



# Westmoreland County Community College

## ShaleNET

### FAST FACTS

ShaleNET is a job-training program that began in 2010, funded through the U.S. Department of Labor – Education and Training Administration that has helped men and women find jobs within the Natural Gas Industry. ShaleNET has 20 certified training providers throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and New York, and has certified 978 graduates for entry-level positions in the Natural Gas Industry.

The ShaleNET Talent Matching System (ShaleNET.org) educated 12,619 individuals on the benefits of entry-level jobs in the Natural Gas Industry and over 3,000 of these individuals found employment from July 1, 2010 through June 2013.

#### Leading Partners:

- Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, PA
- Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport, PA
- Allegheny Conference for Community Development, Pittsburgh, PA
- PIOGA (Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association), Wexford, PA

#### Courses:

Roustabout, Floor Hand, Commercial Driver's License with Natural Gas Emphasis, Welder's Helper

#### Certifications:

SafeLand US, Aerial Work Platform, Rough Terrain Forklift, CPR/First Aid, Class A CDL with Tanker and Hazmat endorsements

#### Outcomes:

- Successfully trained 978 students from July 2010 through June 2013 by 20 training providers in a four-state area (PA, OH, WV & NY)

Roustabout: 526 in 8 locations

Floor Hand: 147 in 6 locations

CDL: 224 in 8 locations

Welder's Helper: 81 in 6 locations

- In partnership with the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, ShaleNET placed 199 workers in various on-the-job training contracts in PA and OH
- As reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor Statistics, ShaleNET has a 79.6% retention rate for job placements
- ShaleNET placed graduates with over 125 employers throughout the United States
- WCCC received the 2013 Exemplary Program Award for ShaleNET from the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE)



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# Enrollment in ShaleNET.org

County	Amount
Adams	8
Allegheny	767
Armstrong	55
Beaver	287
Bedford	53
Berks	8
Blair	62
Bradford	64
Bucks	8
Butler	158
Cambria	132
Cameron	9
Carbon	2
Centre	42
Chester	20
Clarion	16
Clearfield	68

County	Amount
Clinton	46
Columbia	40
Crawford	15
Cumberland	35
Dauphin	57
Delaware	17
Elk	36
Erie	22
Fayette	142
Forest	6
Franklin	16
Fulton	6
Greene	72
Huntingdon	17
Indiana	35
Jefferson	43
Juniata	10

County	Amount
Lackawanna	43
Lancaster	16
Lawrence	138
Lebanon	11
Lehigh	20
Luzerne	91
Lycoming	258
McKean	33
Mercer	101
Mifflin	34
Monroe	18
Montgomery	11
Montour	6
Northampton	14
Northumberland	45
Perry	16
Philadelphia	20

County	Amount
Pike	4
Potter	46
Schuylkill	26
Snyder	11
Somerset	114
Sullivan	7
Susquehanna	37
Tioga	89
Union	13
Venango	12
Warren	2
Washington	196
Wayne	5
Westmoreland	402
Wyoming	18
York	27



# ShaleNET

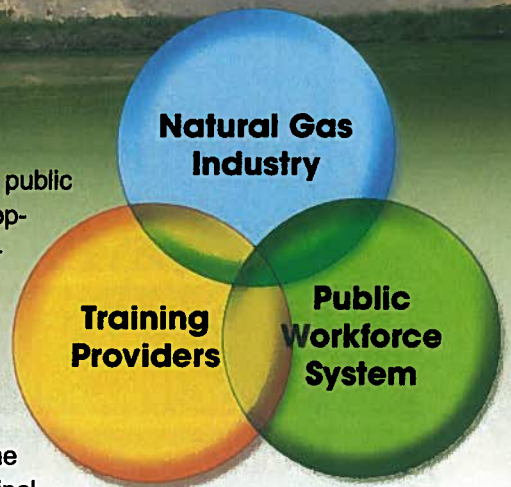
Linking talent to opportunity

[ShaleNET.org](http://ShaleNET.org)



ShaleNET is a coordinated network of the natural gas and oil industries, the public workforce system and training providers. This collaboration has led to development of an industry-led and recognized uniform training, certification and associate degree program. Developing and augmenting standardized curriculum, mapping clear career pathways for students, and adopting best practices throughout the entire network, ShaleNET is linking talent to opportunity.

