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The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) has selected Christine E. Howerton as a contract specialist. Previously, she was the director of Institutional Research at Salem International University in Salem, W.Va.

As the daughter of a U.S. Marine, Howerton grew up all over the United States. She has earned a master's degree in public administration and a master's degree in social work from West Virginia University. She lives in Morgantown, W.Va., with her partner and their two children.

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.