

# IEEE GREENTECH 2013

## *Readiness of US Power Engineers for Large-Scale Renewable Development*

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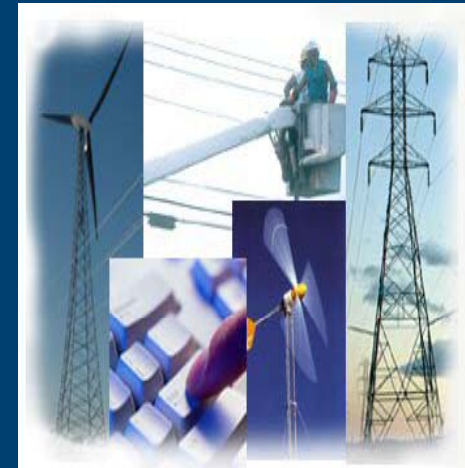
IEEE Power & Energy Society - President 2008-09

IEEE Division VII Director – 2014-15

April 4, 2013

# Overview

- Business is changing
- Significant workforce attrition
- Workforce drivers and trends
- Attracting the best and brightest
- Building multi-disciplinary competencies
- Managing the workforce transition



# Electricity Demand is Increasing

2030



# Changing Power & Energy World



Growing Population, More Electronics



Rising Cost of Energy



Increasing Environmental Requirements



Escalating Security Concerns



Heightened Investor Demands

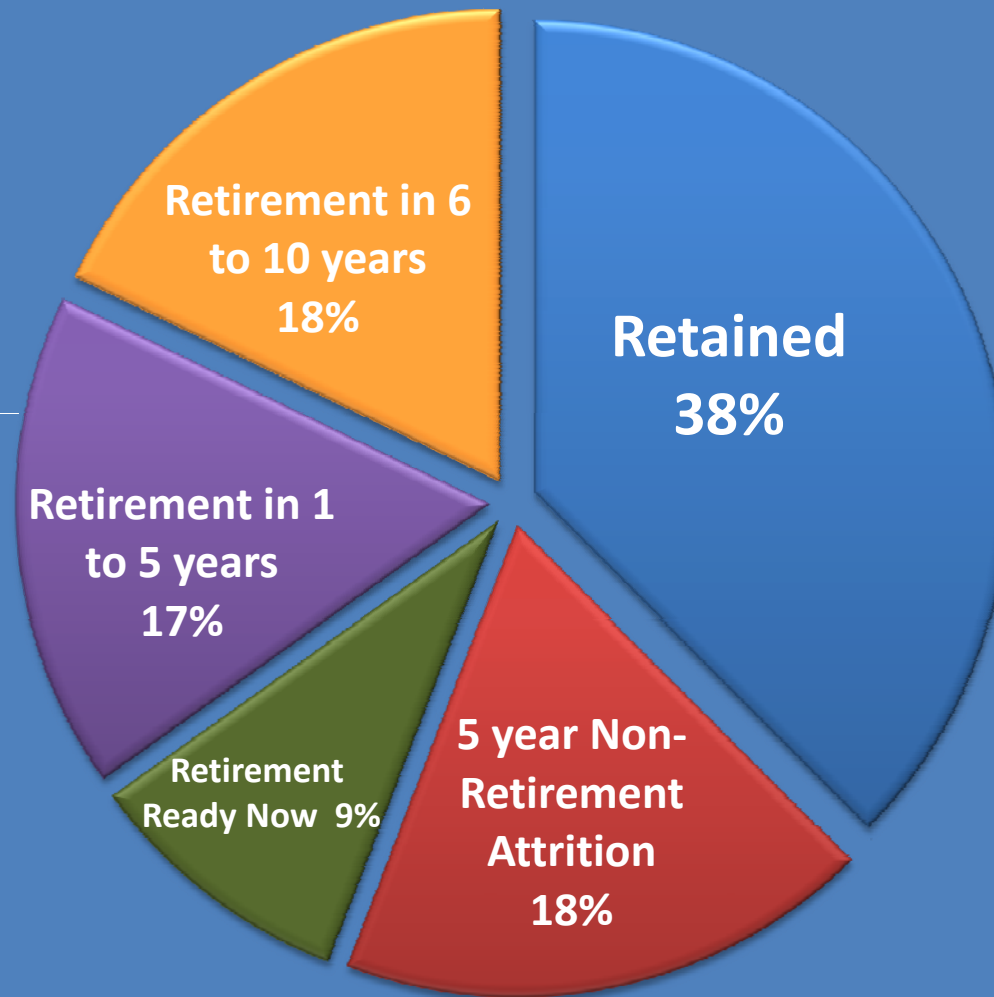
Driving Technology:

