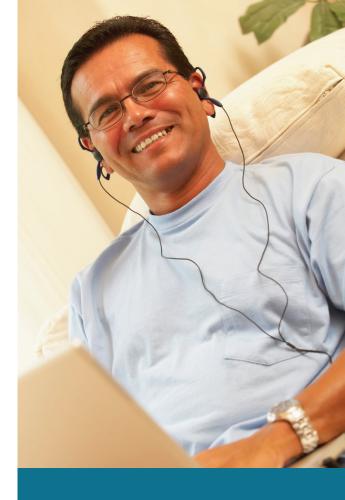
BETTER SYSTEMS FOR CONNECTING STEM TRAINING TO JOBS

CHALLENGE:

The energy industry is facing a retirement bubble, a shift to greater use of renewable energy sources, and sky-rocketing demand for power. These factors have created a demand for workers skilled in new energy technologies. Meanwhile, many workers and high school students are seeking stable employment.

RESPONSE:

- Created new online curriculum for training current and future electric power industry workers that supports clean energy solutions and smart grid deployment
- Trained more than 1,800 electric power industry workers across a wide range of job categories on alternative energy sources and the smart grid, operational considerations for the smart grid and/or on the impact (financial, security, etc) of the smart grid
- Combined online instruction with company training, both classroom and apprenticeship training
- Developed a replicable model partnership between Bismarck State College and the Connecticut Community College System to deliver a joint clean energy/smart grid-focused electric power technology certificate and degree program
- Built a model move high school students directly from energy industry coursework into employment and/ or into a postsecondary energy industry certificate or degree program



"People who have taken the classes are a step ahead... the content was interesting, and there was something new to learn every day."

Zach Butkus
Supervisor, AMI Deployment
ComEd, an Exelon Company
Smart Grid Training Education,
Bismarck State College

