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Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together

June 2022 E-Newsletter

Share this newsletter with others who may be interested in helping the Utilities and Energy Coordination Network (UECN) meet its goals:

- Increase number of programs offered
- Graduate more students to meet workforce needs
- Train faculty on the latest industry trends and technology

[Join UECN now!](#)

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Grant Updates

Gas Utility and Construction Survey Results: The Rucks Group has compiled the survey results. After the Gas Utility team reviews and makes their recommendations, the results will be emailed to everyone who completed the survey. If you didn't complete the survey but would like a copy, [request full survey results.](#)

Of the technical skills identified in the current Wisconsin Technical College curriculum, employers were asked to identify the most important. Three appear to be most in demand:

- Pipe cutting and threading
- Installing plastic mains and services
- Installing gas piping

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

The Energy Management Program survey is in the works. More to come when it is finalized. To make sure to receive a copy of the survey, email Kathleen Dean: kdean@therucksgroup.com

Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

- **Building Automation Systems Fundamentals Workshop – July 20-22:** The BEST Center and Association of Controls Professionals (ACP) are partnering to offer a BAS workshop for instructors new to building automation systems or those still learning to teach BAS fundamentals. Those accepted to the workshop should be committed to implementing new curriculum or re-vamping an existing course to incorporate a significant amount of BAS content. Please share with BAS instructors and program managers. Based on availability, limited seats may be available for administrators who intend to support faculty efforts. [View program agenda](#) or [apply for the workshop by July 5](#). Contact Brian Lovell with questions: brian@acprofessionals.org
- **NWTC Corporate Training and Economic Development (CTED) Training & Seminars:** CTED offers a wide range of specific training that brings together industry experts, relevant topics, and best practices to impact workplace performance. [Find or register for training online.](#)
- **Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education (CREATE):** Find a complete list of training opportunities on the [CREATE website – createenergy.org](#)
- **Slipstream:** For a complete list of Slipstream in-person and online training opportunities, [visit their website.](#)
- **Green Buildings Career Map:** Explore [Interstate Renewable Energy Council](#) (IREC)'s interactive tool exploring careers in green buildings and energy efficiency. [View the Green Buildings Career Map.](#)
- **MEA Energy Association:** For Gas and Electric-focused training, [visit the Midwest ENERGY Association \(MEA\) website.](#)

- **Midwest Renewable Energy Association:** Established in 1990, MREA promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. [Visit the MREA website for more info.](#)

To have your training opportunities listed, email bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu.

This and That



Energy Management Program News

The Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) has approved NWTC's Energy Management Technology associate degree as an education provider for the Certified Energy Manager (CEM) exam. This means NWTC Energy Management graduates do not have to go through the AEE's CEM training, which usually involves an intense, week-long class that costs >\$2000. Congratulations to Energy Management Instructor Jenny Brinker! [Learn about CEM certification.](#)

Solar Energy Storage Grant

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation awarded NWTC a grant for energy storage to be installed at our [Great Lake Energy Education Center](#). This storage will provide a unique learning environment for students, help use less public energy, utilize more of the solar energy produced by numerous installations on and around the Energy .Center, and help level energy usage at peak times



WEC Energy Forum

On April 5, NWTC's Jenny Brinker and Energy Management Technology students attended the WEC Energy Forum. Students viewed presentations from Wisconsin utilities about their work on the transition to clean energy. Some highlights:

- Less mass rotation from power plants, so will try batteries to balance voltage and frequency on the grid
- Increased use of less carbon-emitting (than coal), highly flexible natural gas RICE units
- Liquid natural gas (LNG) storage and changes to compression to build NG reliability for increased RICE units
- Substantial solar and wind project

Telecommunications, Gas Utility, and Electrical Power Distribution

- NWTC Telecommunications program faculty are working in industry this summer to continue to learn and grow in the field and stay up to date on industry practices and technology.
 - The Gas Utility and Construction and Electric Power Distribution programs started back up in June with a full roster of students. Energy jobs are in high demand, and so is the education NWTC provides.
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2021 Gaps in the Energy Workforce Report

Preliminary findings from the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)'s 2021 Gaps in the Energy Workforce Report were shared during the recent Workforce Development Summit. [CEWD members can view the results here.](#)

Key takeaways from the report:

- The energy workforce continues to get younger.
 - Forecasted retirement attrition has dropped to its lowest point in eight years.
 - While Veteran hiring and employment were reported down slightly from the last survey cycle, data shows CEWD members are still above the national average in both categories.
 - The Executive Summary and individual scorecards for companies that provided data will be available in December.
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Job Opportunities: Looking to build your workforce? Let NWTC help post jobs.

- [State of Wisconsin - TechConnect](#)
- [Nationally – Handshake](#)

Connect With Us

Visit our website: nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork

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