Illinois State Part of Careers in Energy Week. Oct. 14-20
Contact: David Loomis, Energy Learning Exchange, (309) 438-7979, dloomis@ilstu.edu

Governor Patrick Quinn has declared Oct. 14 to 20 as Careers in Energy Week in Illinois. Illinois State University is a member of the Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium that is working with schools, companies and other organizations as part of the Center for Energy Workforce Development’s (CEWD) nationwide effort to highlight careers in the energy field.


Led by Illinois State University, the Energy Learning Exchange (ELE) works to further science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning, preparing students for careers in the energy workforce. The ELE is one of eight statewide exchanges developed from a public-private partnership of universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, companies, labor unions and other public and private organizations and individuals. The ELE has developed a website, www.Energy.IllinoisState.edu/Careers/ with materials for teachers to utilize in their classrooms.

Careers in Energy Week activities will emphasize how energy companies operate, the types of energy sector careers available now and in the future, and the importance of energy companies in the local economy. Energy company representatives will speak to middle and high school students about career options and companies will host open houses and coordinate energy demonstrations in their local communities.

“Careers in Energy Week will provide students with detailed information about energy jobs first hand from those working in the field.” said David Loomis, director of the Energy Learning Exchange and professor of economics at Illinois State. “Energy generates commerce
and fuels economic growth, and more workers will be needed to replace retiring workers in the
future to maintain a skilled workforce.”

The Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium was established in 2011 with a core group of utilities working together to focus on gathering data on the workforce needs for the state as well as determining which programs provide the best job candidates. The Illinois Consortium was asked to participate in a Great Lakes State Energy Workforce Consortia grant awarded to CEWD by the Joyce Foundation, with Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, to focus attention on key areas of success for the development of a comprehensive strategic plan that balances supply with demand, sustainable alliances and partnerships to implement the plan and a defined career pathway for key jobs.

CEWD is a non-profit consortium of electric, natural gas, and nuclear utilities and their associations. The CEWD was formed in 2006 to help utilities work together to develop solutions to the coming workforce shortage in the utility industry, with the mission to build the alliances, processes, and tools to develop tomorrow’s energy workforce.

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