- Carbon Management
- Electric Transportation
- Sustainability
- Distributed Sources
- Efficiency
- Modernization
- Reliability





## Total Industry Potential Replacement Impact on Retirement and Non-Retirement Attrition



**62% may need replaced by 2020**

### Landscape is Changing

- Industry workforce has decreased by 11,000+ jobs since 2009
- The average age of the workforce has increased to 46.1
- Employees age 53 and above has increased by 5% since 2006
- Employees 30+ years of service has increased by 5.2% since 2006

[Source: Gaps in the Energy Workforce Pipeline: 2011 CEWD Survey Results](#)

# Potential Replacements for Key Jobs

	Potential Replacements 2010 - 2015		Potential Replacements 2015 - 2020	
Job Category	Potential Attrition & Retirement	Estimated Number of Replacements	Potential Retirement	Estimated Number of Replacements
Lineworkers	32%	22,100	15%	10,300
Technicians	39%	28,500	19%	13,500
Plant Operators	37%	12,400	17%	5,800
Engineers	38%	10,600	15%	4,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>73,600</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>33,700</b>
<b><i>Totals exclude Nuclear</i></b>				

# Drivers of Workforce Requirements

- Electric demand growing
- Infrastructure is aging
- Retirements are increasing while younger, less experienced, culturally different workers, are entering the workforce.
  - *Average age of utility employee continues to increase*
- Grid modernization and clean generation is a priority
- Societal needs are changing

Workforce Needs Over Time



- Renewable build-rate has varied annually and technology is evolving
- Many core competencies are consistent with related jobs



# What's Changed

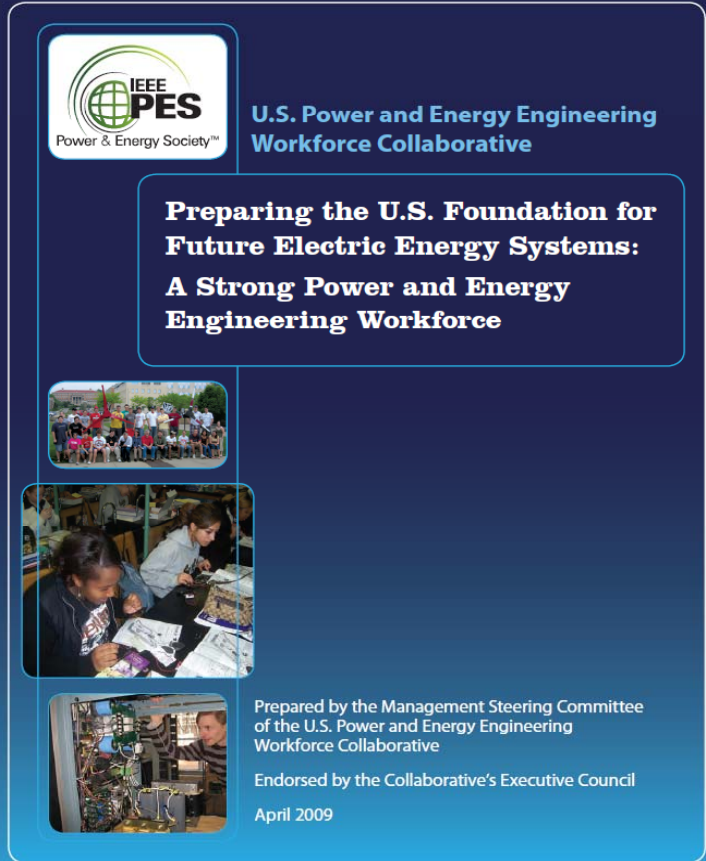
- The economy, un-employment, government incentives
- Workforce shift: renewable increasing, utility shrinking\*
- Emerging skills, need for multi-disciplinary contributions
- Increased research, primarily driven by US Stimulus
- More programs, education offerings, career awareness
- Increased student interest: undergraduates up ~33%\*\*
- Aging power professors demographic
- Increased industry / academic collaboration

