

RWFI E-NOTE MONTHLY

REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE • MARCH 2018

Welcome Message

Greetings NETL RWFI stakeholders.

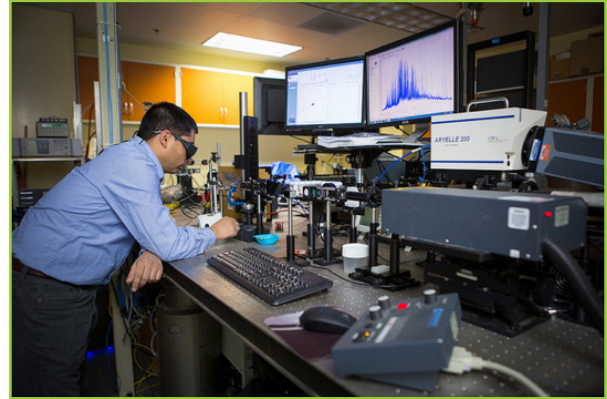
In this addition of the E-Note, you will find several new funding announcements from the U.S Department of Agriculture, open to both two- and four-year educational institutions, and a cooperative agreement opportunity for course content creation issued by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. April also presents regional opportunities to meet and network to learn more about the regional energy and advanced manufacturing workforces through a sustainable energy summit at Westmoreland Community College and Carnegie Mellon University's Energy Week.

Make sure to check out both the NETL News and the Reports and Resources sections in this month's E-Note. In NETL News, there is a re-cap of this month's Development Districts Association of Appalachia's Annual Summit Energy Workforce Panel, where researchers and staff from both NETL and Oak Ridge National Laboratory led the discussion on the future of the Appalachian Energy and Advanced Manufacturing workforce. You will also find information about a new joint Oak Ridge and NETL research endeavor to find novel ways of using coal to produce high-value products. Finally, in Reports and Resources, you will find a brief description of relevant funding from the new FY2018 omnibus spending bill, and a link to a Forbes Energy post describing the potential for Utica and Marcellus natural gas in driving regional manufacturing.

Feel free to reach out to us at NETL.RWFI@netl.doe.gov if you have any suggestions for information to present in future E-notes.

— Sincerely, The NETL Regional Workforce Initiative Team

Workforce Funding Announcements



Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECA)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, **Deadline, April 4, 2018**

The SPECA program seeks to (a) promote and strengthen secondary education and two-year postsecondary education in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human (FANH) sciences in order to help ensure the existence of a workforce in the United States that is qualified to serve the FANH sciences system; and (b) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, two-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the FANH sciences.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) FY 2018 Oregon

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, **Deadline, April 6, 2018**

NRCS Oregon is announcing the availability of this CIG to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from eligible entities for projects carried out in the state of Oregon. A total of up to \$225,000 is available for CIG in FY 2018. All non-Federal entities (NFE) and individuals are invited to apply, with the sole exception of Federal agencies. Projects may be between one and three years in duration. The maximum award amount for a single award in FY 2018 is \$75,000.

Support of Fossil Energy Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities Including University Coal Research (UCR) and Research by Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Other Minority Institutions (HBCU/OMI)

U.S. Department of Energy, Fossil Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, **Deadline, April 9, 2018**

The U.S. DOE's Office of Fossil Energy announced up to \$1.6 million in federal funding for research and development projects under this funding opportunity announcement open to historically black colleges and universities and other minority institutions.

National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) Standards Services Curricula Development (SSCD) Cooperative Agreement Program

National Institutes of Standards and Technology, Deadline, April 16, 2018

The NIST SSCD Cooperative Agreement Program provides financial assistance and support for curricula development to integrate standards and standardization content into undergraduate and/or graduate courses, modules, seminars, and learning resources at U.S. colleges and universities. Recipients will work with NIST to strengthen education and learning about standards and standardization. Approximately \$250,000 may be available to fund up to eight projects in the \$25,000 to \$75,000 range.

