Workforce Initiatives at Dairyland Power Cooperative

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Dairyland Power Cooperative
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Dairyland Power Cooperative

- 25 Member Co-ops
- 256,000 Customers
- 1,200 MW Generation
- 3,134 Miles of Transmission Lines
- 330 Substations
- 44,500 Square Mile Service Area
- 886.9 MW Peak 7/06
- 600 Employees
Dairyland Power System
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Working With States
  - This workshop
  - Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
    - Utility Roundtable meetings

- Working with other Utilities
  - Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Working With Universities
  - Iowa State University
    - Electric Power Research Center (EPRC)
  - University of Minnesota Center for Electric Energy (UMCEE)
    - Review
      - Curriculum Development
      - Research Projects
  - University of Wisconsin
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- College Student Internships & Summer Students (25 annually – have hired 27 as full time employees)
  - Engineering
  - Electronics
  - Information Technology (Control Systems Computer)
  - Real Estate
  - Plant Workers
  - Vegetation Management

- Pay for continuing education for current employees
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Local High Schools
  - Invited High School Counselors To Tours Of Power Plants
    - Included video of opportunities
    - Individual staff discussed their jobs
    - Outcome - Little participation for effort expended
  - Offer 2 internships for students interested in technical careers (tech ed)
    - Started with a request from a high school teacher
    - Seen as a way to maintain contact with local high schools
    - As students finish high school, we send out emails to teachers requesting their students apply for positions

- Job Shadows
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Participate in middle school and high school job fairs
  - Preparing fast paced video on utility careers
- Provide speakers for middle school and high school classes
  - Educate students on company and careers in the utility industry
- Support For First Lego League (robotics competition established to promote math and sciences)
  - Provided Team Mentors
  - Plan to provide funding in future years
  - Encouraging IBEW participation
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Western Technical College
  - On Advisory Committee for Electronics Curriculum
  - Sent emails to Teachers For E-Camp
  - Participate with Western instructors for visits to high school classrooms
  - Provide Internships For 2 Students
  - Assisted with National Science Foundation grant along with UW-La Crosse
    - $500,000
    - Students get 2 year electronics degree
    - Students continue on at UW-La Crosse for computer science degree
Dairyland Workforce Initiatives

- Parent Teacher Conferences
  - Worked with other local employers to attend High school conferences
Questions?

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