



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

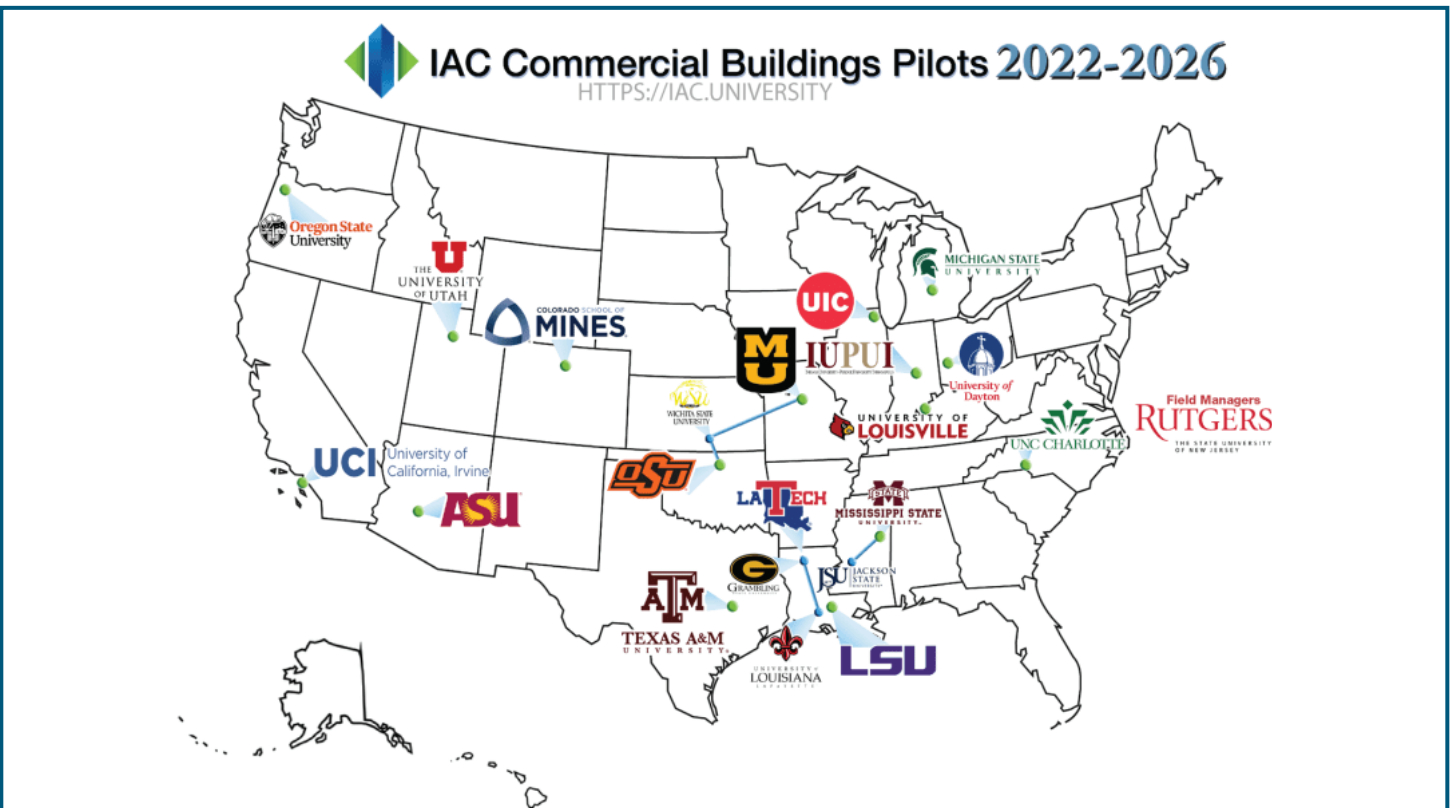
## EXPANSION OF THE IAC COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS PILOT

In November of 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced \$3.2 million in supplemental funding to expand the IACs program. Eight current IACs will expand their programs to also include commercial building assessments. This latest investment in the IAC program will help remove barriers to decarbonization across the manufacturing and commercial sectors and advance the Biden Administration's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Earlier this year, DOE announced the latest expansion of IAC universities growing the program to 37 university programs, each focused on enhancing cybersecurity, promoting resiliency planning, and providing training to manufacturers located in disadvantaged communities.