Announcement for Program Funding for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2018 – Pennsylvania

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, **Deadline, April 27, 2018**

USDA's NRCS is now accepting applications for up to \$225,000 in funding to promote the development and adoption of innovative approaches for agricultural production in Pennsylvania. Grants will be awarded for projects between one and three years' duration with individual awards not exceeding \$75,000. This year, NRCS is seeking proposals focused on non-industrial private forestland, urban and micro scale agriculture, soil health, and pollinators. CIG does not fund research projects but makes an exception for on-farm conservation research as defined in the funding announcement. Projects must involve landowners who meet eligibility requirements for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Power Grants RFP Round 1

Appalachian Regional Commission, **Round 1 Deadline, May 1, 2018**

The ARC *released a request for proposals* (RFP) for the 2018 Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce (POWER) Initiative. The first cycle of the POWER 2018 RFP has a deadline of May 1, 2018. ARC is making \$20 million of POWER funding available, with average individual grants ranging between \$400,000 to \$1.5 million. Up to 70% of POWER funding may be awarded during cycle one. Applicants for an ARC grant must demonstrate a matching share from non-ARC sources that is identified and forthcoming to the project. Matching sources may be federal, non-federal, or a combination of sources. The maximum share of ARC assistance is determined by the ARC classification of the county or counties served by the proposed activity. Applicants may request up to 80% of the total project cost when the county served has been designated "economically distressed." The full RFP can be downloaded by *clicking on this link* or by visiting the ARC POWER website at <https://www.arc.gov/funding/POWER.asp>

Higher Education Challenge Grants Program

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, **Deadline, May 7, 2018**

Open to Land Grant Colleges and Universities. Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program will: (1) address a state, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or non-traditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support.

NETL Meetings and Regional Events



Carnegie Mellon University 2018 Energy Week

April 3-6, 2018, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Join energy thought leaders from industry, government, academia, and the nonprofit sector to engage and collaborate on energy research, trends, innovative technologies, and opportunities. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. NETL staff will participate in session panels and during the energy careers fair on April 3.

7th Annual Marcellus and Manufacturing Development Conference

April 16-17, 2018, Marriott at Waterfront Place, Morgantown, WV

The Marcellus and Manufacturing Development Conference plays host to companies interested in locating new facilities or expanding existing operations in the state, and provides companies and industry leaders the opportunity to gain an expanded understanding of the potential for ethane and ethylene related product development in West Virginia. Conference attendees learn about West Virginia's advantages, including tax incentives, environmental permitting, workforce development, availability of employees, and site options, and can network with West Virginia leaders, manufacturers, and suppliers.

U.S. DOE Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Mentoring Café of 2018

April 17-18, 2018, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

The critical shortage of young people from groups that are underrepresented in STEM careers demands a concentrated and collaborative approach to inspire students to explore STEM opportunities. STEM Mentoring Cafés are an effort to engage middle and high school students and their educators with STEM professionals. The Mid-Willamette STEM Mentoring Café is co-hosted by the DOE, DOE's NETL, and Oregon State University College of Science. There is no cost to participate. However, RSVPs are due by Friday, April 6, 2018. You can RSVP for this event at <https://www.netl.doe.gov/events/2018-stem>

Westmoreland County Community College's Sustainable Energy Forum

April 18, 9-12:30 PM, Westmoreland Advanced Technology Center, Mount Pleasant, PA

Westmoreland County Community College's Sustainable Energy Forum will feature speakers from Environmental Entrepreneurs, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance, Penn State Extension, employers, and other organizations to discuss national & regional trends, what this growth means for our region, and roles we can play to prepare the workforce of today for careers of tomorrow. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the College's Advanced Technology Center. If you have not already done so, please RSVP to Judy Wells at wellsj@westmoreland.edu, or at (724) 925-4218.

NETL News



The National Labs and the Future of Energy and Manufacturing; Conference Workforce Panel

NETL partnered with Oak Ridge National Laboratory for a presentation at the 2018 Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Annual Conference, addressing "The National Labs and the Future of Energy and Manufacturing." The conference was held March 18-21 in Arlington, VA in conjunction with the National Association of Development Organizations Washington Conference. DDAA is a membership organization with 73 Local Development Districts that provide administrative, professional and technical assistance to communities in 420 counties throughout Appalachia. The conference provided an opportunity for NETL to share its work to develop innovative energy technology solutions that stimulate the nation's growing economy with key constituencies in Appalachia.



