



State Energy Workforce Consortia

Consortium Name: Tennessee Energy Industry & Construction Consortium (TEICC)___

Top 3 Accomplishments of Consortium:

Developed branding for the TEICC and produced bookmarks and trifold brochures for distribution. Created booth display reflecting branding ID and utilize with a “hands on” feature to engage youth and other event participants. Implemented a website targeted to middle and high school students – www.energizetn.com.

Conducted panel discussions regarding workforce development issues with TEICC members from differing perspectives – industry, craft, Dept of Labor and Technology Centers. Provided panel discussions to state-wide Labor/Management Conferences, School Counselors and Administrators Conference, and Career and Technical Education Conferences.

Provided programs at each meeting to educate members on different programs available and opportunities for collaboration – IBM academic programs for energy, Regional Strategic Skills Forecast Research Report, CEWD, grant opportunities, Boy Scouts Career Exploration Program, etc.

Recently received 501 C6 designation.

Top 3 Activities or Plans in 2010:

Participated in 15 outreach events – middle and high school career awareness fairs, career and technical education (CTE) conferences, apprenticeship tours, state school counselors and administrators conference.

Changed from monthly meetings to 3 meetings/year – one in each part of the state (central, east, and west Tennessee). Implemented Board of Directors consisting of Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer plus subcommittees chairs with monthly teleconferences to maintain momentum and follow up on scheduled activities.

Expanding outreach activities from students, teachers and school counselors to parents and to transitioning workers.

Tennessee PTA Convention as an opportunity to engage and inform parents.

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Best Practice to Share:

Flexibility – being willing to change focus based upon needs. Due to the current economic condition, we had to start looking at ways to reach out to transitioning workers, not just students, teachers, and school counselors. We are developing a strategy in coordination with our Tennessee Technology Center system, which deploys rapid response teams when workers are being laid off, to provide information on skilled craft positions and the education required. This revised focus may also help us to receive grant funding.

Issues We Struggle With:

Sources for funding to maintain our website and continue with outreach activities. At this time we “pass the hat” at each meeting and periodically have corporate contributions. So far we have unsuccessfully participated in applying for grant monies in collaboration with the state DOL.

Active participation by industry. Although energy and construction companies will be the ultimate beneficiary of the outreach activities of the TEICC, it is more long-term, and it’s been difficult to get participation, particularly at senior levels in the organizations.