

Centralia College

Bellwether for NW Energy Leader

When it comes to training the new generation energy industry workforce, it seems all roads lead to western Washington. Centralia College has established unprecedented leadership that influences statewide, regional, national and even international development of curriculum, career pathways and skills standards in the energy business through its Center of Excellence.

Last month Centralia College received recognition as a national finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Award in the Workforce Development category. Bellwether finalists have demonstrated outstanding community college leadership in developing the next-generation workforce. Centralia College will be among ten finalists competing for top honors in late January against nine other nationally recognized programs at the Futures Assembly convening at the University of Florida, sponsors of the program.

Centralia College helped pioneer the concept of Centers of Excellence, thanks to the tireless efforts of President Jim Walton. "In 2005 we jumped into energy workforce development and were among the first in the state to partner with business and labor to do it," comments Walton.

Joining Dr. Walton in representing Centralia College and PNCECE will be Troy Nutter, PSE, Alan Hardcastle, WSU Extension Energy Program, Don Guillot, IBEW Local 77, Barbara Hins-Turner, Executive Director, Jamie Krause, Project Manager. Good luck Centralia College and PNCECE!



Students "Energized"

From left to right, and top to bottom. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Energy Efficiency Student Project team, Renewable Energy solar class taught by Rulon Crawford, Energy Technology students inspecting new electric truck.

Smarter Grid Innovations 2011

Signature Event Set

The PNCECE's signature event is scheduled for June 23rd and 24th at the Regional Education and Training Center (RECT), Satsop campus. For the 6th consecutive year industry, labor, education, workforce and economic development leaders will gather to exchange best practices, premier new industry innovations, discuss training and education needs and munch on fresh Dungeness crab.

A highlight of the annual event is the flag raising ceremony, pictured at right. Last year's ceremony featured a flag carried through 50 missions in Iraq and donated to the Center, and its partners from IBEW Local 77, by the Veterans Conservation Corps.

"Our focus may be on jobs and skill building but the driving force is regional economic development," says Ryan Davis, Executive Director of the RETC and PNCECE Governance Board Member. "It's not going to do us any good to have a new set of technologies and innovations if our workforce isn't prepared to implement them. The Summit is a great forum that helps keep us ahead of the game. And it's great fun!"

Last year's event also raised over \$6,800 in scholarships for worthy students. This year's theme is "Smarter Grid Innovations 2011." Save the date!

To register visit website www.centralia.edu/coe/summits.html



2010 Summit flag raising ceremony - IBEW Local 77 Apprentices.