



State Energy Workforce Consortium Summary

Consortium Name Minnesota Energy Consortium

Number of Members: 60+ members on e-mail distribution list – approx. 25 – 30 people attend quarterly meetings.

Consortium Chairs:

Consortium Title	Name	Company/ Organization	Email	Phone
Co-Chair	Chad Coauette	Alexandria Technical College	chadc@alextech.edu	(320) 762-4403
New Co-Chair	Kyle Ault	Minnesota Power/Allete	kault@allete.com	218-723-7573
New Co-Chair	Cris Zimmerman	Xcel Energy	cris.zimmerman@xcelenergy.com	(612) 520-6982

Committee Chairs: *Please change the committee names to match your structure or add others*

Committee Name	Chair Name	Company/ Organization	Email	Phone
Career Awareness (Pipeline Committee)	Bruce Peterson	St. Cloud Technical College	bpeterson@sctc.edu	(320) 308-6639
Nuclear Curriculum	Bruce Peterson	St. Cloud Technical College	bpeterson@sctc.edu	(320) 308-6639
Core Curriculum/DOL Grant Project	Gail O’Kane	MnSCU Office of the Chancellor	gail.okane@so.mnscu.edu	(651) 282-5514
Apprenticeship Project	Cris Zimmerman	Xcel Energy	cris.zimmerman@xcelenergy.com	(612) 520-6982

Consortium Structure Description:

- Mission: The Minnesota Energy Consortium provides a connecting point for the energy industry, government, and higher education to work together to pursue actions that will meet the immediate and future needs of the energy industry workforce.
- Co-chairs represent Industry and Higher Education.....and work together to connect to resources and groups that can help further our projects and provide overall consortium leadership.
- The Consortium Steering Committee provides overall brainstorming, direction, and implementation guidance.
- Project committee chairs are responsible to pull together active working groups and report at quarterly meetings.

Membership Structure/ Fees Description:

- The membership structure has been open to any interested parties....but specifically energy related organizations, higher education, and government.
- No fee required.

Meeting Schedule Description:

- Three or four full consortium meetings are scheduled per year.
- Special project committees meet on an as needed basis.
- Consortium steering committee meets on an as needed basis.

Key projects/highlights:

- In the Fall of 2009 nine colleges within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will began offering an innovative two-year degree program that prepares students to work either in the renewable energy or traditional energy industries.
Development of the new degree program – believed to be the first of its kind in the

country – was funded mostly with a three-year \$1 million High Growth Job Training Initiative grant from the U. S. Department of Labor.

Besides earning an energy technical specialist degree, students will be able to earn an additional certificate in one of four specialties – ethanol production, biodiesel production, wind energy generation and maintenance, and solar energy installation and maintenance. The certificate programs will be available online.

“This innovative approach uses our colleges and universities to meet a critical need of Minnesota’s traditional and emerging energy industries,” said Chancellor James H.

McCormick. “Traditional energy employers have an aging workforce while renewable energy

producers are struggling to find workers with the appropriate technical skills. This helps us fulfill one of our strategic directions – which is to enhance the state’s ability to compete. ”

- Have just started work on an apprenticeships committee and a nuclear energy education committee.
- Apprentice Committee has begun to discuss with the State I.B.E.W. group and their local groups, our interest to partner with them on ways to enhance their apprentice programs.