

News Media Contact:
Joe Culver, 304/285-4822 or 304/282-7381

For Immediate Release
July 2, 2008

LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS INTERNS AT NATIONAL LABORATORY

Morgantown, W.Va.—Bethzaely Feliciano, a junior at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, was selected as an intern under the U.S. Department of Energy's Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship program. Bethzaely is completing the 10-week summer fellowship at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in Morgantown, W.Va. The fellowship program is sponsored by DOE's Office of Fossil Energy.

A native of Arecibo, Puerto Rico (La Isla del Encanto), Bethzaely is pursuing a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and she intends to complete a master's degree in engineering. Bethzaely is working with her mentor, NETL researcher Benjamin T. Chorpening, Ph.D., on a project employing computational modeling to develop design rules for single electrode flashback detection using flame ionization. The work has potential for improving the performance and fuel flexibility of modern gas turbines.

The Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program offers summer internships to minority students to enhance their knowledge and gain hands-on experience. To participate in the program, students must be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in mathematics, science, engineering or technology and must hold a minimum grade-point average of 3.0.

Mentored by scientists and researchers, the interns are assigned specific projects related to their skills and qualifications, and they write, present and publish a technical paper at program's end. The fellowship provides interns the opportunity to develop their professional, technical, leadership and communication skills, while promoting careers in the Fossil Energy Program, particularly in fossil fuel research and development.

-NETL-