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North Dakota Petroleum Council's Oil and Gas Education Program

Report 4: January 8, 2008

Applicant: The North Dakota Petroleum Council

Principal Investigator: Ron Ness, President

Project Summary: Energy Career Awareness Partnership (ECAP) 2007/2008 Mid-Year Summary

The objective of ECAP is to educate students, teachers, and parents about career opportunities in North Dakota's energy industry. This report details the program's activities from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. The first six-months of the 2007/2008 academic year, ECAP's classroom contacts are just under 1,200 students and staff from area schools along Hwy 52 from Jamestown to Minot, Devils Lake, Hebron, Glen Ullin, Dickinson, and West Fargo as well as the Fargo/Moorhead area schools. Most of ECAP's classroom visits occur from February through May along with all nine of the Marketplace for Kids events. Over the past six years, ECAP has reached nearly 44,000 students, teachers, and parents. This fall, ECAP participated with colleges and industries in a series of information fairs for students and faculty in the following locations: Bowman, Dickinson, Minot, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Mayville, Fargo, Valley City, and Jamestown. These locations served as regional hosts to schools in a 50 mile radius including schools from Minnesota and South Dakota.

The ECAP partners met in August to review the program's success over the past six years and discussed future objectives for ECAP. All partners were in agreement ECAP's primary goal is to provide North Dakota's energy industry with a robust, well trained workforce, and our students with information about high value, long term career opportunities in state's energy industry. The experience gained over the past several years through ECAP, reinforces the fact that parental acceptance of a students career aspirations is the single most influential element in career development. The partners discussed the potential of expanding the program to include additional outreach to parents through advertising, brochures, and presentations. Educational requirements for the type of positions available in the state were also discussed and the need to

support career and technical education in high schools and the expansion of training programs at colleges across the state. As an action step from the meeting, Basin Electric hosted a luncheon on behalf of ECAP for all the counselors in the Bismarck Public School district. ECAP partners made presentations to the counselors regarding future employment opportunities in the energy industry and the skills necessary for the jobs.

North Dakota's Energy Career Awareness Program (ECAP) has established itself as a resource for information on careers in the energy industry. ECAP has become a fixture in classrooms, career fairs, energy conferences, and other events in communities and schools throughout North Dakota. The established event calendar accounts for approximately 4000+ direct contacts annually with topics spanning North Dakota's energy resources, exploration, production, refining, energy generation, transmission, reclamation, history, careers, and postsecondary training. ECAP over the past six years has increased its exposure to include virtually every high school in North Dakota.

ECAP Partners for 2007/2008 include the North Dakota Petroleum Council members, Basin Electric, Montana Dakota Utilities, Ottertail Power, Great River Energy, Oil and Gas Research Council, Oil and Gas Producing Counties, Williston API, Dickinson API, Career and Technical Education, Bismarck State College, and Bismarck Public Schools.

ECAP Expenses:

Program Coordinator Salary/Benefits (six months)	\$23,000.00
Travel/Training	\$ 6,000.00
General Office Expenses/Printing/Classroom Supplies	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total ECAP Expenses 7/1/07 – 12/31/07	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Ness