\* *Gaps in the Energy Workforce Pipeline: 2011 CEWD Survey Results*

\*\* *IEEE PES Power Engineering Education Committee Survey – 2006 versus 2013 data*

# IEEE Power and Energy Engineering Workforce Collaborative

1. Double the number of power graduates
2. Provide \$4 million undergraduate power engineering scholarships
3. Create 2,000 internship opportunities
4. Hire 80 new power faculty members in the US over the next five years
5. Raise annual university research funding to \$50 million per year
6. Create five University Centers of Excellence to conduct power research and education



The image shows the front cover of a report. At the top left is the IEEE PES logo with the text 'Power & Energy Society™'. To its right is the title 'U.S. Power and Energy Engineering Workforce Collaborative'. Below the logo is a large text box containing the subtitle 'Preparing the U.S. Foundation for Future Electric Energy Systems: A Strong Power and Energy Engineering Workforce'. Underneath the text box are three small photographs: a group of people standing outdoors, two people working on a project, and a close-up of electronic equipment. At the bottom right, it says 'Prepared by the Management Steering Committee of the U.S. Power and Energy Engineering Workforce Collaborative', 'Endorsed by the Collaborative's Executive Council', and 'April 2009'. A yellow banner at the bottom of the cover contains the text: 'In easy-to-reference lists, the report outlines specific steps needed to meet these goals.'

*In easy-to-reference lists, the report outlines specific steps needed to meet these goals.*

[www.ieee-pes.org/workforce/workforce-collaborative](http://www.ieee-pes.org/workforce/workforce-collaborative)  
Published April, 2009

# IEEE PES Scholarship Plus Initiative <sup>TM</sup>

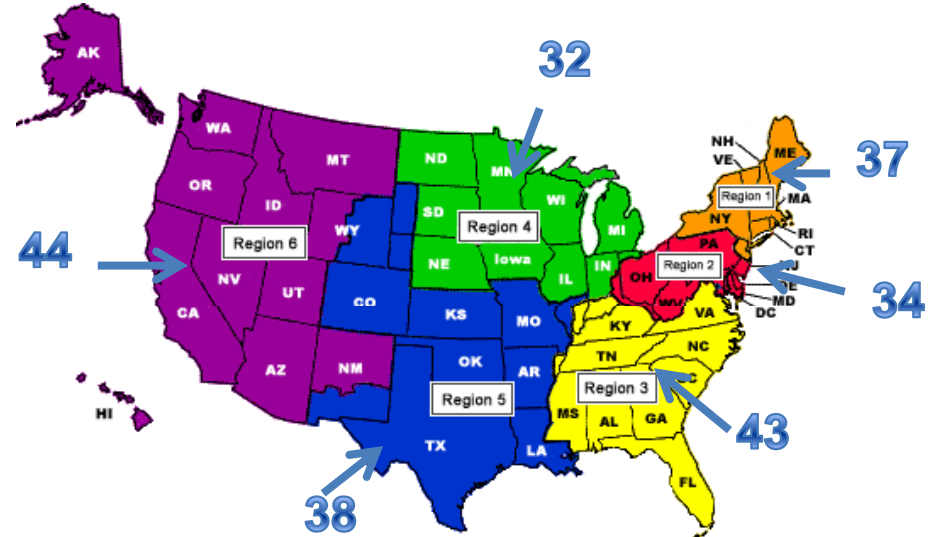
- Created to address the coming workforce shortage in the Power & Energy industry
- Offers a Scholarship & Career experience to attract top performing EE students into power and energy careers
- Undergraduate students can receive up to \$7,000 in financial support & assistance in obtaining a career experience prior to graduation
- For US citizen or permanent residents with one year of completed undergraduate study



