RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • OCTOBER 2024

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders,

In this month's funding opportunity in focus is the DOE's *Undocumented Orphan Well Characterization and Remediation funding opportunity* with an application deadline of November 13, 2024. In the DOE STEM section below you can find out more information about applying for the *New EnergyTech University Prize Offering \$545K in Funding to Student and Faculty Innovators* as well as the *Summer 2025 Visiting Faculty Program*.

Attached to this email is a hyperlinked PDF version of this note. If you would like to unsubscribe, please reply "unsubscribe" to this email.

- Sincerely, The NETL RWFI Team

SPOTLIGHT

FUNDING

Workforce Funding Announcements

Undocumented Orphaned Well Characterization and Remediation

U.S. Department of Energy, Deadline, Nov. 13, 2024

Undocumented Orphaned Well Characterization and Remediation. This announcement aligns with the DOE's Office of Resource Sustainability's Methane Mitigation Technologies Program to develop advanced tools and technologies that will significantly reduce methane emissions and other environmental impacts associated with undocumented orphaned wells. This announcement will support the undocumented orphaned wells subprogram by soliciting research on new processes and development of new materials, tools, and technologies for wellbore characterization; effective plugging and abandonment operations; and pre- and post-plugging and abandonment emissions monitoring.

Fiscal Year 2025 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants

Environmental Protection Agency, Deadline, Nov. 14, 2024

The Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, tribal nations, communities, and nonprofit organizations to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. This funding opportunity will award assessment grants to develop inventories of brownfield sites, prioritize sites, conduct community involvement activities, conduct planning, conduct site assessments, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and develop reuse plans related to brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments.

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Nov. 15, 2024

The LSAMP program invests in the nation's colleges and universities to aid student success to create a new generation of STEM discoverers for the national STEM enterprise. The program takes a comprehensive approach to the STEM Learning Ecosystem to impact STEM student development and retention.

Broadening Participation in Engineering (BPE)

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Nov. 20, 2024

Through the BPE program, the National Science Foundation seeks to strengthen the future U.S. engineering workforce by enabling and encouraging the participation of all citizens in the engineering enterprise. The BPE Program seeks to support not only research in the science of broadening participation and equity in engineering, but also collaborative endeavors which foster the professional development of a diverse and well-prepared engineering workforce as well as innovative, if not revolutionary, approaches to building capacity through inclusivity and equity within the engineering academic experience.

Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (Community Change Grants)

Environmental Protection Agency, Deadline, Nov. 21, 2024

Community Change Grants, created by the Inflation Reduction Act, offers an unprecedented \$2B in grants under this notice of funding opportunity. The Community Change Grants will fund community-driven projects that address climate challenges and reduce pollution while strengthening communities through thoughtful implementation.

Advancing Informal Learning

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Jan. 8, 2024

The Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program is committed to funding research and practice, with continued focus on investigating a range of informal STEM learning experiences and environments that make lifelong learning a reality. This program seeks proposals that center engagement, broadening participation and belonging, and further the well-being of individuals and communities who have been and continue to be excluded, underserved, or underrepresented in STEM along several dimensions.



Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center State Competition

Department of Commerce, Deadline, Jan. 9, 2024

The National Institute of Standards and Technology MEP is seeking applications from eligible applicants to enter into a cooperative agreement to operate an MEP Center in one of the following states: Texas, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Michigan, Virginia, Connecticut, North Carolina, Oregon, Colorado, and Indiana. The MEP Center will provide manufacturing extension services to small and mid-sized manufacturers and will become part of the MEP National Network, which consists of 51 MEP Centers located in every state and Puerto Rico, and over 1,440 trusted advisors and experts at approximately 460 MEP service locations.

Future Manufacturing

National Science Foundation, Deadline, Jan. 13, 2024

The goal of Future Manufacturing is to support fundamental research, education, and training of a future workforce to overcome scientific, technological, educational, economic, and social barriers in order to catalyze new manufacturing capabilities that do not exist today. Future Manufacturing seeks inventive approaches to invigorate the manufacturing ecosystem and seed nascent future industries that can only be imagined today. Future Manufacturing supports research and education that will enhance U.S. leadership in manufacturing by providing new capabilities for companies and entrepreneurs, by improving our health, quality of life, and national security; by expanding job opportunities to a diverse STEM workforce; and by reducing adverse impacts of manufacturing on the environment.

NETL News



DOE Invests More Than \$58M for Pilot-Scale Testing of Advanced CO₂ Removal Technologies

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM), with DOE's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technologies Office, today announced more than \$58.5M in federal funding for 11 projects to help develop a commercially viable CO_2 removal industry in the United States. The funding will support pilot projects and testing facilities to demonstrate and scale CO_2 removal technologies that reduce CO_2 pollution by removing it directly from the atmosphere.



