

BETTER SYSTEMS FOR CONNECTING STEM TRAINING TO JOBS

CHALLENGE:

The energy industry is facing a retirement bubble, a shift to greater use of renewable energy sources, and sky-rocketing demand for power. These factors have created a demand for workers skilled in new energy technologies. Meanwhile, many workers and high school students are seeking stable employment.

RESPONSE:

- Created new online curriculum for training current and future electric power industry workers that supports clean energy solutions and smart grid deployment
- Trained more than 1,800 electric power industry workers across a wide range of job categories on alternative energy sources and the smart grid, operational considerations for the smart grid and/or on the impact (financial, security, etc) of the smart grid
- Combined online instruction with company training, both classroom and apprenticeship training
- Developed a replicable model partnership between Bismarck State College and the Connecticut Community College System to deliver a joint clean energy/smart grid-focused electric power technology certificate and degree program
- Built a model move high school students directly from energy industry coursework into employment and/or into a postsecondary energy industry certificate or degree program



“People who have taken the classes are a step ahead... the content was interesting, and there was something new to learn every day.”

Zach Butkus
Supervisor, AMI Deployment
ComEd, an Exelon Company
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