ShaleNET was launched in 2010 with a \$4.964M Community Based Job Training grant awarded to Westmoreland County Community College by the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The original intent of ShaleNET was to respond quickly to industry needs by creating an effective and efficient entry level training program featuring five high demand upstream occupations including roustabout, welder's helper, CDL, floor hand and production technician. In just 26 months, ShaleNET has served over 9,500 people and, with 27 recognized training providers in three states, the program has trained over 3,000 people, and more than 1650 are employed in the industry. The original ShaleNET grant will end in June 2013 and is on track to exceed all of its benchmarks and goals.



In September 2012, ShaleNET received a follow on grant of \$14.96 million through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program awarded to the Pennsylvania College of Technology by the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The second round of grant money will expand the capacity of ShaleNET geographically, as well as incorporate a new stackable credential model. As the industry matured in the northeast, occupational demand has grown to reflect a need for a highly skilled workforce concentrating on not only upstream, but mid and downstream jobs too.

With the addition of Navarro College in Texas and Stark State College in Ohio, and with the support of our key employer partners including, Chevron, Shell, Anadarko Petroleum Corp, Chesapeake Energy, XTO, and Encana, ShaleNET will develop and implement standardized stackable certificate and associate degree programs to serve the highest demand occupations in upstream, midstream and downstream activities. Building upon the original ShaleNET training model, four new certificates and two new associate programs will be added, culminating, if desired, in the attainment of a bachelor's degree. The stackable credential model will allow multiple entry and exit points to those seeking an education while the standardized curriculum will enable this mobile workforce to continue and finish their education wherever ShaleNET is offered.

## Continuing Workforce Demands:

The majority of large gas exploration and production companies are involved in multiple shale plays and require a well trained, safe, and productive workforce that adheres to common industry standards in all locations. The gas industry has also clearly stated its preference for a local workforce, and is committed to hiring local employees with the required skills, aptitudes and training. ShaleNET was developed with the long term goal of expanding the network beyond the Marcellus Shale play to unconventional shale plays throughout the US and globally. The demands of the workforce include linking the talents of the underserved, displaced, veterans, and TAA individuals into jobs. The collaboration between the public workforce system, particularly its One Stops, and the training providers seek to close that gap.

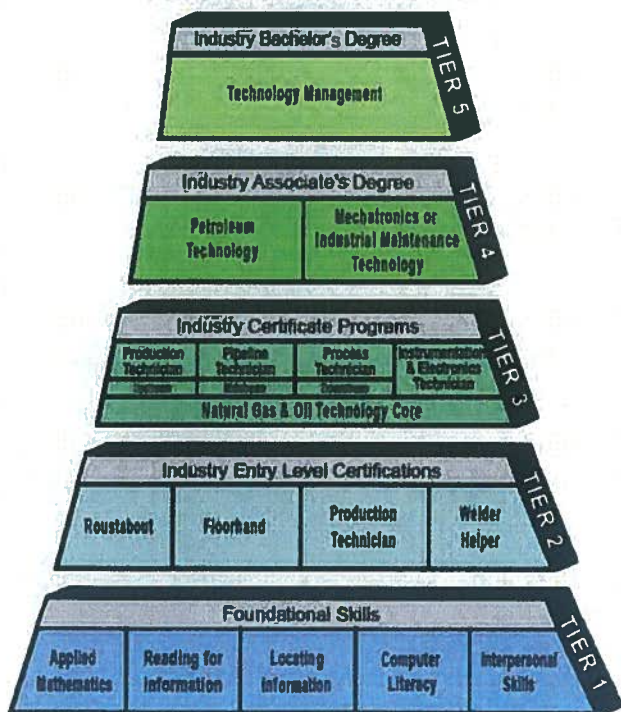


The skills that trainees develop in ShaleNET's non-credit and credit programs are transferable throughout unconventional shale plays, and will allow the natural gas and oil industry to confidently identify a local workforce with the skills they require.

