

CAREERS IN ENERGY WEEK

October 17-21, 2011



Energy impacts every part of our daily lives.

Make a difference by choosing a rewarding, well-paying and exciting energy industry career.

Governor Proclaims Oct. 17 – 22 Careers in Energy Week

Four events occur throughout Washington to promote energy workforce needs

Governor Gregoire has proclaimed Oct. 17 – 22 as Careers in Energy Week to promote the need to build a smart-energy workforce. Washington joins 11 other states in supporting the national drive, coordinated by the Center for Energy Workforce Development. Washington events are coordinated by the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a Centralia College partnership.

Nearly half of today's energy workforce will be retiring in the next decade. As technology within the industry quickly increases, so does the need for a techno-savvy workforce to support high-skill, high-wage jobs. The right education and training will provide men and women a rewarding, well-paying career that benefits millions of people every day.

Four events throughout Washington will engage high school students and counselors in activities to support Careers in Energy Week. The events, coordinated by the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a partnership with Centralia College, will include:

Explore Careers in Energy at RETC/Satsop, Oct. 13. One hundred high school students will participate in hands-on activities at the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC), Satsop campus in Elma. Students and teachers will learn how to understand an energy audit and recognize if energy efficiency changes were made; experience first-hand how power plant operators handle an emergency and abnormal operating conditions without the risk of live power; tour the never-fueled nuclear power plant; and control the operations of a computerized system which is typically used to open and close valves, switches and collect data. Contact: Kathryn Fredrick, 360-482-1755 or kathryn.fredrick@retcs.org.

Expand Your Horizons at Gonzaga University, Oct. 15. More than 100 Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, grades six to 12, will participate in science, engineering and energy related hands-on activities that will show them that math and science are fun. The girls will check out careers in energy and other great fields. Contact: Sarah Betts, 800-827-9478, ext. 225, or sbetts@gewni.org.

K-12 Apprenticeship Awareness Workshops, Oct. 17 and 18. High school counselors will take facility tours and experience hands-on activities to learn more about pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship career choices available throughout the state. Up to 30 counselors are expected at Ione to take a tour of Seattle City Light Boundary Plant and in Spokane to tour Avista Utility's Jack Stewart Pre-Apprentice Line School. Workshops will be led by Washington State Labor Council. Contact: Kairie Pierce, 360-943-0608 or kpierce@wslc.org.

For more information on careers in energy, visit <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org>.

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, energy is a fundamental element of everyday life – at the flip of a switch or the turn of a dial, energy supplies heating, cooling, cooking, and lighting; and

WHEREAS, energy generates commerce and fuels economic growth; supports modern society's complex systems – patient care, air traffic control, running a business, and even the state; and makes the fun things in life possible – lights at baseball fields, air conditioning at theaters, and rides at fairs; and

WHEREAS, energy is vital to our state's economy – without energy, no industry can survive; and

WHEREAS, energy provides careers to thousands of residents in our state ranging from line worker to engineer, construction specialist to accountant, chemist to environmentalist, maintenance laborer to executive – all valued and all essential; and

WHEREAS, we are facing a critical skilled workforce shortage to maintain the existing electrical power system; and

WHEREAS, new low-carbon electricity generation and supporting infrastructure will need to be designed, built, and operated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while continuing to meet the electricity demands of the economy; and

WHEREAS, through collaboration, the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a Centralia College Partnership, will organize statewide events to inform Washingtonians about rewarding careers and training opportunities in energy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 17-21, 2011, as

Careers in Energy Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 7th day of October, 2011


Governor Christine O. Gregoire

