



Partners for Prosperity

NEWSLETTER

February 2010

ESTEC Receives \$1.5 Million Grant

The Energy Systems Technology and Education Center (ESTEC) will receive \$1.5 million from a Department of Labor grant, received through federal stimulus money. As part of the funding, a portion will be used to create and provide a nine-month renewable energy technician program. Students completing the program will be certified as renewable energy technicians. With additional classes, they can receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in wind engineering or mechanical engineering technology or pursue a Bachelor of Applied Science degree.

Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) in Idaho Falls was awarded approximately \$133,000 from the same stimulus funding grant to develop a one-year electronics certificate program that will feed students into ESTEC for their second year of hands-on laboratory training in instrumentation and control systems.

"Since coming to Eastern Idaho Technical College I have worked to foster cooperation among the institutions of higher education," stated Burton Waite, EITC president. "This is an example of what can be accomplished with these cooperative efforts."

ESTEC was established in 2007 by Idaho State



University, Idaho National Laboratory, and Partners for Prosperity to address the growing shortage of work-ready maintenance and operations technicians in the energy industry and provide workforce opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed residents of eastern Idaho. This public/private partnership was initially funded with \$2.5 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and the National Science Foundation with an additional \$1.1 million from the State of Idaho.

ESTEC currently offers four Associate of Applied Science degrees: Energy Systems Instrumentation and Controls Engineering Technology; Energy Systems Electrical Engineering Technology; Energy Systems Mechanical Engineering Technology, and Energy Systems Wind Engineering Technology.





NDN Scholars

Navigating & Developing Native Scholars

Recently, a group of tribal, business, and academic stakeholders came together in an effort to better support and assist Native American high school students in their goal of attending higher education.

The group is named the NDN Scholars program and works to inspire, prepare, and retain Native American students in higher education. Science and Energy, Business, Education, Health, Agriculture, and Information Technology have been identified by the committee as potential career areas with mentorship possibilities in eastern Idaho.

One of the key efforts of this program is to inspire and prepare Native American students as they are thinking about and looking toward higher education after high school. Specific career and work experience will be provided to participants in the program, along with service opportunities where students will gain invaluable leadership skills.

A total of 10 students will be selected in the first pilot program. Selection will be based on scholastic achievement which includes GPA, ACT scores, and teacher/counselor recommendation. Additional qualification include the students' community involvement and cultural knowledge. Each of the 10 scholars selected will be awarded a one-week, paid scholarship to shadow a mentor in the career field of their choice.

For more information about the NDN Scholars program, please contact Randy'L Teton at (208) 785-0059.



Fort Hall Graduates CNAs

Another class of successful Fort Hall CNA students are about to become Certified Nursing Assistants.

The students have completed 120 hours of instruction, labs, and clinical work; have passed their manual skills test and took their written test on February 18. Twenty-two students began the class; twenty-one women, and one man. Two dropped out because of employment conflicts; one had pregnancy complications, and one moved out of state.

The instructor, Cheryl DenHartog with Idaho State University Workforce Training, feels confident they will all pass the national written exam.

The class began on November 9, 2009. Students met two evenings a week in Fort Hall, five hours each evening. They completed their lab work in Pocatello, and their clinical work at Beacon Hospital and Rehabilitation, also in Pocatello.

Partners in this successful project were Idaho Departments of Labor in Pocatello and Blackfoot, EET/477 Program and Vocational Rehabilitation in Fort Hall, Community Council of Idaho in Blackfoot, the Higher Education Program in Fort Washakie, Wyoming, and Partners for Prosperity.