## Leveraging Federal Money + Partnerships + Developing Open Source Curriculum = Sustainability:

Unlike the original ShaleNET grant consisting largely of training dollars, the second is focused on building capacity, including, purchase of state-of-the-art lab equipment, developing open source and cloud-based curriculum and creating the stackable credential model. An innovative strategy integrating new online curriculum into a blended instructional environment will be used to address advanced skill requirements. To achieve this training goal, the project team will design, test, and deploy online software to digitally control specific pieces of common industry equipment in a simulation environment for targeted occupations. Both curriculum and training will be standardized and developed with industry partners using cloud-based technologies. The original two hubs, Pennsylvania College of Technology and Westmoreland County Community College have partnered with two new hubs in Texas and Ohio which will increase the number of training providers teaching the ShaleNET curriculum, ultimately educating more students across a wide geographic area.

### ShaleNET Linking talent to opportunity Stackable Credential Model





# ShaleNET<sup>®</sup>

Linking talent to opportunity

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## ShaleNET Jobs & Training Scorecard

July 1, 2010 – December 2014

Visitors to ShaleNET.org informed on natural gas and oil opportunities	43,654
Total ShaleNET Participants	6,416
Employed to Date	3,677

To subscribe to the newsletter, visit [www.shalenet.org](http://www.shalenet.org)

## Success Stories:

### Chevron Hires Six Navarro College ShaleNET Students

Chevron North America Exploration and Production division's recruiting team recently visited Navarro College for a two day recruiting event which ended in the hiring of six recent ShaleNET graduates.

The recruiters spoke to students in the petroleum technology department. They shared their insights on the industry, expectations as employers and offered invaluable hiring information.

### Penn College Joins U.S. Department of Labor in Announcing Apprenticeship Grants



ShaleNET representatives from Penn College of Technology were on hand when the U.S. Department of Labor recently made available \$100 million in grant funding for apprenticeships, announced in the Philadelphia School District by Labor Secretary Thomas Perez.

The grants will expand registered apprenticeships in high-skilled, high-growth industries – including such key areas as healthcare, biotechnology, information technology and energy and advanced manufacturing – through the American Apprenticeship Initiative.

"The energy industry, like so many others, is facing a daunting challenge: how to replace the technical skills being lost through retirement with new, well-trained hires," Tracy Brundage, vice president for workforce development at Penn College of Technology said. "I'm particularly encouraged by the innovative approach taken by the U.S. Department of Labor, educators and trade unions in looking to apprenticeships, a proven model to transfer technical skills from one generation of workers to another, as a means to address this modern-day challenge."

[Read Full Press Release](#)

## In the News:

[ShaleNET and Act 13 Funds Changing Local Lives](#)

Post-Gazette  
February 17, 2015

[What it's like to be the Only Woman in the Fracking Fields](#)

The Washington Post  
January 20, 2015

[Gas Jobs are a Golden Ticket, but some Restrictions Apply](#)

The Washington Post  
January 16, 2015

## Upcoming Events:

[Ohio Oil and Gas Association Winter Meeting](#)

March 11-13, 2015  
Columbus, Ohio

[Embracing Energy: A Conference for Women](#)

April 14-15, 2015  
Oglebay Resort, West Virginia

[Rigzone Oil and Gas Targeted Job Fairs](#)

Various locations and dates

## Success Stories:

### Pierpont Community and Technical College and Alderson Broaddus University Announce Articulation Agreement

During a press conference held on Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, Alderson Broaddus University and Pierpont Community & Technical College announced a joint venture for a major in petroleum management.

