



**Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Centralia College  
December 2, 2011, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

Pat McCarty, Tacoma Power (chair)

Randy Bachtell, New Market Skills Center

Ryan Davis, RETC

Nancy Estergard, Grays Harbor College

Bob Guenther, IBEW 77

Judy Guenther, Summit committee member

Mike Hanson, Avista

Alan Hardcastle, WSU

Mike Kelly, Grays Harbor College

Dick Larman, Lewis County Economic Development Council

Andrea Leary, Leary and Associates

PJ LeCompte, BPA

Tom Lindmark, Portland General Electric

Terry Pantoua, BPA

Shana Peschek, Construction Center of Excellence

Jay Pickett, Centralia City Light

Kairie Pierce, Washington State Labor Council

Michael Wagar, TransAlta

Ed Williams, Centralia City Light

**PNCECE/Centralia College Staff:** Monica Brummer, Yvonne Chase, Rulon Crawford, Barbara Hins-Turner, Jamie Krause, Jim Walton

**Teleconference:** Dennis Skarr

**Welcome and Introductions,** Pat McCarty, Chair

**College Updates**

Centralia College – Rulon Crawford

- 8 first-year students from Spokane Community College/Institute for Extended Learning, Ione, Wash., along with Grays Harbor and Centralia colleges participate in interactive television (ITV) program.
- 45 students are enrolled in Centralia College's Energy Technology program. We keep adding new courses, such as solar and wind technology.
- BPA donated a substation simulator.
- Preparing students for the Plant Operators System Selection (POSS) test. The pass rate is well over 90 percent.
- End of spring term: Second year students will be troubleshooting power outages using Incremental Systems Power Grid Simulator program. In a mock situation, students will

be able to shut down cities the size of Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia and bring them back up.

- Energy Efficiency Audit for Tech building: Divided students into groups of three and zoned the building into areas to audit (all areas except natural gas). Submitted report to Dr. Walton.

#### Grays Harbor College – Mike Kelley/Nancy Estergard

- 30 first-year students attend day and evening classes; GHC has 29 second-year students.
- The college now has a classroom and a lab; and three simulators to use next quarter.
- Second-year students will finish with Industrial controlled systems (TLC Lab).

#### Spokane Community College – Mike Hanson

- Avista line school graduated 35 students and placed 25 into the utility industry in line construction most outside the Spokane area.
- Started a partnership with the workforce grant.
- Trying to focus on recruiting low-income females and minorities.

#### New Market Skills Center – Randy Bachtell

- Offers a one-year (540 credit hours) program.
- Struggling for new enrollments but has doubled from last year.
- 40 percent of the students are in a hire training program or currently working.

#### Update on Centralia City Light – Jay Picket

- Seattle Steam's PanGlobal training is going well with 4 new incumbent worker students.

#### **Centralia College Bachelor Applied Science Degree – Jim Walton**

- Centralia College is in the process of building a Bachelor of Applied Science Management degree - one of eight in the state.
- Anyone with an associate's degree, such as energy, welding, or construction, may apply for the bachelor's program.
- The program helps individuals move up in their organizations.
- Program will be a hybrid that will begin fall of 2012 with a cohort of 30 students; Classes will be held two nights a week for a two-year program (one night a week for a three year program) and classwork will be online.
- Tuition will be around \$7,500 a year.

#### **Customer Service Rep (CSR) Skill Standards Project and Edmonds' National Science Foundation Grant – Alan Hardcastle, WSU Energy Program**

- CSR is the focus for Year 2 of DOE Smart Grid grant.
- Opportunity to understand impact of continuing implementation of SmartGrid technology on customer utility interface
- Internally means new and significant expectations of CSRs in terms of how to collect, analyze, and use data information to better interact with customers and other people in utility organizations
- Developing a set of skill standards around the customer service reps.

- Will talk to experts in the field, and people who are already beginning to implement elements of Smart Grid to get a sense of what really is changing with interaction from customers, peers and coworkers
- 7 or 8 pledges from industry to provide focus group participants – 2 full days of work where we get details about what CSRs do
- Jan 10 and 11 for focus group dates
- Early meeting provides adequate time for data collection analysis and collecting information about the future
- Tacoma Power offered to host a skill standards meeting
- NSF grant – 3 year grant to try to develop new curriculum and improve existing curriculum around energy management programs, Focus is around energy efficiency, energy efficiency project managers, energy efficiency building analysts
- Importance that employers and people doing this work are attaching to the overlay of information technology, data collection analysis and interpretation, and incorporation that information into services and products provided.

Monica Brummer presented a tour of the PNCECE website including the model for the interactive Career Lattice.

### **Careers in Energy Week, Oct. 17 – 21 – Yvonne Chase**

Governor Gregoire’s proclamation declaring Oct 17-22 as Careers in Energy Week joined 11 other states to help increase awareness of careers in energy supporting the national Center of Energy Workforce Development initiative. The proclamation recognized the PNCECE/Centralia College for the coordination of statewide events throughout the week. Washington held more events than any other state participating. We received national attention through an article published by CEWD.

PNCECE staff Yvonne Chase organized four events which exposed **268 students, 68 counselors/instructors and 15 volunteers** to careers in energy. The events included:

Regional Education and Training Center, Satsop Campus - Nearly **90 high school students and instructors** attended programs related to careers in energy. Students represented W.F. West, Apollo, New Market, North Thurston High and Elma – some of the students attending from New Market represented Tumwater High, Rochester High and Olympia High schools.

