

U.S. Secretary of Labor announces \$10 million in grants to train workers for skilled trade careers in the energy industry

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao today announced the awarding of \$10 million to fund 11 projects that will provide potential workers with skills-based job training to enter careers in the energy industry.

"These grants awarded under the *President's High Growth Job Training Initiative* will help equip workers with skills and certifications that are in demand in the energy sector," said Secretary Chao.

Proposed training strategies will focus on skills and competencies that are in demand by the energy industry and offer participants pathways to long-term careers. Programs also will result in industry-recognized degrees or licenses proving a level of competence or mastery in a given job.

"Today's awards will address shortages of skilled workers and, more importantly, offer them the opportunity to enter good-paying jobs in this vital field," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Brent R. Orrell.

The energy industry accounts for four percent of the nation's gross domestic product and employs more than one million workers nationwide. Impending retirements and low numbers of new workers entering energy-related careers have created a need for innovative training strategies. Energy industry growth is

being held back by a shortage of skilled trade and construction workers who are needed to build new infrastructure, install equipment, operate facilities and make repairs to existing systems.

Projects that won funding are located in these 11 states: California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Their awards range from \$394,933 to \$1,151,287. Today's awardees were chosen from among 171 candidates entering a competitive solicitation for grant applications that opened on Jan. 23, 2008.

For more information on the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative, visit www.doleta.gov/BRG/JobTrainInitiative.

Editor's Note: A list of award-winning organizations is below.

**2008 Energy-Skilled Trades
High Growth Job Training Initiative Competition
Award-Winning Organizations**

Organization	City	State	Amount
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County	Santa Rosa	Calif.	\$500,000
Worknet Pinellas	Clearwater	Fla.	\$1,000,000
Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education	Atlanta	Ga.	\$989,995
Ivy Tech Community College	Indianapolis	Ind.	\$1,000,000
Gateway Community and Technical College	Covington	Ky.	\$394,933
Louisiana Technical College	Lafayette	La.	\$1,151,287
College of Southern Maryland	La Plata	Md.	\$1,000,000
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	St. Paul	Minn.	\$1,000,000
Key Training Corp. dba Northwest Lineman College	Denton	Texas	\$1,000,000
Lakeshore Technical College	Cleveland	Wis.	\$987,904
Northern Wyoming Community College District	Sheridan	Wyo.	\$975,881
TOTAL = \$10,000,000			