Now, DOE has selected eight of those universities to receive \$100,000 per year over four years to expand their assessments to include small- to medium-sized commercial buildings. These eight universities will join nine other IACs already conducting commercial building assessments, thereby bringing the total number of Centers participating in the commercial buildings pilot to 17 (see map below). IAC personnel at the selected universities will work with community colleges and technical training programs to provide continuous learning for students and professionals while also providing assessments and recommendations to small and medium-sized commercial buildings and businesses. The eight selected universities are:

- The University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK)
- The University of Missouri (Columbia, MO)
- Louisiana Tech University (Ruston, LA)
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) (Indianapolis, IN)
- The University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)
- The University of Louisville (Louisville, KY)
- The University of North Carolina, Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)



A total of 17 IACs (shown in green) and their satellite Centers (shown in blue) are actively working with community college partners to conduct commercial building assessments of small- and medium-sized clients to identify energy savings opportunities. The goal for this pilot project is to expand the workforce of building efficiency professionals with technical expertise ranging from space heating and cooling/ventilation to water heating and plug and process loads associated with equipment.

## IACS AND PARTNER PROGRAMS RETURN TO AEE WORLD

After more than a two-year hiatus, the IAC program rejoined its traditional Department of Energy manufacturing technical assistance (TA) programs – Better Plants and the Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships (CHP TAP) – in attending and sponsoring the annual Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) World conference in Atlanta, GA in late September 2022.

AEE is a nonprofit professional society whose mission is to promote the scientific and educational interests of those engaged in the energy industry and to foster action for sustainable development – and AEE World is the organization's premier event for AEE-sponsored workshops and technical training and certificate program sessions, as well as forums for a wide range of industry-leading companies and organizations to present energy-efficient products, energy management services, and solutions.

In addition to providing the IACs and other TA program staff an opportunity to engage face-to-face with their numerous stakeholders, AEE has traditionally offered free registration to all IAC students to attend its events – an opportunity which nearly 30 existing IAC students and faculty from centers including the University of Florida, Georgia Tech, Clark Atlanta University, Kennesaw State University, Mississippi State University, West Virginia University, and Oklahoma State University availed themselves of at AEE World in 2022.



Over the course of the three-day event, IAC students and faculty took turns staffing the IAC exhibit; attended technical training sessions on energy management, performance monitoring and verification, smart manufacturing, energy storage systems, and a variety of other topics; and led or participated in panel discussions – all the while networking, engaging with stakeholders and exploring professional development and/or employment opportunities.

On a separate note, the IAC program's Women for Energy Efficiency Network (WE2) or “we squared” was featured as a new sponsor of the AEE Council on Women in Energy & Environmental Leadership. The IAC program aims to aid in career development and diversity within the energy sector, and the WE2 network strives to enhance women's experience in the IAC program by creating a comfortable, inviting environment to share their work experiences, build a network of mentorship, provide opportunity for leadership development, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas with other bright-minded women in the Energy Industry.

One of the main initiatives is the WE2 Mentorship Program where women currently working in the Energy Industry have the opportunity to mentor current IAC students. For more information on the WE2 program, or if you are interested in becoming a mentor, please visit the website at [iac.university/we2](http://iac.university/we2). ■



### CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

## EIGHTH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains sponsors an annual applied research awards competition to honor exceptional students participating in the IAC program. The program provides students at IACs with hands-on training and real-world experience in energy engineering and management.

Each winning IAC student/faculty team will receive \$25,000 in program funds. The research awards are designed to create incentives for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue assessment-inspired research projects in the areas of manufacturing and industrial energy efficiency. The awards are intended to enhance traditional student-led research efforts and to recognize research proposals that stand out as being exceptional and particularly innovative.

Information about this year's eight winning student projects is below:

- **Lehigh University:** Abhinav Soanker and Justin Casper, IAC Students; Dr. Alparslan Oztekin, Advisor – Solar Powered Membrane Distillation for Desalination Applications
- **Mississippi State University:** McKenna Patterson, IAC Student; Dr. Heejin Cho, Advisor – Impact Analysis on Implementation of Electric and Thermal Energy Storage Systems at Industrial and Commercial Facilities



