

Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Webinar: What's New with the Algae Technology Educational Consortium

Ira Levine, Ph.D. President and Board Chair Algae Foundation



- Attendees will be in listen-only mode
- Audio connection options:
 - Computer audio
 - Dial in through your phone (best connection)

- Technical difficulties? Contact us through the chat section, lower right of your screen
- Use the Q&A window to ask questions
- Today's webinar will be recorded and posted to "BETO Webinars": <u>energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/beto-webinars</u>

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About the Bioenergy Communicators (BioComms) Working Group



Sponsor:

 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)

BETO & DOE National Laboratory Members:

 Bioenergy communicators, laboratory relationship managers, BETO tech team team, and education and workforce development professionals

Purpose:

 Communications strategy for BETOfunded bioenergy research and development



Ira "Ike" Levine, Ph.D.

President and Board Chair Algae Foundation







What's New with the Algae Technology Educational Consortium



Ira "Ike" Levine, Ph.D. University of Southern Maine Algae Foundation

Bioenergy Technologies Office BioComms Working Group

May 20, 2021

www.thealgaefoundation.org www.algaefoundationatec.org







BIOENERGY TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE









5-Day Curriculum for grades K-12

- Algae 101 basic and applied
- Cultivation
- Sampling
- Microscopy
- Data Visualization and Analysis
- Entrepreneurship
- Kits are "drop-in" ready, delivered to the schools
- Aligned with National NGSS
- Free to all schools & teachers who apply, AY 2021-2022 application available in June 2021

Algae Academy History



2x Growth! Spring 2020 rollout occurred during COVID-19 school closures

2019-2020

Offering both in-person and online Algae Academy!



2020-2021

5



In March 2020 the Algae Academy attended the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering, a family STEM event.

We gave Algae Academy "Mini-Kits" to over 1,000 families so they could grow algae at home! The kits included:

- 50mL Culture Flask
- Algae, salts, nutrients
- Secchi Stick
- · Protocol and info on Algae Academy
- Bookmark to share with their teachers about what they were up to!

Families were also able to look at algae under the microscope and learn more about the power of algae!





ALGAL BASED EDUCATOR TRAINING



2021 SASI Updates

- SASI transitioned from 5-day workshops with teachers and students to 2-day professional workshops preparing teachers to teach the Algae Academy in their classrooms.
 - Shorter trainings allow for more SASI sessions.
 - Shorter sessions are easier for teachers to attend.
 - Removing student participation allows for more in-depth training of teachers.
- Partnering with ATEC community colleges and local STEM education programs.
- Two sessions to be facilitated by Algae Academy alumni teachers!





A Modesto City School JAMES C. ENOCHS HIGH SCHOOL

3201 Sylvan Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355 (209) 574-1719 •Fax: (209) 574-1720 http://enochs.mcs4kids.com

ATEC member school





ATEC and Waianae High School, Hawaii Limu culture

"Ogo"

Applied Learning

Marine Science Learning Center Waianae High School







Algae Massive Open Online Courses (Algae MOOCs)

Introduction to Algae MOOC #1

- 17859 students (98% approval rating)
- 10% received a pay increase or promotion
- 43% received a tangible career benefit from this course

Algae Biotechnology MOOC #2

1937 students



MOOC #1 New Weekly Enrollments

MOOC # 3 Introduction to Seaweed Biotechnology (production stage) MOOC # 4 Algae New Products and Polymers (developmental stage)

ATEC MEMBERS

Community Colleges: Austin; Contra Costa; Delgado; Hawaii; Laney; Las Positas; Lenoir; Linn Benton; Lone Star; Midland; Mira Costa; Santa Fe; Shoreline; Solano; South Texas; Winward High School: James C. Enoch High School

Universities: North Carolina State University; University of California, San Diego; Fresno State University; University of Southern Maine; University of Texas, Austin; University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

COLLABORATING UNIVERSITIES Arizona State University; University of Connecticut; Incheon National University

ATEC MEMBER SCHOOLS

ATEC MEMBERS since 2019 Peer Review

COLLABORATING UNIVERSITIES

ATEC MEMBERS prior 2019 Peer Review

ATEC MEMBERS since 2019 Peer Review, foreign

43% are designated Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), 17% are Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander- Serving Institutions (AANAPI), 4% are Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH), 4% are Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI), and 4% are Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Legend:

0

Premier Program for BETO's Education and Workforce Development

- Promote ATEC program on BETO's website and Career Exploration Wheel
- Disseminate ATEC progress
 - 7 publications and 41 presentations
 - Social Media (~5000 friends, followers,

members)





agram Facebook

din Instagram

Career Exploration Wheel





https://www.energy.gov/eere/bio energy/atec-algae-technologyeducational-consortium 12

