



# *Light Up Your Future*

November 9, 2009

# Energy Providers Coalition for Education

- National alliance delivering solutions to attract and engage the energy industry's workforce through quality online education.
  - Represents more than 2/3 of the energy industry
  - Members include energy employers, associations, contractors, labor organizations and education providers
- EPCE's online programs are credit-bearing courses leading to certificates, associate degree and bachelor's degrees.
  - Career paths focus in electric utilities, nuclear power and gas distribution.
- Established to address critical industry needs in these ways:
  - Develop a pipeline of workers
  - Ensure newly hired employees have the necessary skills
  - Re-train current employees

# Bismarck State College

- A community college located in Bismarck, ND since 1939
  - 3,800 credit students
  - Courses are transferable
  - Regionally Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
- 30 technical programs – 6 with an energy focus
  - Power Plant Technology - Started in 1976
  - Process Plant Technology – Started in 1982
  - Electric Power Technology - Started in 2001
  - Electrical Transmission Systems Technology – Started in 2003
  - Nuclear Power Technology – Started in 2004
  - Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy Management – Started in 2008
- 14,000 non-credit students - Continuing Education, Training & Innovation
  - Customized Training & Apprenticeship Programs

# National Energy Center of Excellence

## **Vision:**

A worldwide leader in education & training for the energy industry.

## **Mission:**

Provider of choice for the education of students & the training of employees; enabling students and energy companies to succeed in a competitive, ever-changing industry.



# Light Up Your Future

- **Designed for High School Students:**
  - Excite students about math
  - Encourage exploration into the energy industry opportunities
  - Connect students to energy-related college programs
  - Provide internships leading to high-potential career opportunities in energy
  
- **High School Students Steps:**
  - Complete a 15-week online HS course through Virtual HS for elective credit
  - Participate in career-related activities
  - Complete two online non-college credit courses through BSC
    - Orientation to the Electrical Industry
    - Industrial Aptitude

# Light Up Your Future

- **Employer Role:**

- Initiate and Sponsor a Light Up Your Future Program with a local High School
- Recruit students from the Light Up Your Future Program
  - Provide internships
  - Pay tuition for two-year associate degree

- **Funding Profile:**

- The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Education for Science and Career Programs
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Denver WIRED
- Northeast Utilities

# Light Up Your Future

- **Enrollments**

- Pilot Program in Denver with Xcel Energy – 5 High Schools and 60 Students
- Oklahoma Gas and Electric – 1 High School and 2 Students
- Northeast Utilities – 1 High School and 15 Students

- **Results**

- 79% passed the energy industry-driven online courses
- 80% participated in employer-driven career connections including job shadowing experiences

- **Education Partners**

- Bismarck State College
- Clemson State University
  - Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System
- Excelsior College
- Thomas Edison State College
- Virtual High School Global Consortium

# Contact Information

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