Energy Learning Exchange members held their semi-annual meeting at Illinois State University in December. Dr. David Loomis, Director of the Energy Learning Exchange, led the discussion.

Jonathan Furr of the Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University explained Illinois Pathways, which is designed to provide students with skills and experience to prepare them for success in college and careers, and to spur community economic development by fostering a homegrown talent pipeline in critical industries. STEM Learning Exchanges are to advise communities on career pathways system structures and best practices, deliver high quality curricular and professional development resources, and expand access to real world challenges and work-based learning. www.ilpathways.com

Steve Yaun presented an introduction to Career Cruising and ccInspire (top photo). The mission of Career Cruising is to engage and inspire individuals of all ages to achieve their full potential in school, careers, and life. The goal of ccInspire is to bring together career decision makers and local employers to help individuals achieve their career goals and address workforce development needs in communities. More information will be provided to help companies add their information into the system. www.careercruising.com

Timothy Wilhelm of Kankakee Community College shared details of a successful solar training program with key strategic elements. Graduates within the Renewable Energy Technology track earn an A.A.S Degree in Electrical Technology; certificates in solar-thermal, solar-PV, and small wind energy; plus additional accreditation and certificates. www.kcc.edu/res

Dr. Willy Hunter, Director of the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology at Illinois State University, discussed the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act which developed a foundation from dollars set aside from the utilities for public education. Illinois State University received some of those funds to develop a Smart Grid for Schools program. He introduced Lindsay Longstreth, Smart Grid for Schools Project Manager. Lindsay led a tour of the models of rooms in a house for teachers and students to interact with appliances, discuss energy use, and learn the advantages of the smart meter. She also discussed table models to demonstrate generation (photo bottom right), explain how electricity gets to a city, and show the difference between smart grid and regular meters. To date, over 180 teachers have been trained, models have visited 12 schools reaching 1700 students, and 20 more schools have been booked for Spring. www.SmartGridForSchools.org

Additional presentations included Careers in Energy Week activities by the ELE and the Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium, presented by Dr. Loomis; Illinois Open Educational Resources, Illinois Shared Learning Environment, and Career Fairs by Jeritt Williams of Illinois State; and the new Renewable Energy for Schools Program by Matt Aldeman of Illinois State and Jolene Willis of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University.
Connect to the Energy Learning Exchange on Social Media

The Energy Learning Exchange can now be followed on Twitter and liked on Facebook! Please connect to us on the social media pages linked in the images at left. On those websites, we will share ELE information and events, interesting articles about the energy industry in Illinois, and links to events around the state that encourage energy careers and education.

Exhibits Share Energy Learning Exchange Information

Jeritt Williams, STEM Education Coordinator, has led exhibits at a number of events across the state of Illinois, to share information on the Energy Learning Exchange, and also to educate and encourage students to pursue careers in Energy.

In the photo at right, Jeritt leads interested students through a Smart Grid demonstration, as part of an exhibit at the 8th Grade Career Expo in Bloomington, an event attended by 1,200 students. Another ELE exhibit was featured at STEMFest at Northern Illinois University which was attended by 6,000 students.

Upcoming events that will be held around the state for the purposes of energy education and career awareness are featured on the Energy Learning Exchange website, www.Energy.ilstu.edu.

Energy Learning Exchange Participating Members:

- Advance Renewables Sustainability Consulting
- AGL Resources
- Alliance Pipeline
- Ameren Illinois
- Argonne National Laboratory
- Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
- Bloomington Area Career Center
- Career Preparation Network, Education for Employment Region 060
- Caterpillar, Inc.
- Chicago Public Schools
- College of DuPage
- College of Lake County
- ComEd
- Constellation New Energy
- Cook County Workforce Investment Board
- Danville Area Community College
- DuPage Workforce Board
- East St. Louis District 189
- Eastern Illinois University
- Economic Development Council of the B-N Area
- EDP Renewables
- EMB Consultants, Inc.
- Exelon Corporation
- Exelon Generation
- Geronimo Energy
- Homewood-Flossmoor Com. H.S. Dist. 233
- IBEW-NECA Technical Institute
- Iberdrola Renewables
- Illinois Business Roundtable
- Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- Illinois Commerce Commission
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Dept. of Employment Security
- Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, WIU
- Illinois Energy Association
- Illinois Green Economy Network
- Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, WIU
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Illinois Municipal Electric Agency
- Illinois Solar Energy Association
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Initiative for Sustainability and Energy, NU
- Integrys Energy Group
- Invernergy
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Lake County Workforce Investment Board
- Lewis & Clark Community College
- Maestros Ventures, LLC
- Mainstream Renewable Power
- McHenry Co. Workforce Investment Board
- MidAmerican Energy
- Midwest Generation EME, LLC
- Midwest ISO
- Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company
- National Corn to Ethanol Research Center, SIU
- North Shore Gas
- Northern Illinois University
- Northern Kane Co. Reg. System/EFE 110
- Northwestern University, ISEN
- NPL
- Office of the Governor
- Peoples Gas
- Peoria JATC Local 34
- PJM Interconnection
- Pontiac Township High School
- Prairie State Generating Company
- Primera Engineers
- PROactive Strategies, Inc.
- Richland Community College
- River Valley Workforce Investment Board
- Robert M. Fletcher Company
- S&C Electric Company
- SEIU Local 73
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Sustainable Strategies
- Suzlon
- Teamsters Local 786
- Three Rivers Education for Employment System
- Trane/Ingersoll Rand
- University of Illinois
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Urbana School District #116
- Utility Workers Union of America, Local 18007
- WES Engineering
- Western Illinois University
- Williamsfield CUSD 210
- Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago
- Workforce Investment Board of Will County