# 2012 - 2013 IEEE PES Scholars

- 2012 – 2013 PES Scholars:
  - 228 PES Scholars selected
  - From 100 U.S. Universities
- Fundraising
  - Over \$4.95M raised
  - Target: \$10M in donations
  - Supplements university funding
- Career Experiences
  - Mentor and Post career opportunities on PES Career website & Scholarship Plus webpage – <http://www.pes-careers.org>

IEEE PES Scholars in 2012 - 2013  
by IEEE Region



<http://www.ee-scholarship.org>

Applications from March to June 30th

# Career-Choice Decision Factors

- What made you decide on your career path?
  - ◆ Interesting career (67%)
  - ◆ Opportunity to help solve significant societal challenges (38%)
  - ◆ Make the world a better place to live (33%)
  - ◆ Good pay opportunities (30%)
  - ◆ High likelihood of getting a job (20%)

Appeal to these motivators to attract the best and brightest!

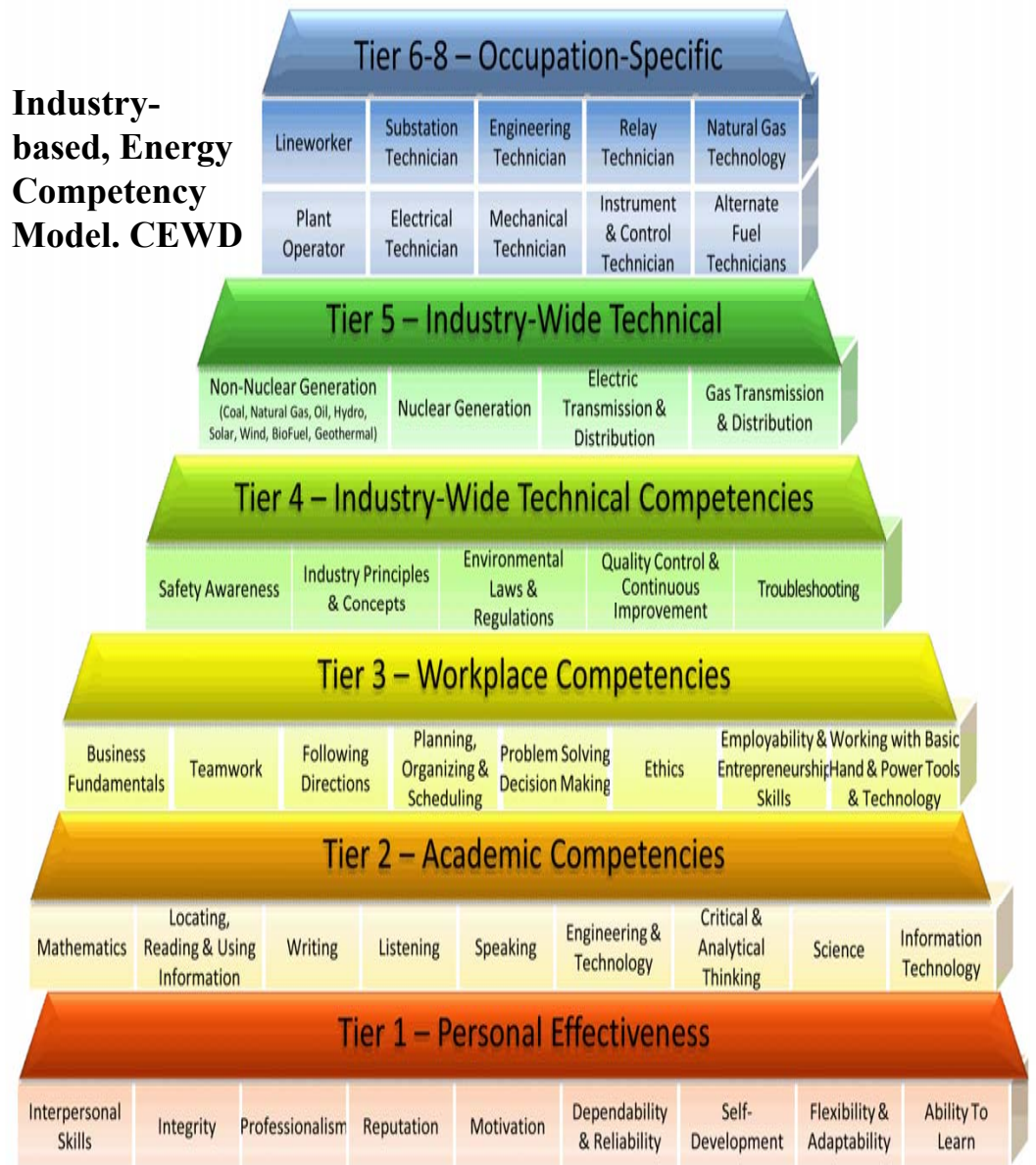




# Educating within a Framework

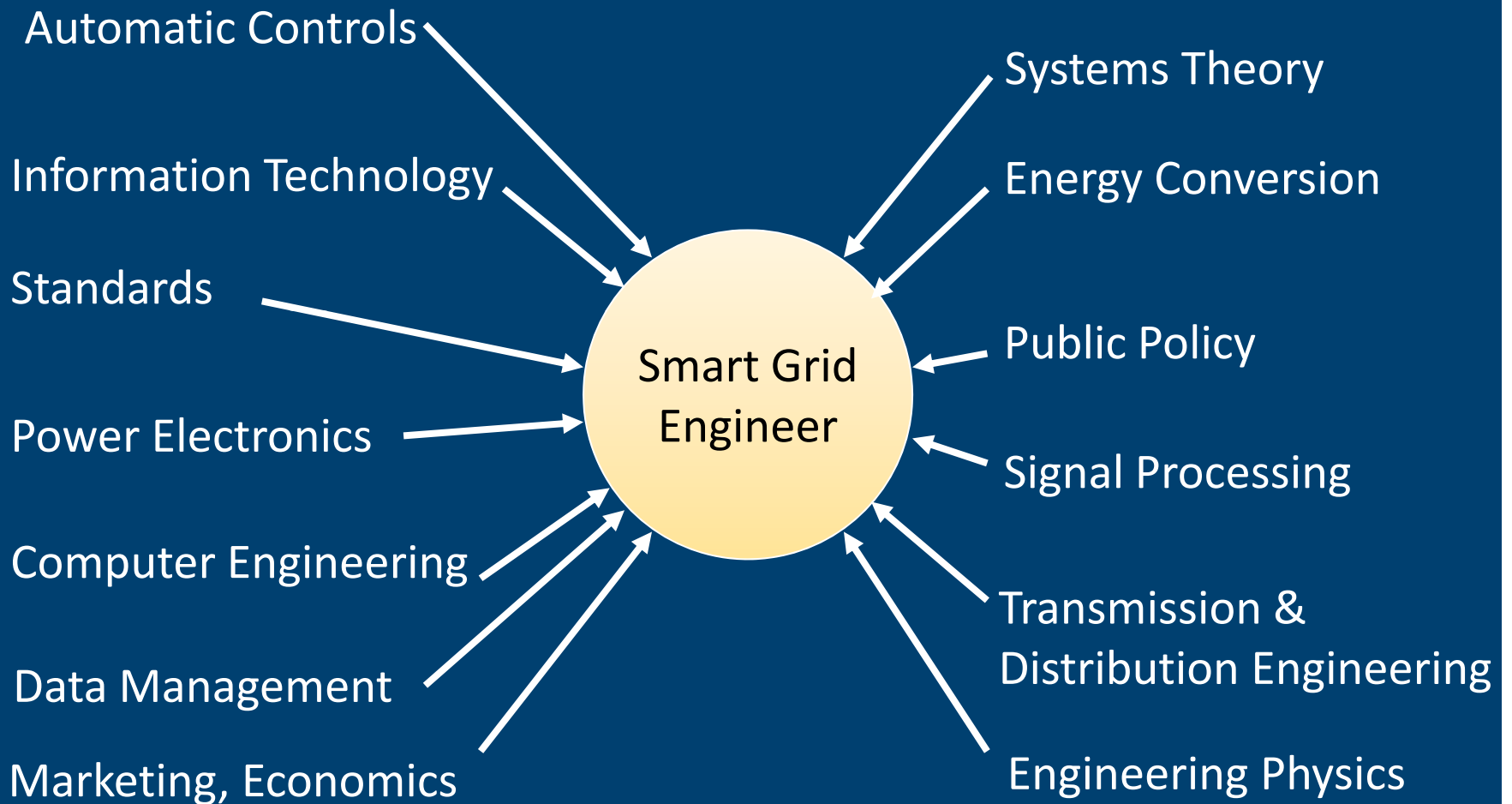
The competencies required by lineworkers, power plant operators, relay and substation technicians, and other skilled craft positions in the electric energy industry will not change. New training will be required to understand the new technology and new procedures or protocols.

