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Thomas J. Tarka (Professional Engineer), a senior energy conversion systems engineer at the Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), has been awarded a Bronze “Excellence in Government” Award for Outstanding Professional Employee from the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board (FEB).

FEB presented the award during its 26th annual Excellence in Government Awards Program luncheon at the Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh. NETL employees took home several of the awards.

Tarka works at NETL in the conversion of coal and biomass resources into affordable, low-carbon transportation fuels and electricity. He grew up in both Kutztown and Havertown, Pennsylvania as well as Newtown, Connecticut. He earned a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Delaware, and more recently, his Professional Engineering license from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He lives in the Carrick neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

NETL is one of the U.S. Department of Energy’s national laboratories. NETL – “the ENERGY lab” – focuses on America’s economic prosperity, which requires secure, reliable energy supplies at sustainable prices. Three overarching issues characterize the energy situation in the United States. They are energy affordability, supply security, and environmental quality. The Department of Energy’s only government-owned, government-operated national lab, NETL is a research and technology center where these energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge. NETL implements a broad spectrum of energy and environmental research and development programs through its own research staff and through funded research at other labs, universities, and industry that will return benefits for generations to come.