Algae Cultivation

Community College Certificate Degree Program

- 250 participating students (cumulative 5 years)
- Recruitment of graduates by algal farms
- Conversion from in-person courses to online format (5 classes)
- Development of heterotrophic cultivation curriculum (Academic Year 2021-2022)
- Initiate seaweed cultivation curriculum development (Academic Year 2021-2022)











CERTIFICATE ALGAE CULTIVATION

Algae production provides a sustainable source of biomass for bio-based products, feed, fuel and foods, creating high-quality jobs for an educated workforce. This Web-blended program provides that education and combines concepts with hands-on training. The Certificate in Algae Cultivation counts toward the Associate in Applied Science in Controlled Environment Agriculture.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE Biological Technician, Engineer, Entrepreneur, Lab Technician, Plant Technician, Project Developer

LEARN MORE www.sfcc.edu 505-428-1641



thealgaefoundation.org



Providing a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the rapidly-growing bioeconomy.



Comprehensive education that combines concepts with hands-on training in our A.A.S. In Controlled Environment Agriculture and embedded Algae Cultivation Certificate.



Biological Technician
 Plant Technician
 Lab Technician
 Engineer

Project Developer





Algae Cultivation Certificate Courses

- ALTF 161 Introduction to Algae Cultivation (+ online)
- ALTF 271 Biology of Algae (+ online)
- ALTF 261 Advanced Algae Cultivation (+ online)
- ALTF 262 Algae Harvesting (+ online)
- ALTF 268 Algae Capstone
- ALTF 298 Internship
- PLMB 141 Pumps and Motors (+ online)
- WATR 166 Microbiology for Water Operators
- BLDG 111 Construction Safety

L	EARNING OUTCOMES AND SKI	LL SETS ALTF 161	ALTF 261	ALTF 262	ALTF 268 ALTF 298	PLMB 141	BIOL 111	BIOL 111L	WATR 166	ALTF (Phyc)	Bioinfomatics	BLDG 111	Short course
1	Media preparation	х	х					x	х				x
2	Sterile technique	х	х					x	x				x
3	Microscopy	х	х					x	x				x
4	Culture inoculation	х	х					x	x				x
5	Scale up: colony to 10L	x											x
6	Scale up: 10L to >500L		х										x
7	Monitoring procedures for biomass analysis	х	х	x					x				х
8	Lab and farm safety	х	х	x		x			x			х	x
9	Operations and maintenance	x	х	x		x			x				x
10	Harvesting operations			х					х				х
11	Biomass analysis and quality assessment		х	х					х				x
12	Biomass storage techniques		х	х									х
13	Heterotrophic growth and fermentation		x	x					x	x			x
14	Algae identification	х	х	х					х	х			х
15	Pathogen/predator identication	x	x	x					x				x
16	Treated wastewater utilization		х	x					x				x
17	Quality control analysis	x	х	x					x				x
18	Data collection and analysis	x	х	x				x	x				x
19	Internship				x								
20	Pump and motor operations					x			x				
21	Hydraluic sizing					x							
22	Electrical demand requirements					x			x				
23	Mechanical properties of water					x			x				16

Algae Biotechnology

New Concepts & Pedagogy

- 1500 participating students (cumulative 4 years, 10 schools)
- Completion of Biotech Lab Primer (Nov 2019)
- Completion of Intensive I and Intensive II lab courses (Sep 2020)
- Completion of Image <u>G</u>uided <u>S</u>tandard <u>O</u>perating <u>P</u>rocedures (Jan 2021)



Kalyani Maitra, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biology California State University, Fresno

"The IGSOPs have been done with great care and detail to not only enhance student understanding but also aid a students'/instructors' preparation of the lab. The experiments in the Primer are very well written and are reproducible to give students a good perception of Algal Chemistry. My students in the research lab have also started employing some of these techniques and have been producing results as good as the techniques that we employed earlier from other journal articles."