Source: The Smart Grid Evolution: Impact on Skilled Utility Technician Positions. Center for Energy Workforce Development.





# Multi-Disciplinary Education



*Source: Professional Resources to Implement the "Smart Grid"*  
*Gerald T. Heydt and others*  
*2009 IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting*

# Curriculum Enhancements

- Direct digital control
- Power system dynamics and stability
- Power quality and signal analysis
- “Middleware” migration
- Environmental and policy aspects
- Reliability and risk assessment
- Economic analysis, energy markets
- New concepts for power system monitoring, protection and control
- Communications, IT



“Professional Resources to Implement the ‘Smart Grid’ ”, Gerald T. Heydt and others, North American Power Symposium, 2009.

# Engineering Research Centers (ERCs)

National Science Foundation created ERCs to:

- Create / sustain an integrated, interdisciplinary research environment to advance fundamental engineering knowledge and engineered systems
- Educate a globally competitive, diverse engineering workforce from K-12 on
- Join academe and industry in partnership to achieve goals



## The Department of Energy Investing in America's Workforce

- ~\$100 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to 54 workforce training projects.
- To develop well-trained, highly skilled, electric power sector workforce
- Focus areas:
  - Smart Grid Workforce Training
  - Curriculum Development
- Trained ~30,000 over 3 years
- Many success stories



# 2012 DOE Workforce Ad-Hoc

Created a DOE Electric Advisory Committee Workforce Ad-Hoc Group in 2012

## A Few Recommendations:

- Disseminate lessons and scalable solutions from ARRA grants
- Incorporate workforce in future technology development
- Recognize the best worker training and education programs
- Develop benchmarking / metrics on workforce needs



# Power Engineering Education Trends

- Getting the data has been a challenge
- On-line IEEE PES Power & Energy Education Committee Survey of Higher Education has been developed
- Trends to Mid-2000's:
  - Declining student enrollments except at the doctoral level
  - Untenured faculty declined from 20% in early 90s to 12%
  - ~3 faculty members hired for every 4 that left
  - Research funding per institution declined
- Recent Trends:
  - Course enrollments rising ~ 33% since 2006
  - New or rejuvenated programs are emerging with energy engineering focus and a variety in delivery methods
  - Faculty hiring: temporarily jumped following ARRA funding



# Workforce Diversity and Culture

- More workforce diversity is inevitable
  - ♦ Embrace it! Promotes creativity
  - Provides a distinct advantage when flexibility is needed
  - Utilize “quick-hit” teams to engage hi-potential candidates and realize business benefit
- Recognize that the culture for the traditional workforce is conservative and process driven unlike that in renewables which is fast-paced, entrepreneur-oriented
- Train and re-train existing employees. Methodically manage knowledge transfer and succession planning. Recognize implications from technology and process changes.

