

Hins-Turner's NCEP Task Force work puts COE on national map

COE Director Barbara Hins-Turner served on the 2009 Task Force on America's Future Energy Jobs, convened by the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP).

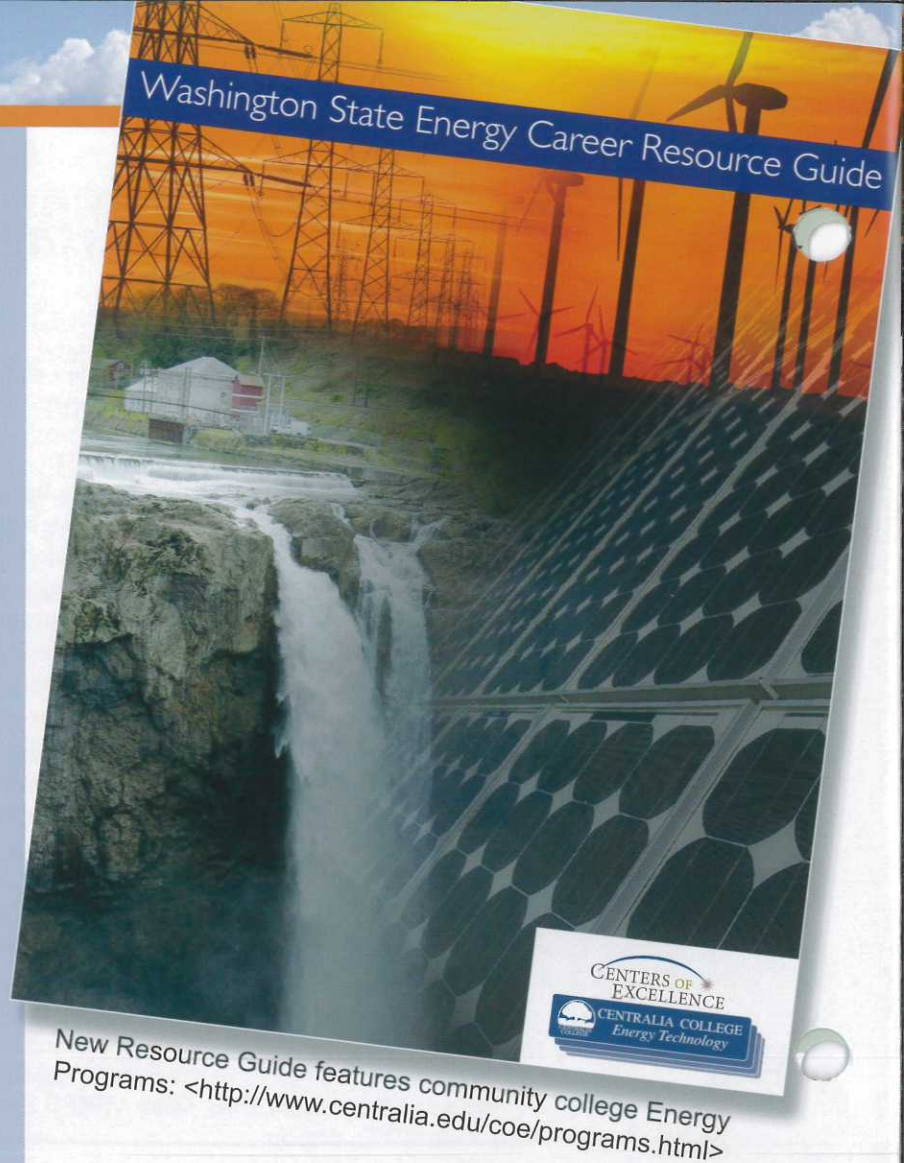
The Task Force, chaired by retired Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), brought together representatives from labor, industry, and educational sectors to explore the existing demographic makeup and anticipated workforce needs of the electric power sector, along with the training institutions and programs that support this sector.

The Task Force examined the ability of the current worker training and education system in the U.S. to provide a workforce with the ability to maintain a reliable, economically affordable electric power system while modernizing the nation's electric generating infrastructure to support an advanced, low-carbon energy portfolio <bipartisanpolicy.org/library/report/task-force-americas-future-energy-jobs>.

Barbara Hins-Turner represented education on a NCEP subcommittee that met with Vice President Biden's White House Middle Class Task Force to explore national energy workforce challenges and green jobs initiatives.

The Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College is noted in the final NCEP report as a model for replication in other regions of the country and is the only community college program in the nation cited.

That work evolved into an invitation to present to the U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Forum in Toronto. Hins-Turner presented on the integration of workforce needs into workforce education programs.



Northwest governors support COE initiative

The governors of the four Northwest states have joined forces to urge the U.S. Department of Energy to support two grants to improve energy production processes. The four were C.L. "Butch" Otter of Idaho, Ted Kulongoski of Oregon, Christine Gregoire of Washington, and Brian Schweitzer of Montana.

The four governors sent a joint letter to Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy, urging the approval of companion applications for the establishment of a new regional energy collaboration called the Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (NCECE). The consortium would create a community college partnership led by the Center of Excellence to deliver clean energy skilled workforce training in partnership with Chemeketa Community College, College of Southern Idaho, Montana College of Technology, and others. Additionally, the plan calls for Portland State University to convene Washington State University, Montana State University, and the University of Idaho to develop graduate level Smart Grid education across the four-state region.

The COE partnership with industry and labor would be further supported to develop, test, and deliver a coordinated approach to clean energy workforce development in the four partner states.

The focus of the training will address the integration of smart grid into the incumbent workforce on both the supply and demand sides of the energy sector as well as the transition of workers to new technologies as legacy job functions become obsolete.

The governors concluded that research from the Northwest Energy Efficiency Task Force (NEET) has documented a severe shortage in skilled workforce as we attempt to fill the pipeline for energy efficiency and other clean energy jobs in the region. The NEET deliberations resulted in a list of 10 actions the DOE grants could bring to fruition.

The governors offered their endorsement and recommended Dr. Chu give the DOE grant request his positive consideration. Visit the NEET action steps: <http://www.nwcouncil.org/>



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