



# U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Hydrocarbons and  
Geothermal Energy Office

## Workforce Development Opportunities

### Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) **Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)** is expanding America's skilled energy workforce by investing in hands-on training, education, research opportunities, and academic-industry partnerships.

These programs strengthen regional energy economies, build workforce pipelines, and prepare students and early-career professionals to support the nation's hydrocarbon—including coal, oil, and natural gas—and geothermal industries.

### Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program

A 10-week paid summer research program for undergraduate and graduate students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

- 30-year history with 1,300+ alumni nationwide
- 50-60 participants annually; undergraduate and master's students in STEM
- Hands-on research projects at DOE National Laboratories, including the National Energy Technology Laboratory
- Stipend provided. Travel and housing assistance may be available

### University Training and Research Program

A program that provides competitive grants to train the next generation of the energy workforce and expand institutional education and research capacity.

- Nationwide, competitive solicitation under which grants are awarded for projects that are 2-3 years in duration



- Projects pertain to early-stage research and development, student training, and workforce development
- Maintains and enhances the educational, training, and research capabilities of institutions of higher education

### Geothermal Collegiate Competition

An annual competition that invites collegiate teams to develop real-world geothermal solutions while competing for cash prizes.

- Funded by DOE for 10+ years; provides opportunities to engage with industry professionals and local communities
- Builds understanding of how geothermal energy can provide affordable, reliable energy nationwide
- Competition topics vary (e.g., networked geothermal systems, data visualization, geospatial mapping, and geothermal infographics)





## Geothermal INTERN

Graduate students design their own internships in the geothermal industry and acquire core professional competencies and skills.

- Graduate students work with companies, DOE National Laboratories, or other government agencies
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) accepts applications on a rolling basis; applicants must be funded on an existing NSF grant to qualify
- 37 students from 27 U.S. institutions have participated to date

## Geothermal Energy from Oil and Gas Demonstrated Engineering

This initiative leverages the extensive knowledge, technology, skill, and experience of the oil and gas sector to help expand geothermal deployment.

- Assesses and creates a roadmap to overcome knowledge gaps in geothermal energy, based on best practices used within the oil and gas industry
- Addresses four interrelated focus areas (“facets”), including workforce adoption
- Includes several workforce-relevant activities, including a workforce development stakeholder survey, an internship program, a weekend-long “Student Days” workshop, and a Geothermal Innovation Summit

## Recent Announcement – Partnerships for Academic-Industry Career Training

A program that will create regional academic-industry consortia that expand technical training programs at two-year institutions of higher education (e.g., trade and vocational schools, community and technical colleges, and Tribal colleges).

- Up to \$11.3 million total available funding, including up to \$2.3 million specifically for Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Training programs lead to industry-recognized credentials that prepare students for competitive jobs within HGEO industries

## Learn More About Our Programs



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For more information, visit: [energy.gov/hgeo](https://energy.gov/hgeo)  
Update to Information current as of June 2026