

U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940



U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

***NETL* REPORTS:**

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

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Andrew Martinez, a first year graduate student at Stanford University, was selected as a fellow under the U.S. Department of Energy's Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship program. Martinez is completing the 10-week summer fellowship at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) at the Morgantown, W.Va., research site. NETL also has major research facilities in Albany, Ore., and Pittsburgh, Pa. The fellowship program is sponsored by DOE's Office of Fossil Energy.

A native of Seattle, Wash., Martinez is pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He is working with his mentor, NETL researcher Randall Gemmen, on a project to create a thermodynamic model to predict catalyst deterioration from trace species contamination from coal syngas. The work has potential to accurately predict the catalyst poisoning and reduce the need for costly experimental investigation of advanced fuel cell systems.

The Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship program offers summer fellowships to students from underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics 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 fellows 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 fellows the opportunity to develop their professional, technical, leadership and communication skills, while promoting careers in energy, particularly in fossil fuel research and development.

NETL is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories. NETL – "the ENERGY lab" – focuses on America's economic prosperity, which requires secure, reliable energy supplies at sustainable prices. Three overarching issues characterize the energy situation in the United States. They are energy affordability, supply security, and environmental quality. The Department of Energy's only government-owned, government-operated national lab, NETL is a research and technology center where these energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge. NETL implements a broad spectrum of energy and environmental research and development programs through its own research staff and through funded research at other labs, universities, and industry that will return benefits for generations to come.