



7th ANNUAL
ENERGY &
CONSTRUCTION
BEST PRACTICES SUMMIT

Energizing America's Workforce for Tomorrow

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2012

CONTACT: Barbara Hins-Turner
(360) 736-9391, ext 477

Gubernatorial Candidates Speak On Energy & Construction
As a 7th Annual Energy & Construction Best Practices Post-Summit Event

The 7th Annual Energy & Construction Best Practices Summit: *Energizing America's Workforce for Tomorrow* will host a gubernatorial Energy and Construction Forum June 22 at 11 am. The event will be moderated by Commissioner Philip B. Jones, Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission, and will include former Representative Jay Inslee (D) and a representative for Attorney General Rob McKenna (R).

The forum will focus on their views of energy and construction in Washington state. The event will conclude the summit, which will be held at the Regional Education and Training Center, Satsop Campus, in Elma, Wash.

“It’s important for the people of the state of Washington to understand and know what the policies of the next governor will be - to ensure full recovery of the state’s economy,” Bob Guenther, IBEW77 Governmental Affairs, said.

Guenther is a summit committee member who organized the forum.

The summit’s main day, June 21, will feature Wanda Reder, Chair of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE*) Smart Grid Taskforce and Vice President of Power Systems Services, S&C Electric Company in Chicago, as the keynote speaker. She is nationally renowned for her smart grid and workforce experience and vision. Reder was recently appointed as the Chairperson of the Smart Grid Sub-Committee of the Energy Secretary Steven Chu’s DOE Electricity Advisory Committee.

Reder will be joined by 200 industry, labor, education, workforce and economic development leaders who will attend to learn, network and share best practices in the energy and construction industries. This year’s summit, *Energizing America's Workforce for Tomorrow*, is scheduled for June 21 in Elma, Wash. It will feature an exciting lineup of speakers and panelists. Topics include *The Challenges of Educating America's Workforce*, *How Consumers will Drive the Workforce*, *Build it Smart!* and *Defining the Customer Service Representative in the Utility Industry*.

continued

The summit is an annual event sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a Centralia College partnership, and the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College. The signature crab feed and scholarship auction, which begins at 6 pm June 21, will continue the tradition of raising funds for Washington state community and technical college students enrolled in energy and construction programs.

Summit organizers have added two additional days this year: an Educators Institute, slated for June 20, and a Smart Grid Manufacturing Roundtable, planned for June 22.

The **Pre Summit Educators Institute**, June 20, will provide a full day of workshops, activities and resources for educators, trainers and industry partners. Curriculum experts will be on-hand to develop and enhance profile curriculum. The day is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and coordinated by Edmonds Community College.

The **Post Summit Smart Grid Manufacturing Roundtable and Energy Forum**, June 22, will offer a short day with regional industry experts. Guests will learn the best practices of accelerating commercialization of new technologies. Jay Inslee and Rob McKenna have been invited to present their views if elected on the state's energy policy.

All summit events are free. **Registration is required to attend.** The events will be held at the Regional Education and Training Center, Satsop campus in Elma, Wash. For more information and to register for the event, please visit <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/summit>

*IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.