Algae Biotechnology Curricular Insertions

• BITC 2350 Bioinformatics (online)

The Analysis of Algal Barcode Sequences lab will use data obtained from BITC 2441 to identify strains to the level of genus, and sometimes species using BLASTn, sequence alignments (CLUSTAL), and phylogenetic analysis

• BITC 2411 Laboratory Instrumentation

The Analysis of Microalgal Lipids lab contains the following modules: lipid extraction, lipid class analysis by TLC, fatty acid derivatization to FAME, and quantitation of FAME using GCMS

o BITC 2431 Cell Culture Techniques

The Microalgal Culture Methods lab includes the following modules: media and vessel preparation, maintaining stock cultures and scaling up, growth kinetics and biomass metrics, i.e., hemocytometry (cells/mL), DW, AFDW, optical density (A680 and A750), and related calibration curves

• BITC 2441 Molecular Techniques

The DNA Barcoding Lab Modules: genomic DNA extraction, PCR, gel verification, product purification, sequencing, and analysis

o BIO 1415

Manufacture of an Algal Product = Algae Balls!

Algae Biotechnology Intensive Lab Courses Two independent 1-credit labs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Culture Maintenance Media preparation, sterile technique, microscopy, and spectrophotometry	Gravimetric Analysis Wet weight, dry weight, ash-free dry weight, % moisture and % solids,	DNA Part I Isolation of DNA and RNA, PCR barcoding, and preparing samples for Sanger sequencing	DNA Part II Gel electrophoresis, sequence analysis, and an introduction to bioinformatics	Overview of Laboratory Skills - and - Lab Practical
Genetic Engineering I Plasmid construction, transformation	Genetic Engineering II Plasmid construction, transformation, and screening	Biochemical Analysis I Total lipids, proteins, and carbohydrates, and analysis of lipids by TLC	Biochemical Analysis II Instrumentation and analysis of fatty acids and amino acids by GCMS	Overview of Laboratory Skills - and - Lab Practical

Image Guided Standard Operating Procedures (IG SOP's)

Detailed operational planning guides to Laboratory

Primer, Lab Intensives 1 and 2



Work in a designated clean area.

- Do not cross-contaminate ITS-2 and 235 primers.
- Prepare separate Master Mixes for each amplification reaction.
- PCR conditions are different for each primer set so you will need to use two thermal cyclers or perform two separate runs.





2. Prepare ITS2 MM in a labeled 1.5-mL microcentrifuge tube on ice by adding the reagents in the order presented. Mix well by vortex and centrifuge at RT for 5000 rpm, 30 s.

Expert Note: when pipetting Taq, do not submerge the pipette tip below the surface of the reagent - work at the surface to avoid getting excess materials on the outside of the tip.

(a)

Label Tube

ITS2 MM

top

view

ITS2

ATEC

Combine reagents

in the order listed

adding Taq last

(c)

Mix well by vortex



	(n+1 samples)
H ₂ O	235.8 μL
10× Buffer	30.0 µL
MgCl ₂	9.0 μL
dNTP mix	6.0 μL
ITS-2 F primer	6.0 μL
ITS-2 R primer	6.0 μL
Platinum Taq	1.2 μL

Total volume

ATEC 20



Reagent Name



ATEC Micro Credentialing Digital Badge Program



- Digital Badges transform good job candidates into great ones, enhancing marketability of their experience and skill sets
- Training through digital credential platforms are quickly verifiable, easily shared and build awareness, value and demand for potential bioeconomy job applicants.
- ATEC community college schools embed the badging program into the algal-based courses, providing meaningful training scenarios that students can apply to their collegiate degree programs and to verify developed skills for employment opportunities.

Asynchronous Online Aquaculture Extension Learning Opportunities

Algae Cultivation Extension Short-Courses (ACES)

- Part 1. Seaweeds
 - Published Mar 2019
 - 1,152 Registrations
 - US, India, Indonesia, Australia (57 countries)

Total of 66 countries for Parts 1 & 2

- Part 2. Microalgae
 - Published Aug 2019
 - 687 Registrations
 - US, India, Vietnam, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico (42 countries)





Educational collaborative with national organizations

- InnovATEBIO: National center grant based at Austin Community College offers access to the nation's community college biotechnology programs
- National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) provides access to 40,000 science teachers and larger source of Algae Academy enrollees
- Future Farmers of America provides direct access to 8500 chapters and 750,000 students
- USDA –awarded grants in 2020 & 2021 supporting rural, farming, underrepresented populations and communities









Partnerships with Federal Agencies

USDA

Algae Summer Science Institute: K-12 Teacher professional development and training workshop focused on readying teachers to lead Algae Academy. USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Total Award \$150,000: 2019-68010-29283

Algae in Agriculture Education Alliance: K – 12 outreach effort focused on developing "algae as agriculture" curriculum for FFA chapter schools. USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, SPECA, Total Award \$25,000

Kelps for sustainable offshore ocean farming: research, education, and extension. USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture-SAS. Total Award \$ 10,000,000 (pending) Co-PI. Submitted by USC.

