

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS

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Energy Learning Exchange Promotes Careers in Energy Week, Oct. 13-19
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Governor Patrick Quinn has declared Oct. 13 to 19 as Careers in Energy Week in Illinois. Teachers across the state are encouraged to share a variety of resources about energy careers with their students, and energy industry representatives are invited to present to classrooms that week, to highlight the need for a strong and growing energy workforce in the state.

Illinois State University administers the Energy Learning Exchange (ELE) for the state, and is a member of the Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium (IEWC) that is working with schools, companies, and organizations as part of the Center for Energy Workforce Development's (CEWD) nationwide effort to highlight careers in the energy field.

Careers in Energy Week activities will emphasize the types of energy sector careers available now and in the future, how energy companies operate, 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 some companies may 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.”

Teachers are encouraged to visit www.Energy.IllinoisState.edu/careers/ for files to download and utilize in classrooms during Careers in Energy Week. Resources include energy careers data, presentation files, videos, and curriculum links. On the website, teachers can also request a speaker on a topic of their choice to present to their classrooms, and order a free kit of items to help promote Careers in Energy Week in their schools.

Energy industry members with an interest to present to schools during Careers in Energy Week should email jmnieszg@ilstu.edu with their contact information, availability, and topics they are willing to present. Companies and organizations planning their own special activities that week, such as presentations to schools or special facility tours, should also email those details for the ELE to share that information on the website.

ELE is led by Illinois State University and 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.

IEWC 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. IEWC members include the ELE, Nicor Gas, Ameren Illinois, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, ComEd, Exelon Corporation, Exelon Generation, Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Primera Engineers, S&C Electric Company, Prairie State Generating Company, MidAmerican Energy, Northern Pipeline Company, Illinois Energy Association, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Illinois Green Economy Network, and state government representatives.

CEWD is a non-profit consortium of electric, natural gas, and nuclear utilities and their associations. The organization 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.