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News Release **For Immediate Release** Jan. 31, 2019

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Governor's Office of Energy Development to expand education initiative

SALT LAKE CITY (Jan. 31, 2019) — Now in its third season, the Governor's Office of Energy Development (OED) is set to expand the Utah Energy Education Initiative to include new K-12 curriculum and videos, a robust scholarship program and career expo in early 2019.

"The Governor's Office of Energy Development is committed to powering the workforce of tomorrow through STEM education and industry connection," said Laura Nelson, the Governor's energy advisor and executive director of the Governor's Office of Energy Development. "The Utah Energy Education Initiative is a first-of-its-kind program in the nation that allows students of all ages to learn about this vital and diverse sector of our economy and become prepared to enter rewarding career opportunities."

To advance energy learning at a young age, OED is partnering with the National Energy Foundation and the Utah Science Teachers Association (UtSTA) to launch five new lesson plans and videos, forty three activity kits and four teacher professional development seminars. The new curriculum is expected to be completed by March, bringing the total number of lesson plans available to teachers online for free to 36. As part of the partnership with UtSTA, OED will also award a \$500 grant to a Utah science teacher at the organization's annual banquet on Feb. 8.

"These lessons will enable students to explore the diverse energy and mineral resources of Utah and have the opportunity to 'be the scientist' in their classrooms," said Dawn Monson, executive director of UtSTA. "The UtSTA and OED are also proud to award Jared Eliason, physics and chemistry teacher at Manti High School, the Governor's Office of Energy Award for an outstanding example of teaching about natural resources and energy in his classroom."

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Utah Energy Workforce Scholarship Program. OED, in partnership with Chevron, will award \$30,000 in funding to high school seniors aiming to pursue STEM education at a Utah university or technical college. The program includes



five \$4,000 scholarships for university candidates and five \$2,000 scholarships for CTE candidates. Applicants must produce a 5 minute video on energy and write a 500 word essay detailing their STEM goals. The deadline for submissions is May 1, with awards taking place at the Governor's Energy Summit on May 30.

"Utah's growing economy means that skilled energy workers are needed now more than ever," said Mitra Kashanchi, refinery general manager at Chevron's Salt Lake Refinery. "This scholarship program encourages students to explore their STEM potential and pursue opportunities in a fulfilling career field. It's been a privilege to partner with OED on this program and see how it has helped so many students join the energy workforce."

On Feb 15, OED will partner with the University of Utah's Smart Energy Lab to host the Utah Power & Energy Career Expo from 9:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. at the James L. Sorenson Molecular Biotechnology Building. The expo is expected to host 150 students with a goal of strengthening workforce by connecting students to industry through a series of networking and recruiting sessions. For more information, visit <https://usmart.ece.utah.edu/expo>.

"OED's forward-thinking and industry-wide perspective is breathing new life into the traditional on-campus recruiting model and empowering students to explore the many different career paths that exist in the power and energy fields," said Preston Nielson, associate director of the Career & Professional Development Center at the University of Utah. "I can't think of a more formative time for students to be gaining this exposure, and I'm thrilled OED is playing such a proactive role in their development and eventual transition into the workforce."

Established in 2015 by OED and various stakeholders, the Utah Energy Education Initiative is the leading energy and minerals education program in the nation, and includes a growing suite of K-12 curriculum, scholarships, hands-on workshops and events to connect students to industry.

Additional Links

Jaden Defa, 2018 CTE Scholarship Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9RFqc8oomg>

Scholarship Launch Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grod6ANyX3E>

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About Governor's Office of Energy Development (OED)

Web: energy.utah.gov

Governor Gary R. Herbert recognizes energy as one of the four cornerstones of Utah's strength, along with education, job creation, and self-determination. In recognition of this priority, the Governor's Office of Energy Development (OED) was created in 2011 to advance the responsible development of Utah's energy and minerals sector to provide significant and lasting value to the state through the provision of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.