include Associates, Bachelors, Masters, and various certificates.

- Job Board page across the five-state partner region lists energy industry employers by state with direct links to jobs webpages as well as homepage of each employer.
 - Energy industry employers include private electric, wholesale electric, federal entity, municipal electric, cooperative electric, etc.
- Interactive Smart Grid Map, courtesy of Idaho Power, is an interactive image that informs individuals on what type of job is available in the electricity industry.
 - For example: Where do meter technicians work? Where does the plant electrician work? Lineworker?
 - There are clickable links on this image that provide the position description of a given job and related career lattice.

U.S. Dept. of Energy Smart Grid project update, Jamie Krause

- Jamie previewed the Smart Grid Consumer Education Toolkit box, a collaboration led by Montana State University – Extension, which will be unveiled at the Educator’s Institute the day before the Summit. Some of its contents will include a Kill A Watt meter, a smart grid fact/FAQ sheet, a smart grid introduction sheet, and a USB flash drive pre-loaded with curriculum and other smart grid content.
- All of the benchmarks for the Smart Grid project have been met.
 - By the end of March, the job placement goal of 234 has been met and exceeded with 259.
 - The goal of training 1215 people has been met and exceeded with 5,267.
 - Jamie will provide one-page summary on these Smart Grid project metrics for those interested.

2012 Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit, Judy Guenther

- Judy provided an overview of scholarship program and silent auction/crabfeed at the Summit.
- This unique scholarship program is for tuition and basic living needs should energy students experience an emergency while in school.
 - For instance, if a student needs a small amount of money for child care so they do not have to drop out of school.
 - There is no long scholarship process but rather a call that reaches Barbara’s office and each award is dealt with by a case-by-case need basis.
- Please contact Judy, should anyone have donations to make to the auction event.

Director’s Report – Barbara Hins-Turner

- PNCECE’s assessment by the state board went well, with a showcase of project presentations by many members of the advisory board group and partners.
- Barbara reported that SBCTC praised the assessment of PNCECE during the Center Director’s meeting.
 - Main area of concern is the sustainability of center due to the three major grants that have funded PNCECE the past few years, and will be coming to an end later this year.
- Jamie, Bob T. and Melanie have been spearheading the DOL TAACCCT Grant to continue center’s work. This grant is due July 3, 2013.
 - This project is still in its conceptual stages but its focus will include system operations, customer service rep, cyber security, and entrepreneurship within the energy and manufacturing industries.
 - This project will work with numerous partners, including Front Range Community College in Colorado.

New Business

- Daniel Kay from Lewis County PUD announced that on August 1, 2013, applications for a \$2,000 DEEB/American Public Power Institute scholarship opens for students wanting to get into

industry after completing school (rather into research). The application deadline will be in October 2013.

- This scholarship process will require a standard application with sponsorship from a public utility.
- Jim Lowery announced that the WSBCTC Trustees to award Dr. Jim Walton with the State Leadership Award.
- Bob Guenther announced that IBEW 77 is running legislation (#1929) this year on retirement before 65 years of age for people in the electrical industry.
 - This work will be shared with PUDs soon to plan to train future workforce.
- Pat M would like more student involvement with the board.
- Bob Guenther would like more focus on building construction trades.
- Shana announced and briefly shared the new CCE website

Meeting adjourned at 11:30AM for lunch