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Community Colleges and Energy Education: Connecting energy industry's current and evolving needs to the secondary and post-secondary pipeline

Abstract

Energy technology and service occupations run the gamut from operations & maintenance to transmission & distribution to exploration and to energy efficient building construction. The over 1100 U.S. community colleges play a leading role in providing skilled technician level workers who can be productive soon after starting work. Community colleges also provide stackable certifications for existing workers to add to their job skills for upward career mobility. Graduates of 4 year colleges and universities can improve employability and advancement by taking community college classes/gaining certifications in specific areas of the energy field during college or after graduating.

This presentation will discuss the current state of energy technology programs and certifications in community colleges; future direction; business and industry evolving needs; and how to improve the secondary school pipeline through partnerships, evolving science and math standards, communities of practice and crowdsourcing.