In Spokane, Mayor Mary Verner read a *Careers in Energy Week* proclamation at the city council meeting. Spokane events included:

- Gonzaga University hosted *Expand Your Horizons*. The event, which was ran by 25 facilitators and 15 volunteers, encouraged **126 girl scouts** to explore careers in science, math and energy - which included wind power generated activities.
- The Washington State Labor Council’s K-12 Demystifying Apprenticeship Program coordinated events that introduced energy apprenticeship opportunities hosting 68 high school students and 15 counselors at Seattle City Light’s Boundary Plant in Metaline Falls
- Eighteen high school counselors experienced what it feels like to be in the line worker in the Avista apprenticeship program. Kairie Pierce and Avista line school administration

and faculty met with high school counselors to talk about energy apprenticeship opportunities in Washington at Avista Utility's Jack Stewart Training Center in Spokane.

- First-year energy tech instructor Rulon Crawford joined the Eastern Washington events and taught his Oct 17 energy technology class to **84 students** via a live broadcast from Ione, WA at the Spokane Community College Institute for Extended Learning satellite campus to Centralia, Grays Harbor, and Peninsula Colleges.

#### **U.S. Dept. of Energy Smart Grid Project update – Jamie Krause**

##### **Curriculum Development Sub-Committee, September 21, Idaho Power, Boise, ID.**

- The committee determined the need to create an occupational skill standard for utility Customer Service Representatives (CSR).
- Avista has taken the lead on five supply side occupations, with the first being an introduction to substations. Cascadia Community College has committed to completing modules for three demand side occupations: energy auditors, and energy and utility conservation managers. Centralia City Light is working on CSR and meter technicians.
- Identifying where the learning programs are. An Education Matrix was created by Edmonds Community College, funded by NSF, as an Excel spreadsheet.

##### **Education Taskforce Meeting, September 22, Idaho Power, Boise, ID.**

Thirty two representatives of the Education Taskforce representing WA, OR, ID, MT, and UT were hosted in Boise, ID, by Idaho Power and Energy Systems Technology Education Center (ESTEC) Idaho State University (ISU). The taskforce welcomed new chair, Ryan Fedie, Bonneville Power Administration Engineering Service Manager, Energy Efficiency.

Presentations and discussions included:

- An update on the \$180 million U.S. Department of Energy Pacific Northwest Smart Grid demonstration project —the nation's largest regional grid project.
- Presentation from Battelle-Idaho National Laboratory on the future educational needs to support smart grid cyber security.
- Contracting process is underway with ISU/ESTEC to serve as Idaho anchor partner and satellite training center for the Dept of Energy Smart Grid project.

##### **Manufacturing Taskforce Meeting – September 21, 2011 – Idaho Power, Boise, ID.**

- The goal for the Manufacturing Taskforce is to create a process in each state, representing 20 manufacturing companies that are prepared to launch or are already deploying unique technologies.
- A deployment paper is under development and will form the basis of a contract to perform specific tasks related to quantifying and qualifying intellectual property and technologies that can be successfully commercialized and aligned with small to medium manufacturers. The deployment paper should be complete between mid-October and November 1, 2011. Detailed framework/concept complete by January 2012.

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Energy & Construction Summit 2012** Hold the date for June 21-22 at the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC), Satsop Campus in Elma. Planning committee was recruited. Judy Guenther made a plea for auction donations (gbob294@gmail.com).

##### **Directors Report – Barbara Hins-Turner**

- Mid-June Jamie and Barbara went to Annapolis, MD for the DOE Grant Recipient Conference. Barbara facilitated community college breakout session. There were only 18

community colleges across the country that received funding in that round. Questions continue to be: How are you going to keep industry and labor at the table?

- Alan and Barbara presented an update on DOE accomplishments to NEET's executive committee November 2. Discussion included training, research, and placement numbers as well as proposed steps for research for the upcoming year. NEET is an executive level group representing the 12 major utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana that endorsed the Dept. of Energy grant application and funded the grant writer. NEET funded the CoE with an additional \$43,000 received in December to expand Energy Efficiency occupational research.
- Kairie Pierce and Barbara traveled to Alexandria, VA in November to the Center for Energy Workforce Development Education Council meeting to talk about Washington's model for the Get Into Energy Careers project and partnership with the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council and Avista's Line School.
- H1B grant was submitted – Ryan, Alan pulled it all together with a great grant writing team and good support from a wide range of partners. May hear something in Feb/March.
- Upcoming events: BPA Electrical apprenticeship openings in January; 8 substation operator apprenticeships and 6 electrician apprenticeships – starting date is June 20. Recruiter will be here in January to talk to second year students. BPA hired 2 from Centralia's program last year.
- STEM Summit in Bellevue College: Feb 9 & 10. Hosted by three Centers of Excellence. Energy will be featured on day 2. Audience is K-12 and community college faculty – how to blend STEM into curriculum. Looking for more industry help.
- Good Jobs Green Jobs conference in LA – Mid-March panel will present smart grid information.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Shana Peschek: Apprenticeship conference is coming up, visit: [Apprenticeshipconference.com](http://Apprenticeshipconference.com)
- Bob Guenther: House Bill 1365 discussion to get the bill passed to build a solar farm. 50% of the parts will be manufactured here in the state of Washington.
- Jay Pickett: Veterans need more attention. The army has a nuclear power program that trains linemen and technicians. These folks are having a hard time getting into our program and should be considered journeymen because of the experience that they are gaining in the military.

#### **Meeting adjourned**