DOE Plans to Continue Investing in CO₂ Transport Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) Studies

NETL is announcing that the FECM anticipates soliciting applications for additional projects similar to those solicited under DE-FOA-0002730. These projects would receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to conduct FEED studies that support and accelerate the planning for CO_2 transport from anthropogenic sources to CO_2 conversion or secure geologic storage locations. Carbon capture sources may include a combination of CO_2 removal (e.g., direct air capture and biomass carbon removal and storage), and point sources (e.g., industrial and power generation). All modes of CO_2 transport (pipeline, truck, rail, barge, and ship), including any combination of transport modes, may be considered. If a solicitation is issued, it could be a reissuance of FOA DE-FOA-0002730, or a new solicitation.



NETL-Led Team Nets DOE Award to Advance Cerebras Wafer-Scale Engine (WSE) Computer Chip for Energy Research Simulations

NETL and partner Cerebras Systems of Sunnyvale, California, have been awarded \$8M by the DOE to advance the study of scientific phenomena using the Cerebras WSE.



Carbon Capture Solvent Technology to Be Tested at World's Largest Test Facility

An advanced solvent for post-combustion carbon capture developed through a partnership involving the University of Texas at Austin and Honeywell is set for engineering-scale testing in October at the Technology Centre Mongstad, the world's largest carbon capture test facility located in western Norway.



DOE Invests \$29M for Projects to Meet Carbon Management Priorities

The FECM today announced \$29M for 12 research and development projects to fund two carbon management priorities—the conversion of CO_2 into environmentally responsible and economically valuable products and the development of lower-cost, highly efficient technologies to capture CO_2 from industrial sources and power plants for permanent storage or conversion. Accelerating the development of these technologies will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's ambitious climate goals of achieving a carbon-neutral power sector by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and help establish the foundation for a successful carbon capture, storage, and conversion industry in the United States.



NETL-Managed Projects Support Direct Air Capture Technology Development

A novel direct air capture (DAC) technology is being developed by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International with funding and management support provided by NETL on behalf of the FECM. Through three collaborative research and development projects, RTI has selected a DAC sorbent material, completed initial testing of their air contactor design, and is now designing an integrated DAC process for field testing.



NETL, University Researchers Demonstrate the Power of Institute for the Design of Advanced Energy Systems (IDAES) to Advance Clean Energy Technology

A team of researchers from NETL and academia have demonstrated the unique dynamic analysis capabilities available through the lab's IDAES to advance clean energy technologies.



NETL Improves Gasification Process for Post-Consumer Plastic and Biomass Waste

NETL researchers developed an improved method for gasifying postconsumer plastic and biomass waste to generate clean hydrogen-rich syngas while reducing tar as an undesirable byproduct.

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY





NETL Awards 16 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Funded Regional DAC Hub Projects

NETL has awarded and is currently managing 16 regional DAC Hub projects throughout the country, putting into use the technologies developed by the lab and partner organizations to address climate change.

Reports and Resources



2023 State of the Workforce

National Association of State Workforce Agencies

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) is proud to present the 2023 State of the Workforce Report. In its third iteration, the report brings together data and key innovations from the nation's state workforce agencies into one cohesive report. NASWA appreciates the state contributions to this effort, as well as the data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor.

DOE STEM Rising

Calling All University Faculty: Accepting Applications for Summer 2025 Visiting Faculty Program

Extensive support during the application process is available, as well as a summer internship fair in November sponsored by the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. "We are proud to offer these amazing programs to students and faculty and encourage everyone who is eligible to apply," said Harriet Kung, Acting Director of the Office of Science. "They offer a wonderful "foot in the door" for aspiring scientific researchers and an excellent opportunity for faculty, as well, to coordinate with our national laboratories on discovery science that addresses the nation's scientific challenges."

\$2M Available to Support U.S. Offshore Wind Workforce Readiness Programs

The offshore wind industry is growing. According to the 2024 Offshore Wind Market Report, the U.S. industry's project pipeline grew by 53% from the previous year—enough to power more than 26 million homes if fully developed. As the U.S. offshore wind industry grows, so does the number of good-paying job opportunities and the demand to fill them in communities across the nation.

New EnergyTech University Prize (EnergyTech UP) Offers \$545K in Funding to Student and Faculty Innovators

The DOE Office of Technology Transitions launched the fourth round of the EnergyTech UP. This \$545K prize comprises two tracks, a student track and a faculty track, both with a common goal—accelerate the clean tech industry. With prize opportunities provided from an array of DOE offices, the competition aims to cultivate the next generation of energy innovators, educators, and entrepreneurs.



ABOUT NETL



NETL, owned and operated by DOE, is one of the Department's 17 National Laboratories. NETL supports DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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