# Conclusion

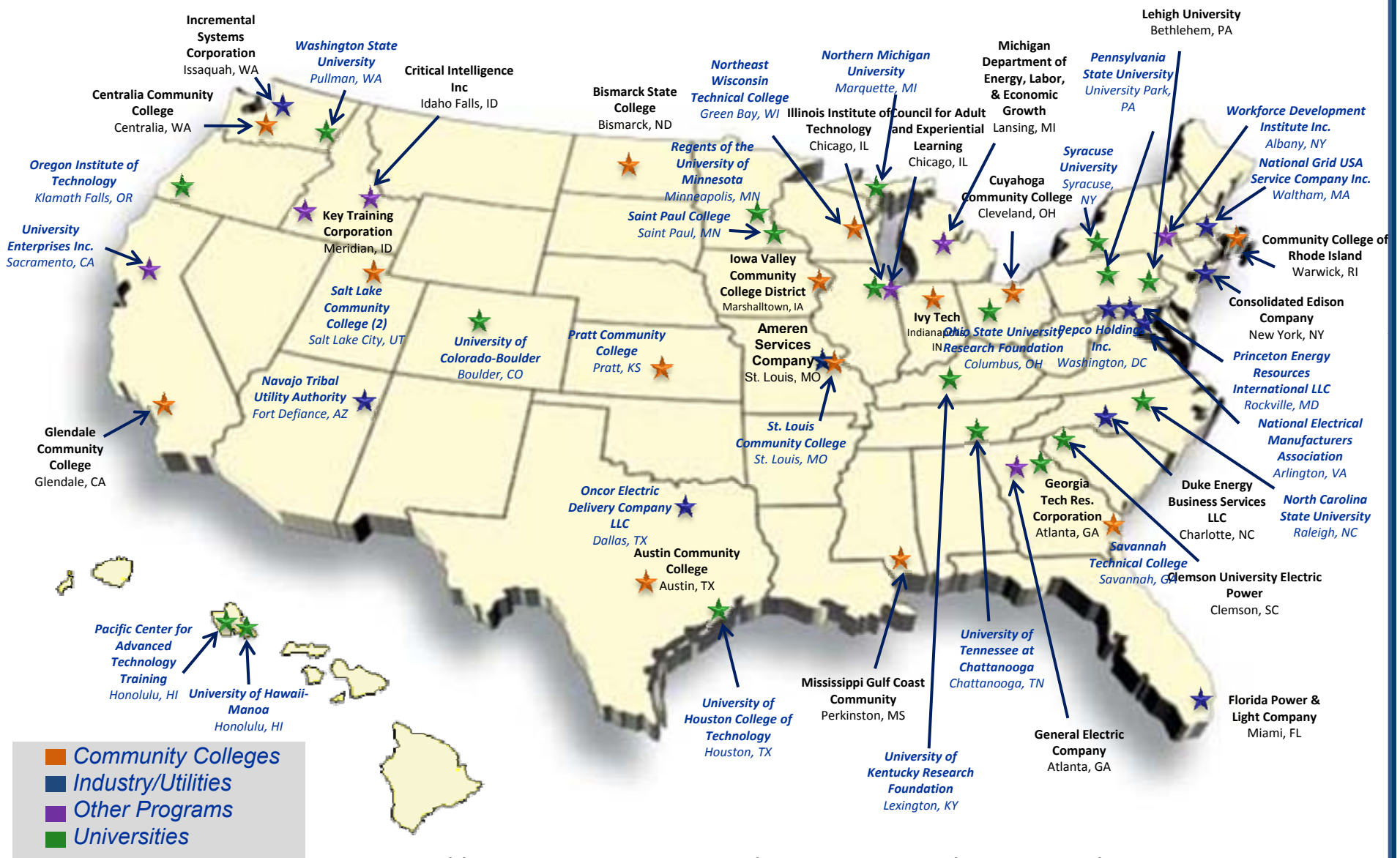
- Business is transforming
- Significant demand for talent due to pending attrition and 'green' build
- Educational foundation is strengthening
- A new day, a new workforce: manage the transition
  - Create a nimble workforce using competency framework
  - Support programs to attract and develop the talent needed
  - Appealing to 'green' student interests
  - Recognize unique cultural requirements



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# Workforce Training Projects



[http://www.smartgrid.gov/recovery\\_act/overview/workforce\\_training](http://www.smartgrid.gov/recovery_act/overview/workforce_training)

Source: Gil Bindewald– US DOE, Presentation at IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technology Conference, February, 2013