

Willems, Bonnie M.

From: Amy Kox <amy.kox@nwtc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Willems, Bonnie M.
Subject: Latest Updates from UECN – November 2023

[View this email as a web page.](#)



Building a Skilled Energy Workforce Together November 2023 E-Newsletter

Share this newsletter with anyone interested in collaborating with NWTC to adapt industry approved curriculum to start your own training programs. **Join UECN now!**

In this issue:

- [Grant Updates](#)
- [This and That](#)
- [Upcoming Trainings and Seminars](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

Grant Updates



November 13-19 is 9th annual National Apprenticeship Week – by [Christina Jungwirth](#)

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a nationwide celebration where employers, industry associations, labor organizations, community-based organizations, workforce partners, education providers, and government leaders host events to showcase the successes and value of registered apprenticeship. Apprenticeships are instrumental in rebuilding our economy, advancing racial and gender equity, building a pipeline to good quality jobs, and supporting underserved communities.

This year's NAW theme – *Registered Apprenticeship: Superhighway to Good Jobs* – reflects apprenticeship's prominence as a proven, industry-driven training model that expedites the pathway into good jobs and improves diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the workplace. Registered apprenticeship is recognized as a key strategy to improving job quality and creating access to good-paying jobs for all, including populations historically underrepresented – women, people of color, and individuals with a disability – and underserved populations such as youth and young adults. It addresses some of our nation's pressing workforce shortages.

Registered apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential.

Learn more on the [apprenticeship.gov](https://www.apprenticeship.gov) and [Wisconsin DWD](https://www.wisconsin.gov/dwd) websites.

2023 ATE Principal Investigators' Conference – by [Amy Kox](#)

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College had four UECN team members travel to the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators' conference in Washington DC, October 25-27. We met individuals from across the country working in technical education. We shared the work of this network including survey results and the repository of information about energy, utility, and telecommunication programs with colleges throughout the country.

There was a large focus on DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Acceptance), as well as AI (Artificial Intelligence). Colleges nationwide are working hard to figure out how to attract and graduate students from diverse backgrounds into technology fields. Strategies shared included mentoring programs, company partnerships, youth apprenticeship, and bilingual cohorts.

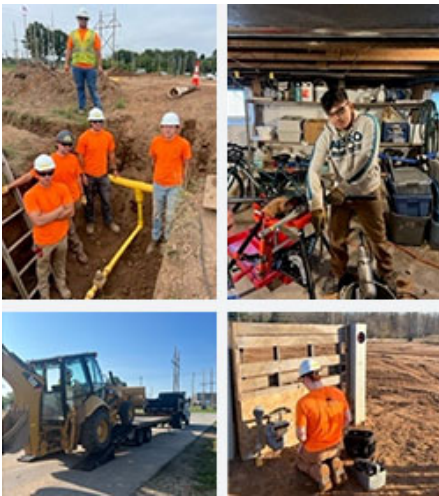
The opening and closing keynote addresses focused on AI. The speakers had great suggestions about how to utilize AI in our educational programs, businesses, and personal lives. The suggestion made by one of the speakers was to have an AI application installed on your phone and to try using it in your daily life. The final keynote speaker, Dwanye Matthews, made this statement: "The future of education

in not technology led. The future of education is human led, purpose driven, and technology supported."

This and That

Explore Trades Day Open House

Interested in a hands-on career in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation, or energy? Don't miss the Open House on the NWTC Green Bay Campus on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. **No need to register – just stop in!** [Get more details.](#)



Gas Utility Construction and Service – by Jason Nelson

Students are learning to operate excavation equipment, join plastic/steel pipe, and maintain gas meters and regulation. They will be needed to install, maintain, and operate natural gas distribution systems used to supply residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Typical careers in this field include gas distribution worker, gas service person, gas meter and regulation mechanic, gas clerk-estimator, gas inspector, gas appliance repair mechanic, underground facilities locator, pipeline welder, pipe layer, and equipment operator.

Electrical Power Distribution – by Pete Mleziva

The Electrical Power Distribution students have reached the halfway point in the program. Students are currently working on three-phase construction and personal protective grounding. Both the AM and the PM programs have 22 students.





Apprenticeship – by Pete Mleziva

The **Line Worker** apprenticeships completed the first 2 weeks of the year and will all come back in spring for the last two weeks to complete the year. The **Meter Tech** apprenticeship has started the year and each group has their second session in December and will complete the year in the spring. The **Substation** apprenticeship has been working on getting communication in the NWTC substation and getting relays to communicate with various equipment.

Telecommunications – by Joel Mikulsky

The Telecommunications Program Advisory Committee held a meeting on October 20. This meeting was extremely valuable since it allowed some of our UECN members to provide program feedback through a personal meeting. Our trusted partners continue to help steer our curriculum toward industry needs.

UECN Members attended our Utility Preview Day and shared their employment outlook and industry insight to students and potential students. We continue to forge a relationship with UECN members and appreciate when they can attend events at NWTC's campus. This event included a demo of a drone flight and how it is used in the Telecom Industry. Over 45 students attended this event.



Solar Energy Technology – by John Hippensteel

NWTC's Solar Energy Instructor, John Hippensteel, presented on the Great Lakes Energy Education Center's Path to Net Zero to a full house at this year's Wisconsin Energy Efficiency Expo in Brookfield, WI on October 18. The presentation covered extensive details on the buildings solar arrays as well as geothermal, VRF systems and the soon to be commissioned Battery Energy Storage System.



This event, sponsored by the Wisconsin Energy Engineers Association, is the ideal setting for professional development and networking with the industry. It is always meaningful for instructors to catch up with past students working in the industry, as well

as meet new companies in need of well-trained employees. Go Solar.

Upcoming Trainings and Seminars

For the latest in training and seminars, visit:

- **NWTC Corporate Training and Economic Development (CTED):** Training and services tailored to individual company needs.
- **Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education (CREATE):** Creating a skilled technical workforce to implement the transformation of the world's energy industries.
- **Slipstream:** Discovers, tests, and scales climate solutions in buildings and communities.
- **Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC):** Builds the foundation for rapid adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency, toward a 100% clean energy future that is reliable, resilient, and equitable.
- **Midwest Energy Association (MEA):** Empowering the energy industry through education, leadership development, and industry connections.
- **Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA):** Promotes renewable energy and sustainable living through education and demonstration.
- **Environmental and Natural Resources Technology (EARTH) – formerly Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATTEC):** Advances environmental and natural resources education through curriculum, professional, and program development.
- **Fiber Broadband Association** – Works toward a world where communications are limitless, advancing the quality of life and digital equity anywhere and everywhere.

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

Connect With Us

Visit our website: nwtc.edu/EnergyNetwork

Email Bonnie Willems: bonnie.willems@nwtc.edu

Grant Contacts

Amy Kox, Dean: amy.kox@nwtc.edu

Howard Herrild, Assoc. Dean: howard.herrild@nwtc.edu

Partial support for this work was provided by the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program under Award No. 2000519. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



This email was sent by:

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

2740 W Mason St

Green Bay, WI, 54303, US

920-498-5444 | 1-800-422-NWTC

[Unsubscribe](#)