DoD

STEM Education with Algae Series (SEAS): A K-16+ STEM educational program for military connected students, student veterans and active military members. Department of Defense, NDEP Program 1: STEM Activities, Total Award \$ 6,000,000 (pending) 24

Gamification for Algae-based STEM Education (initiated)

- Gamification transforms STEM learning for 21st Century Skills
 - Cognitive, Motivational, Affective, and Sociocultural (Plass, 2015)

Design Discovery Immersion Creativity Engagement Teamwork Interactive

- Modules to be developed
 - Tabletop Game
 - Minecraft Education
 - Role-Playing Game
 - Simulation and Virtual Reality Tour
 - Video Game for popular distribution
 - Introduction to Programming
 - Machine Learning and Data Science



Viticulture by Stonemaier Games (2013)

		Tabletop game	Minecraft Edu	Role- playing Game	Simulation	VR Tour	Machine Learning	Intro to Programming
	Patterns	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
	Cause/effect Mechanism	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х
STEM	Scale, proportion				Х	Х	Х	
Crosscutting	Systems & models	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х
Concepts	Energy & Matter	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	Structure & Function	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х
	Stability & Change	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х
	LS1 Molecules, Organisms	Х	Х		Х		Х	
	LS2 Ecosystems, Energy	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
STEM Core	ESS3 Earth & Human Activity	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
Disciplines	ETS1 Engineering Design		Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
	ETS2 Link tech, society	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х
	Questions & Problems	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
	Develop Models		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
	Plan & Investigate		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
STEM	Analyze & Interpret	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х
Practices	Math and Computation	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х
	Explain and Design		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
	Argue Evidence	Х		Х			Х	Х
	Evaluate and Communicate	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х

Algae Module in









IMMERSIVE STEM LEARNING

CLASSROOM-FRIENDLY FEATURES CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

21ST CENTURY SKILLS

A 2017 study of elementary students using Minecraft in school found significant improvements in creativity, collaboration, problem-solving, and computational thinking skills.

of teachers surveyed cited

problem-solving as the top skill

their students learn from Minecraft.



JOB PREPAREDNESS & STEM

In a study by the Joan Ganz Cooney Center, teachers reported that games like Minecraft led to improvement in computational thinking. This matters when 58% of STEM jobs are in computing, but only 8% of STEM graduates study computer science.



of teachers using digital games reported improvement in student numeracy and computational thinking.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The Microsoft Class of 2030 research revealed that future-ready students will need more than tech skills to succeed. Teachers in 11 countries cited collaboration, decision-making, and communication as top skills cultivated by Minecraft.



soft skills, those fostered by social and emotional learning (SEL).

A Game for Popular Distribution can be Created Using the Algae Farm Simulation as a Foundation

This tea farming game serves as a model for the algae farming video game.

(Two Leaves and a Bud -Tea Garden Simulator by Flying Robot Games, 2021)



Simulation algae farm

- Students can be engaged through the use of storylines and mission models
 - Build options
 - Control options
 - Mission options
- Real world scenarios allow students to test their understanding and skills in real world situations and see if they can create better outcomes
- Can be used embedded in curriculum or as a stand alone app for student or adult use.



ATEC Prepares People to Get Bioeconomy Jobs

Management		Approach
 700+ schools/ 40+ staff, consultants 6 major endeavors Horizontal management philosophy Dedicated to DE&I and economical schools and districts Identify and mitigate risks/challenge Curriculum relevance maintained the 	s, and volunteers/ • y disadvantaged • es rough IAB	 State-of-the-art curriculum development and innovative future algae topics COVID-19 pivot to online education Dissemination via BETO workforce development web platform, publications, presentations and social media Curriculum translation into spanish & several indigenous languages Elimination of economic barriers to program adoption
Impact		Future Progress and Outcomes
 >100,000 total ATEC participants ~150 Farming college studer ~1,500 Biotechnology college ~20,000 Algal MOOC particip countries) ~1,850 ACES trainees (66 college) ~80,000 Algae Academy studes 	to date its	 Development of equipment sharing program Dedicated DE&I officer and extended outreach Microcredentialing badging program National grant applications & fundraising National Organization with access to: NSTA – 40,000 Science Teachers FFA – 750,000 Farming Students InnovATEBIO – > 100 biotechnology degree granting community colleges

Acknowledgements





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Thank you!





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Learn more about the Algae Technology Educational Consortium: <u>algaefoundationatec.org</u>

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Webinar recording located on BETO Webinars site:

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