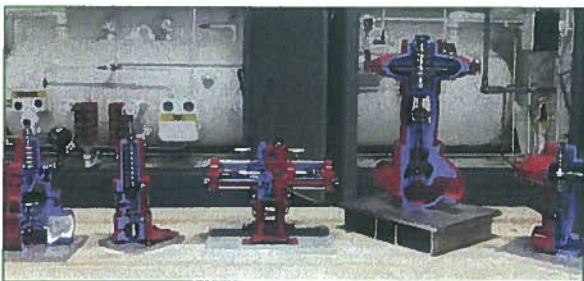
Alderson Broaddus University, working as the degree completion partner, will provide a Bachelor of Science degree to interested students who earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Petroleum Technology at Pierpont Community & Technical College. Building on the petroleum technology curriculum, graduates will acquire expanded skills and knowledge for success in the management and regulatory practices of the oil and gas industry.

Pierpont President Dr. Doreen Larson was proud to be a part of such a singular event. "What we are doing here today is one of only a handful of such agreements in the entire country. Partnering with a four-year institution, that is willing to accept all of our Applied Technology credits, shows the level of academic rigor of our courses. Our faculty has developed a program that is intensive and will lead to good paying jobs."

[Read the Full Article.](#)

## Industry Engagement:

### Kimray Donates Valves to Westmoreland County Community College for ShaleNET Well-Site Trainer Program



Kimray Inc., manufacturer of control equipment used extensively in oil and gas production around the world, recently donated six valves to supplement the Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) ShaleNET program's well-site trainer.

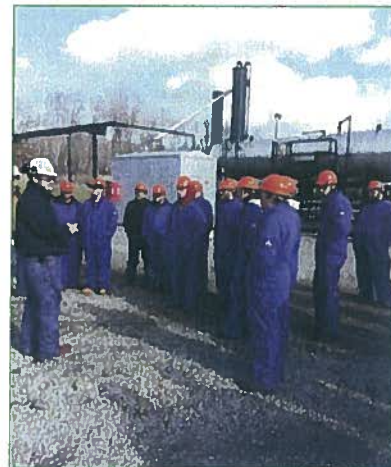
In addition to the valves, Kimray surprised the college with another donation of five cutaway-training units that include four valves and the famous Kimray glycol pump, which was immediately incorporated into the ShaleNET training curriculum. Special thanks to Chris Mencor and Kimray for the donations to the WCCC ShaleNET program.

### XTO ENERGY Employees Serve as Industry Instructors for the Westmoreland County Community College ShaleNET Program

XTO Energy employees recently served as adjunct instructors in the Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC) ShaleNET program.

R. Gordan Holloway, area superintendent of the Appalachia Division of XTO Energy, taught a Saturday course, NGT 140 Gas Processing. Along with lecture and lab time, Gordan hosted and coordinated field trips to the XTO gas processing facilities. He provided staff to share their knowledge and experience with ShaleNET students making the field trips a valuable learning event.

In addition to Gordan, XTO Energy Pipeline Integrity Foreman, Midstream Operations, Michael D. Jackson, taught NGT 105 Emergency Response. Safety is the number one focus in the industry. Their immense experience, along with their formal knowledge and hands-on training brought immense value to the ShaleNET program.



## Student Spotlight:

### Matt Hutchinson (continued)

Matt decided to enroll in ShaleNET's year-long pipeline technician certificate and associate degree program. Midway through his studies he got an internship with Dominion as a corrosion technician and they kept him part-time while he finished up his studies last fall. When he graduated in December, Matt applied to a full-time position. "I graduated on December 15, and began working full-time on December 17!" Matt exclaimed.

In his role as a corrosion technician, Matt monitors infrastructure looking for external corrosion and other quality control issues, making sure the pipelines are within government regulations and troubleshooting any problems.

"Because corrosion is an electrochemical process, my classes in electrical and corrosion were crucial. Dr. Sigmund's electrical course was the best and I knew then, that I had made the right decision," explains Matt.

This summer Matt plans to enroll in ShaleNET's bachelor in Technology and Business Management program offered through another ShaleNET hub, Penn College of Technology which he'll be able to pursue online.

"I love what I do and can see myself in this role for 20-30 years but as the aging workforce continues to retire, I'm hoping my experience and the bachelors degree will open some doors. I'm setting myself up for future opportunity," said Matt. "I just wish I had known then what I know now about the oil and gas industry—that so much opportunity exists, for every skill set and that it's just a matter of getting your foot in the door."

