

Wind Energy Workforce Development



Bianca Calderon, Amanda Cushman, Makayla Ortiz

Published in early 2024, the report aimed to identify and understand. “the workforce needs to meet U.S. wind energy deployment goals”. The main goals identified were connections between students, education, and industry. The three teams created are the **Network Initiatives, Wind Works Forum, and Facilitating Pathways.**

Wind Energy Workforce Network Initiatives

The Wind Energy Workforce Network Initiative (WEWNI) was created to provide a forum for stakeholders to collaborate on wind workforce issues and identify or co-develop solutions



Scope & Objectives

- Agenda design
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion
- Reduce workforce gaps
- Internship and apprenticeship pathways



Benefits and Impact

- Workforce practitioner informed workforce programs
- Increased collaboration
- Solutions informed by diverse perspectives



Future Initiatives

- Evolve the network based on feedback
- Increased participation and engagement and expand the networks
- Raise awareness of research projects to support workforce development

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Wind Works Forum

Purpose

“The Wind Works Forum is a virtual networking event designed to help career seekers envision an exciting career in wind energy and take the first steps towards making that vision a reality. Industry members and education and training program administrators will be able to network and build meaningful connections with career seekers and one another.”

Results

During the inaugural year of the Wind Works Forum there were 240+ registered attendees! Over the four-days attendees had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers, program opportunity panels focusing on internships and apprenticeships, and network with industry professionals.

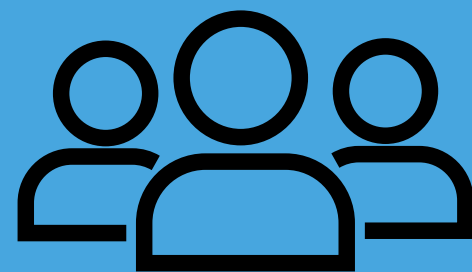
Planning for 2025



As planning for the 2025 year begins, the team is looking to create a partnership to help expand the forum. This partnership will also play a large role in the continuation of the forum past 2025.



In 2025, the team plans to focus on network growth of the forum. This includes expanding outreach to underserved colleges and educational groups.



Data from post-event survey showed the importance of Program Opportunity Panels (POPs). As the team looks head to programming for the 2025, there will be a emphasis on subject areas most important to attendees.

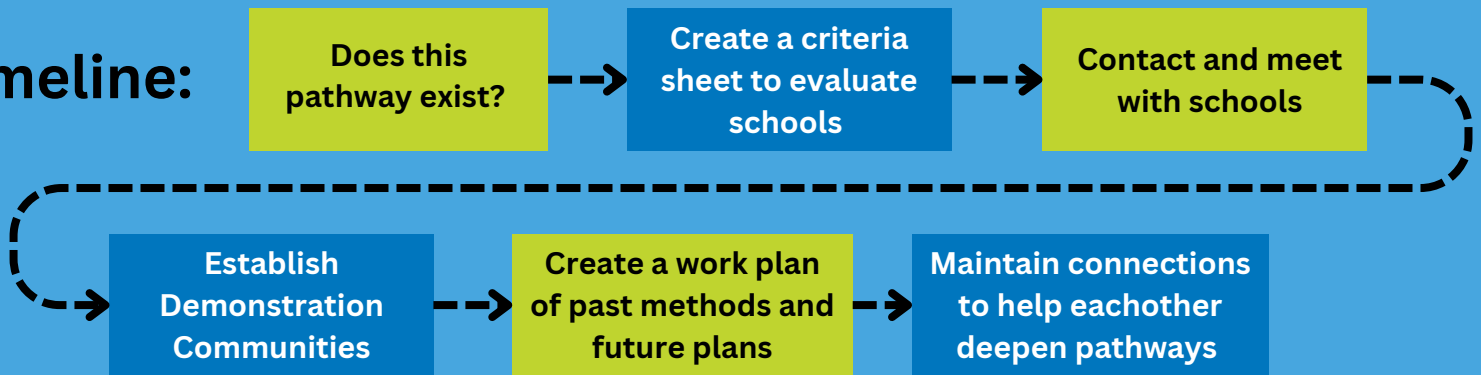
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Facilitating Pathways

Background: The goal of Facilitating Pathways is to find educational communities (Demonstration Communities) who have robust pathways for students interested in wind energy from high school to industry. Each community needs to have student support resources and the necessary wind energy related education to give students strong wind energy opportunities.

Timeline:



Demonstration Communities:

These schools will help NREL gain knowledge and find common challenges to guide the Pilot Communities, (disadvantaged communities).



Criteria Sheets:

Education	Courses	Degree	Career
LCCC	●	●	●

DEI	Office	Minority	Statement	Services	Inclusion
LCCC	●	▲	●	●	●