



**EPCE** 

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## **Best-in-Class Online Energy Education and Training Offered through an Enhanced Partnership with EPCE and Bismarck State College**

**CHICAGO, IL – December 15.** EPCE, the Energy Providers Coalition for Education, and its founding education partner, Bismarck State College (BSC) National Energy Center for Excellence are thrilled to announce an enhanced partnership. In addition to current, online education and training programs, Electric and Nuclear Power Technology, the partnership now provides four additional state-of-the-art, online, energy education and training programs.

- The Electrical Transmission Systems Technology program was created in response to industry demand for qualified system operators and is designed to teach students about the electrical power system in North America and has a strong emphasis on system operations. This program is approved to offer North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)\* continuing education hours (CEHs) combined with college credit for those who wish to maintain certification requirements and work towards a college degree.
- The Power Plant Technology program, the industry's most reputable power generation program, helps students learn the technical and safety aspects of plant operations and the responsibilities of plant operators. BSC is designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as the National Power Plant Operations Technology and Education Center. This official designation recognizes BSC as the premier national center of education and training for operators and technicians in the energy industry.
- The Energy Services & Renewable Technician program prepares graduates for field service technician careers across the energy industry and also focuses on renewable generation aspects. BSC is a registered provider of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Associate Program Exam. The NABCEP Photovoltaic Associate Program is designed for those individuals wanting to enter the solar field.
- The Water and Wastewater Technology program is designed for entry-level employment in city, county and industries that operate and maintain water and wastewater treatment facilities. Bismarck State College has been approved as an online provider for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by multiple states.

Created by the industry, these nationally recognized online programs support the knowledge needed to keep pace with the rapidly changing energy industry. "This enhanced partnership shows the commitment to the energy industry and the best possible online education for the workforce," says Steve Gackstetter, Director of Site Engineering at Exelon Generation and EPCE Governance Committee Member. "Earning an industry credential, including a certificate or degree through BSC's nationally recognized online programs, prepares individuals for the evolving workforce needs of the industry."

"Together, EPCE and BSC are educating and training current energy employees, as well as future energy employees through a multitude of online programs specific to critical technical employment needs with electric utilities", said Christine Carpenter, Director of EPCE. "This partnership has had a significant impact on educating and training thousands of employees from energy companies across the country."



BSC has been able to deploy state-of-the-art courses online through the use of simulations, animations, discussions, and real-time lab sessions operating real equipment to thousands of students since 1999. BSC receives strong support from industry partners, and advisory committees, such as EPCE, that consist of industry experts who help guide and shape curriculum, ensuring that the education students receive prepares them for the needs of employers.

“Our energy programs grew out of industry demand, and we continue to work closely with our partners to ensure that our programs stay current with the latest technology and that our students are learning the skill sets they need to succeed in the workforce. This allows the students to get the best educational experience possible, and lets industry hire our graduates with confidence knowing they are obtaining capable employees who can significantly contribute to their organization starting on day one,” says Bruce Emmil, Dean of the National Energy Center of Excellence.

Programs taken through Bismarck State College are convenient and flexible for students who also maintain a full time job or have other obligations. Coursework can also lead to industry-recognized credentials.

BSC’s National Energy Center of Excellence is a worldwide leader in energy education and training for the energy industry. In 2007, the Department of Energy (DOE) designated BSC as the National Power Plant Operations Technology and Education Center, recognizing BSC as the premier national center of education and training for operators and technicians in the energy industry. BSC’s Water and Wastewater Technology program has been approved by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for continuing education curriculum in six states.

EPCE, a nation-wide, online, energy education resource was built to address the critical employment needs of the evolving utility industry. EPCE’s national coalition of energy companies across the country, collaborate with accredited and top-notch education providers, such as Bismarck State College, to develop utility-specific solutions to education and training needs.

\*BSC (BSC\_001) is recognized by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) as a continuing education provider who adheres to NERC CE Program Criteria.

## ABOUT EPCE

The Energy Providers Coalition for Education ([www.epceonline.org](http://www.epceonline.org)) is a national alliance delivering solutions to attract and engage the energy industry's workforce through quality online education. These programs offer interested candidates and incumbent workers technical skills as well as academic knowledge needed for industry career paths in electric utilities including transmission, distribution and generation. EPCE members, representing over 3,000 energy employers, champion industry needs in their joint efforts to develop and sponsor online curriculum with qualified accredited high schools, colleges, and universities. EPCE is a signature initiative of CAEL, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning ([www.cael.org](http://www.cael.org)), an international non-profit organization with more than 40 years of experience in working with the public sector, private sector industries, and higher education institutions to ensure that adult students receive the most efficient training and education to occupy a meaningful professional place in a 21st century economy.

## ABOUT BSC

Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence offers online and classroom training for the energy industry. Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees can be earned, or courses can simply be taken for professional development and training. Classes are available in Electric Power Technology



(distribution), Electrical Transmission Systems Technology (system operations), Power Plant (fossil fuels), Process Plant (refining, gasification, ethanol, biodiesel), Nuclear Power, Energy Services & Renewable Technician (technicians across the industry) and Instrumentation & Control. In addition, a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Energy Management is available entirely online. The classes are offered in a convenient block-style format, giving students the opportunity to complete a class in 3-8 weeks. The National Energy Center of Excellence is also known for their non-credit offerings such as apprenticeship programs, customized training, and NERC CEH courses.