

INL Intelligence

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A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory
Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic priorities of energy security,
nuclear security, scientific discovery and environmental responsibility.

■ INL Supports Defense Department Exercise

In April, military leaders from the U.S. Northern Command and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency participated in a joint capability and technology demonstration hosted by INL. The exercise tested a series of commercially designed sensors retrofitted to rapidly detect and analyze radiological materials and substances. Approximately 40 soldiers from the Army's 20th Support Command developed and conducted a realistic scenario in which the finely tuned sensors were deployed to a simulated contamination zone. The sensors are part of a multiyear initiative aimed at improving the military's response to nuclear threats. The event used the laboratory's facilities and engineering expertise to evaluate the sensors' effectiveness.

■ State of Idaho, INL Discuss Joint Water Research Opportunities

Idaho Department of Water Resources Director David Tuthill and staff members recently met with INL research scientists and engineers as part of an ongoing dialogue on regional water management issues. The goal is to establish a partnership and collaborations that would provide the science, predictive tools and technologies necessary to help water stewards and users more rapidly and effectively assess, monitor and adapt to changes in resource conditions. Collectively, these management tools could go a long way toward anticipating changing conditions – whether driven by climate change, population increase and movement or other factors.

■ Lab Helps Advance National Biofuels Initiative

INL researchers have come up with a two-phase plan for supplying wheat straw, corn stalks and other plant material to biorefineries to be made into transportation fuel. DOE's goal is to have 60 billion gallons of "biofuel" produced annually from American-grown plant materials by 2030. The amount of plant material needed to reach this goal is massive, and getting it to biorefineries can be expensive and complex. INL's concept provides a process that allows farmers and foresters to participate early on by using equipment they already have and plant materials that are currently discarded. The plan is designed to keep pace with biofuels industries as they become more widespread and need more plant material in more places.

■ \$4 Million in Scholarships Awarded at Symposium

More than 150 students from throughout the state received college scholarships valued at just over \$4 million after participating in the 20th annual Hispanic Youth Symposium in Sun Valley April 24-26. The comprehensive retreat – which offers hope, inspiration and a chance to vie for college scholarships – brings together nearly 300 Idaho Latino high school students for a weekend of motivational speakers, hands-on workshops, interactive competitions and a career fair. Educational institutions from Idaho, Utah, Montana, Oregon and Washington awarded scholarships. INL is the primary sponsor of the Hispanic Youth Symposium, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy, federal contractor companies, Gem State Diversity Initiatives, state agencies, Hispanic organizations and private employers.

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