

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 Sponsors Geothermal Conference

A first-of-its-kind geothermal energy workshop was held April 21-23 at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. The event was sponsored by the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho's public research universities. Workshop organizers say their goals included identifying geothermal expertise at the CAES partner institutions, identifying ways to enable collaboration, understanding industry needs, identifying research funding opportunities and discussing the possibility of a shared geothermal curriculum among the university partners. As part of the multi-day activity, participants toured the region's geothermal resource sites.

■ Lab Shares Robotics Expertise with Community, World

An INL technical team delivered its Talon robot – carrying a suite of specialized sensors – to Tsukuba City, Japan, in mid-April. Japanese operators were trained how to deploy and use INL's robotic systems to visually assess and map areas outside nuclear reactors that were damaged following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Additionally, Japanese representatives from the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry recently visited INL to discuss spent nuclear fuel retrieval technology as well as transportation and storage container systems. INL scientists are now leading a team to respond to spent fuel pool recovery at the Fukushima reactor facilities. Separately, INL robotics team members and Idaho Falls-area schools participated in activities supporting the second annual National Robotics Week April 13 at Taylorview Junior High School. Hundreds of elementary, junior high and high school students attended.

■ Hispanic Youth Symposium Kicks Off

As it has for more than two decades, INL's Hispanic Youth Symposium is once again bringing together Latino high school students and regional academic institutions to emphasize the importance of staying in school and pursuing as much education as possible. For three days – beginning Friday, April 29, and running through Sunday, May 1 – some 300 Latino teens from 92 Idaho schools will gather at the annual academic retreat in Sun Valley to listen to motivational speakers and to participate in interactive workshops designed to enhance self-esteem, leadership and problem-solving skills, as well as to examine possible career paths for the future. The students compete in speech, talent, athletic and interactive skill contests for awards and scholarships.

■ Lab Leader Garners Award

Kathryn McCarthy, deputy associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science & Technology, has been honored as a “Woman of Today & Tomorrow” by the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage. She was honored April 21 at an awards luncheon in Idaho Falls. The award is designed to recognize women of extraordinary vision, achievement and leadership who serve as outstanding role models to girls by exemplifying the key qualities of Girl Scouts: courage, confidence and character. McCarthy was recognized for her accomplishments in nuclear energy and engineering, fields that have traditionally attracted very few women.

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