Asked whether it was all worth it, Matt explains, "Within a year, through ShaleNET, I changed careers and got a job that I consider one of the best. In landscaping I felt the ceiling, but in oil and gas, the opportunities are limitless!"

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### ShaleNET Founders

- Allegheny Conference on Community Development
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association
- Westmoreland County Community College

### Founding Members

- Belmont CDJFS – Ohio WIA Area 16
- Broome Community College
- Central WIB, PA
- Eastern Gateway Community College
- Mahoning/Columbiana Training Association – Ohio WIA Area 17
- North Central WIB, PA
- Northern Tier WIB, PA
- Northwest WIB, PA
- Southern Alleghenies WIB, PA
- Southwest Corner WIB, PA
- Three Rivers WIB, PA Tri County WIB, PA
- Trumbull CDJFS – Ohio WIA Area 18
- West Central WIB, PA
- Westmoreland-Fayette WIB, PA
- West Virginia Northern Community College
- West Virginia NPWIB, Inc. – Region V
- West Virginia Region VI WIB

### Sponsors

- U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration
- PA Department of Labor and Industry
- National Science Foundation

## Hub News:

### Stark State's Relocated Downtown Canton Satellite Center Opens



Stark State recently opened its Downtown Canton Satellite Center at its new downtown location. The \$8.2 million satellite center, located in the former Cornerstone II building, sits adjacent to the college's new Well Site Training Center that opened in August.

The \$8.2 million satellite center, consolidates Stark State's campuses at Timken and the Southeast Community Center into a central location and it places its support services and core classes adjacent to the college's new Well Site Training Center. "It's a one-stop shop," said Cindy Putman, satellite coordinator. "We can help with just about everything here. ... It keeps (students) from having to go to the main campus because for a lot of our students that can be daunting."

One of the first-floor lecture classrooms is attached to a smaller space that contains a simulator for commercial driver's license training that looks like the driver's seat of a construction vehicle with three large video screens in front of it.

[Read the Full Article.](#)

### Penn College Hosts Internationals Interested in Replicating ShaleNET

Recently, the ShaleNET team at Penn College of Technology hosted representatives from Azerbaijan to learn more about ShaleNET, tour the natural gas and oil training facilities, and explore opportunities to replicate the program in their home country. The College also welcomed representatives from the United Kingdom which views ShaleNET as a promising workforce practice for their burgeoning onshore oil and gas shale play. In addition to these countries, delegations from Kenya, Vietnam, Mexico, Ukraine, Poland, India, and Pakistan have either toured ShaleNET-Penn College or have conducted serious exploratory conversations on bringing the ShaleNET training model to their country. These representatives are from oil and natural gas employers, educational institutions, financial companies, and research foundations.

ShaleNET is attractive as a workforce training model because it can be tailored to meet the specific workforce needs of a region while adhering to a core set of instructional principles that focus on job readiness, safety, and technical proficiency. The end result is a candidate with multiple industry-recognized certifications who is prepared to work in oil and gas industry anywhere in the world.

## Student Spotlight:



### Matt Hutchinson

Traditional students are typically defined as having recently graduated from high school and are enrolled full-time in their course of study. Students who enroll in ShaleNET tend to be slightly older, many have had previous careers or military experience, some have families but all have seen the immense opportunity that exists in the oil and gas industry and have identified ShaleNET as a great education and training resource for entry into the field. Matt Hutchinson is a perfect example.

As a traditional student, Matt graduated with a degree in landscape contracting from Ohio State ATI (Agricultural Technical Institute). For years Matt worked in the landscaping industry, bouncing from laborer to project manager to running full operations, but with the cyclical nature of the industry coupled with the realization that without owning your own business there was a ceiling, Matt knew the time had come to move on.

"I took a lay-off and I knew I didn't want to go back to landscaping. A friend of mine was going back to school and recommended ShaleNET," said Matt. "I have to give all the ShaleNET advisors and professors at Stark State College a lot of credit for getting me into the program, reassuring me and providing a support structure that kept me going."

[Continued next page.](#)



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