ORNL and NETL Sign MOU for Joint Research

Two U.S. DOE National Laboratories with energy research expertise are joining forces to pursue research on new ways to use coal to create innovative high-value products. A memorandum of understanding was signed today by representatives of ORNL and NETL at NETL's Pittsburgh site. DOE Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Steve Winberg attended the signing event.



NETL Participates in Pittsburgh-Denmark Smart Energy City Conference

With technical support from NETL, the City of Pittsburgh has drawn national attention for the strides it is making in becoming an Energy Smart City. Now, through a partnership involving the University of Pittsburgh and the City’s Office of Resiliency, NETL is participating in a new international effort to broaden thinking about energy innovation and urban development.

EarthX E-Capital Summit and Innovation Expo

April 19-22, 2018, Dallas Fair Grounds, Dallas, TX

The E-Capital Summit cultivates and convenes mission-driven investors, incubators, accelerators, researchers, and breakthrough clean technology innovators from around the world to form partnerships having substantial, positive impacts on profits, people, and the planet. There are two ways you can participate in the E-capital summit.

- The Investment Forum- An exclusive, invite only forum where mission-driven investors engage with leaders from the energy technology ecosystem.
- The Innovation Expo- An exhibition at EarthX featuring exhibits from cutting-edge energy technology companies, incubators, accelerators, national labs and universities.

For more information on how to participate visit <https://earthx.org/ecapital/>

“Exploring Beyond the Booth” The 2018 Welding Industry Summit

April 11-12, 2018 Lincoln Electric Headquarters, Cleveland, OH

Join the American Association of Community College and its corporate partner Lincoln Electric at the company’s new Welding Technology and Training Center in Cleveland April 11-12 for a free, top-level discussion about the welding talent pipeline, training, partnerships and more.

98th Annual Convention American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

April 28-May 1, 2018, Dallas, TX

The premier event for community college leaders, *AACC’s Annual Convention* offers unprecedented professional development as well as the opportunity to network, share, and learn from professionals in the fields of education, business and industry, and the government sector. AACC is offering a new, curated exhibit hall experience for 2018 focused on promoting heavy engagement between exhibitors and attendees. For information on registration visit <https://s1.goeshow.com/aacc/annual/2018/register.cfm>

Workforce Conferences, Meetings, and Summits



Skills, Jobs and the New-Collar Economy

April 4-6, 2018, Walter E. Washington Convention Center Washington, DC

U.S. News & World Report STEM Solutions Presents: Workforce of Tomorrow, is the preeminent conference for leaders across multiple industries, from corporate CEOs to university presidents, and influential board chairs to top policymakers. Committed to examining the complexities of developing a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and math, these leaders bring their key insights, innovative strategies, and industry best practices to develop solutions for advancing this effort. An executive-level event with significant impact, Workforce of Tomorrow, April 4-6, 2018, in Washington, D.C., aims to ensure a strong future for STEM education and employment.

Reports and Resources



FY 2018 omnibus released, increases funding for key workforce, education programs

National Skills Coalition Blog

Congressional leaders released final text for an omnibus spending package that is expected to finalize FY 2018 appropriations for most federal programs. The \$1.3 trillion omnibus reflects the increased spending levels for both defense and non-defense programs agreed to as part of recent legislation lifting the budget “caps” for federal discretionary spending, and includes some critical boosts in funding for key education and workforce development programs.

Could Shale Gas Lead to A Manufacturing Boom in Appalachia?

Forbes

A new study says that the Utica and Marcellus Shale basins will provide 37% of the nation’s natural gas production by 2040, making it the best place nationally for manufacturers to invest — even better than the Gulf Coast. IHS Markit concludes that the region, which is made up of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, and which it calls Shale Crescent USA, will “provide a significant financial advantage” when compared to the Gulf Coast. It specifically refers to chemical plants, which would use “wet” natural gas as a feedstock to manufacture end products like plastics. Those so-called natural gas liquids are comprised of such chemicals as butane, ethane, methane, and propane.

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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