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2019 State Energy Workforce Consortia Accomplishments

**MidAtlantic Region**

The **Virginia** Energy Workforce Consortium, in partnership with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, kicked off a competition during Careers in Energy Week, which encouraged students to research innovative solutions to real-world problems. The Governor signed a proclamation for Careers in Energy Week in the state of Virginia. Earlier in 2019, the consortium received approval to embed a 17th career cluster in energy in their state.

**Midwest Region**

**Illinois** recently succeeded in getting a 17th career cluster for energy. For Careers in Energy Week, they held an annual contest for teachers, who are asked to send in pictures of energy activities in the classroom. Their names are put into a drawing to win $250 for classroom materials. The consortium is working on a succession plan and ways to re-engage corporate leaders.

**Missouri** published their website and is having monthly meeting of their Executive Committee. Their Executive Steering Team continues to support the MEWC in its strategy. In 2020, the MEWC will focus on working with the state of Missouri to implement a 17th career cluster in energy.

**Nebraska** is now meeting every other month instead of quarterly, which has helped to keep attention on their workplan. The Department of Education has joined as a member, which has created new opportunities, including sponsorship of a SkillsUSA competition. In 2020, the NEWC will launch its new website.

**The Dakotas** is meeting monthly to ensure momentum since the two states cover so much territory. In 2019, they fostered a new relationship with career advisors from the Department of Labor and Regulation in South Dakota who work directly with HS students to advise on career pathways. The career advisors are working with the DEWC to organize visiting classes, providing internships and mentoring students. The DEWC also did a thorough review of its strategic plan and narrowed its focus to enable members to gain more traction more quickly.

**Michigan** was awarded a grant that enabled it to hire a project manager to help the MEWDC move at a quicker pace. This consortium has engaged new members and reengaged some that had left the consortium. In December, the MEWDC presented an update strategic plan and reconfigured leadership organization. MEWDC has six high schools and four community colleges teaching Energy Industry Fundamentals and has plans to add additional institutions in 2020.

**Wisconsin** conducted a detailed review of its Strategic Workforce Plan in 2019 and revised it for approval in December. Having finalized its status as a 501c3 in first quarter 2019, the WEWC has successfully collected 100 percent of its dues from members and is poised to execute a detailed career awareness plan in 2020. Its relationship with Morgan Data, which manages the 501c3 has matured and appears to be enabling consortium members to focus on project work and results.

After a year of hiatus due to leadership changes, **Iowa** reconvened its membership in December 2019 with new leadership from Alliant Energy. The meeting focused on goal setting for 2020 and included working sessions on each of 4 main areas. Meeting dates have been set for 2020 and the Executive Committee is meeting in January to plan the first quarter meeting agenda.

The **Minnesota** Energy Consortium partnered with Xcel Energy to host the CEWD Midwest Region meeting in Minneapolis. During the regional meeting, attendees were able to tour one of two Get into Energy Minnesota energy trailers, which are used to promote energy awareness and education throughout the state. The MEC sponsored its successful E3 workshops – Energy Education for Educators. In 2020, the MEC plans to revise its strategic workforce plan.

**Northeast Region**

Consortia in the Northeast Region are currently inactive.

**Northwest Region**

**Oregon** is going through re-evaluation and is currently inactive, following several retirements at Portland General Electric. They have been working with Washington on a regional consortium.

**Washington** is being led by the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy.

**South Region**

**Arkansas** Strategic Planning work was done and the first cohort of their lineworker curriculum concluded. The Universal Offer date for this first cohort was December 17th. Data gathering has been completed for their next job role(s). Cohorts two and three of the lineworker program has begun.

**Louisiana** Strategic Planning work was completed. Cohorts six and seven graduated with 80% of the graduates hired from their programs. Adjustments in the curriculum were made based on input from the employers. Work has been done to register this consortium as a 501c3 with the IRS. They will begin operation as a 501c3 in January 2020. The consortium is also working on starting a curriculum for Natural Gas Technicians, in partnership with the Louisiana Gas Association (LGA).

**Oklahoma** is farther along developing a 17th Career Cluster with members from OG&E moving it along. CEWD has provided materials and consultation to this member during this work activity. OG&E has also met with additional employers (i.e. Petroleum) in an attempt to build consortium membership.

**Southeast Region**

The **Carolinas** Consortium developed a common curriculum for lineworkers across the state of North Carolina. They developed a new website for consortium as well as marketing material. The Governors of both North and South Carolina signed proclamations declaring Careers in Energy Week in both states. The consortium also conducted a detailed review of its strategic workforce plan and identified priorities for 2020.

**Florida** has engaged new members and reengaged some that had left the consortium. They also brought forth new leadership in June of 2019 and held four career awareness events throughout the state during Careers in Energy Week. The Governor signed a proclamation for Careers in Energy Week in the state of Florida.

**Georgia** had a change in leadership in 2019 and pulled together their members in a face-to-face meeting to conduct a detailed review of its 2019 Strategic Workforce Plan and developed strategies for 2020.

**Mississippi** has been working with two high schools who were awarded grants to implement Energy Career Academies in both schools beginning in 2020.

**West Region**

**Colorado** members met face-to-face twice in 2019. They are committed to refreshing their strategic plan in early-2020. Members independently did career awareness work during Careers in Energy Week.

**Arizona** members met face-to-face twice in 2019. They are focusing on items that will be mutually beneficial to all members across the state. They also appreciate the time they do get together to benchmark.

The **Oregon** Consortium is in the planning stage. Portland General Electric (PGE) is interested in starting this work in 2020. PGE will host the 2020 Northwest/West region meeting. CEWD provided consulting support this year around workforce planning.

**California** began preliminary discussions with SMUD to restart a Northern California consortium. More to come in early-2020.

The **Nevada** Consortium is not meeting, however, SW Gas has established natural gas technician curriculum with two partner colleges in Las Vegas and Northern Nevada.