

Better Systems for Connecting STEM Training to Jobs

“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



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.

SOLUTION

- 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

Learn more at cael.org



Link Learning and Work

Recognizing that adult learners are the backbone of the U.S. economy, CAEL helps forge a clear, viable connection between education and career success, providing solutions that promote sustainable and equitable economic growth. CAEL opens doors to opportunity in collaboration with workforce and economic developers, postsecondary educators, and employers, industry groups, foundations, and other mission-aligned organizations. By engaging with these stakeholders, we foster a culture of innovative, lifelong learning that helps individuals and their communities thrive. Established in 1974, CAEL, a Strada Education Network affiliate, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization.