



MSI Electric Energy Systems Workforce Initiatives at Sandia National Laboratories

Brian J. Pierre, Ph.D.
Sandia National Laboratories

IEEE PES General Meeting
Seattle, July 2024



Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International, Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.
SAND2024-09554C

SANDIA HAS FIVE MAJOR PROGRAM PORTFOLIOS



Academic Programs

Building an innovation pipeline through partnerships that facilitate access to talent, ideas, and R&D capabilities

Stimulate innovation through strategic academic relationships while growing the talent pipeline and increasing workforce development opportunities.



CULTIVATE STRATEGIC AND ENDURING INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Establish university engagement guidelines and best practices
- Facilitate research contracting and university memberships



BUILD AND GROW IMPACTS OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- Develop university networks and joint research opportunities
- Capitalize on research seed funding



STIMULATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Enable faculty exchanges/faculty loans/joint appointments
- Leverage university networks and research consortiums



FUEL THE TALENT PIPELINE

- Maximize student and educational outreach events
- Recruit high-caliber, diverse candidates through targeted development initiatives
- Cultivate the pipeline in critical skills areas



Academic Programs

Stimulate innovation through strategic academic relationships while growing the talent pipeline and increasing workforce development opportunities to help the line accomplish their mission objectives.

Diversity Partnerships
Coordinating Sandia's engagements with DOE's Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Programs.



Postdoctoral Program Office

Ensuring Sandia and its postdoctoral researchers obtain the highest level of benefit from the Postdoctoral Program.

University Partnerships Network

Advancing capabilities and enhancing workforce development, attraction, and retention through our academic partnerships.

Faculty Loan Program

Enhancing workforce development, attraction, and retention through the Faculty Loan Program.

NNSA/DOE MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS PROGRAMS

Fostering a sustainable STEM-pipeline that prepares a diverse workforce of world class talent

- Strategic partnerships between MSIs and the DOE/NNSA Enterprise.
 - Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program (MSIPP)
 - Minority Serving Institution Internship Program (MSIIP)
 - MSIPP Tribal Education Partnership Program (TEPP)
- Strengthen and expand MSI STEM capacity and research experience in NNSA/DOE mission areas of interest.
- Grow the number of minority students who graduate with STEM degrees.
- Grow the number of minority graduates and post-doctoral students hired in to DOE/NNSA's STEM workforce.
- Through university-lab consortia partnerships, students are exposed to cutting-edge research and activities in their relevant fields.
- Network of national security enterprise (NSE)-ready students through enrichment activities from K-20 to post-doctoral level to prepare NNSA's next-generation technical workforce.



MSIPP
MSIIP
TEPP

Project Topic Areas



Engineering

Computer Engineering, Material Science, Nuclear Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Microelectronics, Nanotechnology Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Microsystems, Mechanical Engineering, Photonics



Cybersecurity

Machine Learning, Embedded Programming, Application Forensics, Cyber & Network Analytics, Information Technology, Quantum Computing, Network Forensics, Counter-Intrusion, Software Development, Systems Administration, Protecting Digital Evidence, Cloud –Based Forensics, Software & Hardware Engineering, Vulnerability Assessment, Host-Based Forensics, Data Science

Nuclear Security

Radiation, Fissionable Fuels, Radiation Detection Systems, Nuclear Science, Nuclear Power, Nuclear Security, Nuclear Forensics, Nuclear Technology, Nuclear Physics

Advanced Manufacturing

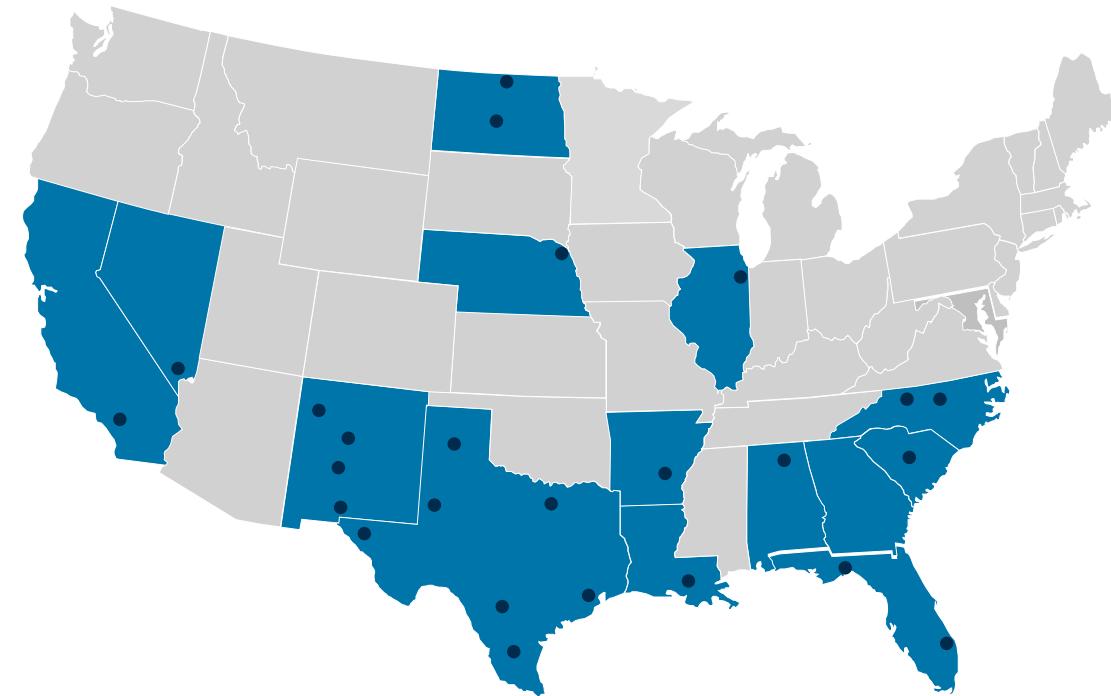
Metrology, Ceramics, Composites, Materials at Extreme Conditions, Powder Production, Characterization, 3D Printing for Nuclear Application, Physical Property Testing, Enhancing Design, Material Science, Additive Manufacturing & Coating, Modeling & Simulation, Surface Finishes, Polymers



Minority Serving Institute Partnerships Program

Consortia consisting of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) with a focus on building and supporting the workforce capacity of the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) by:

- Expanding scientific and technical knowledge in the areas of Advanced Manufacturing, Cybersecurity, Engineering, or Nuclear Security
- Providing experiential learning opportunities for students STEM related disciplines
- Building and strengthening research and education capacities of participating institutions
- Promoting collaborations with the NNSA NSE



16
HSIs

5
TCUs

10
HBCUs

2
AANAPISIs

17
Sandia
Consortia
(FY23-24)

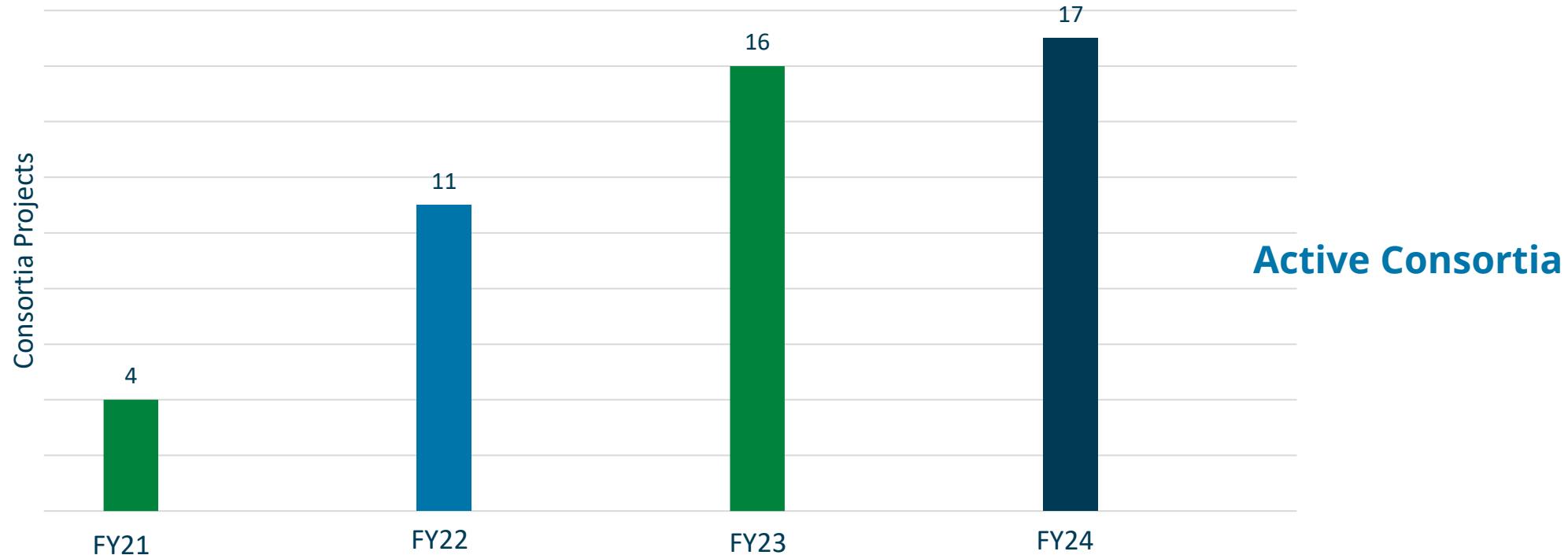
3
NSE Labs

5
SNL hires

65
Interns

5
Faculty

Sandia's MSIPP Consortia Growth



Sandia's involvement in MSIPP has seen significant growth, with the number of consortia projects increasing from 4 in FY21 and reaching 17 in FY24

This expansion reflects our commitment to strengthening and expanding educational and research capacities at minority and tribal serving institutions, fostering collaborations that provide direct access to NSE resources, and increasing the number of minority graduates and post-doctoral students hired into the NSE's technical and scientific workforce

Sandia MSIPP Participation: Past/Inactive Consortia

1. **CECOR**: The Consortium Enabling Cybersecurity Opportunities & Research (formerly known as the [Whitehouse Cyber Initiative](#))

Norfolk State University

Clark Atlanta University

Paine College

Bowie State University

*North Carolina A&T State University

Allen University

Benedict College

Claflin University

Denmark Technical College

Morris College

South Carolina State University

Voorhees College

Charleston County School District

University of the Virgin Islands

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

2. **CIESESE**: Consortium for Integrating Energy Systems in Engineering and Science Education

Universidad Ana G. Mendez

University of Texas El Paso

University New Mexico

University Puerto Rico Mayaguez

Miami Dade College

National Energy Technology Laboratory

3. **AMNI**: Advanced Manufacturing Network Initiative

Navajo Technical University

Bay Mills Community College (BMCC)

Cankdeska Cikana Community College(CCCC)

Salish Kooteani College (SKC)

Turtle Mountain Community College

United Tribes Technical College

"CECOR's main focus is to establish a world-class workforce development, education and research program that combines the strengths of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Sandia Labs to develop a K-20 pathway for students to participate in cybersecurity and other STEM fields. CIESESE provides opportunities for students from Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) to pursue studies and careers in energy systems R&D. AMNI's goal is to establish a network of Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) with essential advanced manufacturing facilities, associated training and education programs, and private and federal agency partnerships to both prepare a workforce and create economic and employment opportunities within tribal communities through design and manufacture of high quality parts."

Sandia MSIPP Participation

4. **CREPES**: Consortium for Research and Education in Power and Energy Systems

Florida International University

University of Texas El Paso

Alabama A&M University

5. **STEP2NL**: Successful Training and Effective Pipelines to National Laboratories

New Mexico State University

University of New Mexico

Central New Mexico College

6. **CHRES**: Consortium for Hybrid Resilient Energy Systems

Universidad Ana G. Mendez

University of Texas El Paso

University New Mexico

University Puerto Rico Mayaguez

7. **CONCISE**: Consortium on National Critical Infrastructure Security

University of Texas San Antonio

North Carolina A&T State University

University of Nevada Las Vegas

Savannah State University

8. **GSC**: Growing Stems Consortium

Texas Tech University

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Amarillo College

9. **NSAM-ML**: Nuclear Security Advanced Manufacturing Enhanced by Machine Learning

North Carolina Central University

Southern University at Baton Rouge

Elizabeth City State University

10 - 16. **TCU**: Tribal Colleges and University Consortiums

ENRGE: Enabling Native Researchers and Graduate Education Systems

Navajo Tech University

ASPIRE: Advanced Synergistic Program for Indigenous Research in Engineering

Turtle Mountain Community College

United Tribes Technical College

PAMER: Partnership for Advanced Manufacturing Education and Research

Navajo Technical University

Nebraska Indian Community College

University of Texas El-Paso

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

IMPACT: Indigenous Mutual Partnership to Advanced Cybersecurity Technology

NEXT: Native Education Excellence in Trades

BEST: Business Enablers in Science & Technology

Sandia MSIPP Participation

17. Grand CARES: The Rio Grande Consortium for Advanced Research on Exascale Simulation

University of New Mexico
University of Texas at El Paso
New Mexico State University
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

18. E3C: Consortium for Education and Research in Electronics for Extreme Environments

University of Texas El Paso
North Carolina A&T State University
University of New Mexico

19. MEMENCYS - UC-Sandia Partnership: Microelectronics & Materials Engineering Education for Nuclear and Cyber Security

University of California Riverside

20. SEEP-IT Consortium on Sensing: Energy-efficient Electronics and Photonics with 2D Materials and Integrated Systems for Training the Next-Generation DOE-NNSA STEM Workforce

University of North Texas
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
ANL

21. MATE: MSIPP Gulf Coast A&M Consortium: Materials-At-The-Extreme-Material Science for Extreme Environment

Florida A&M University
Prairie View A&M University
LANL

22. IAM-EMPOWEReD: Advance manufacturing research and training in additive processed ceramics, polymers, composites, and metals.

Florida A&M University
Florida State University
Benedict College
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Consortium for Research and Education in Power and Energy Systems (CREPES 1.0)

- Establish a pipeline of diverse qualified students in Power and Energy Systems from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
- Sandia to hire ~10 funded MSIPP interns each summer for three years (2022-2024) from three specific universities, paid mostly by the CREPES program

- **Our team:**

- *University Partners:*
 - ***Florida International University (FIU) Lead***
 - ***University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)***
 - ***Alabama A&M University (AAMU)***
- *DOE/NNSA partners:*
 - ***Sandia National Laboratories***
 - ***Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory***



FIU held the first annual workshop

Consortium for Research and Education in Power and Energy Systems (CREPES 1.0)

• Opportunities for the Students

- Mentorship (partnered with at least one staff member)
- Hands on R&D experience
- Hands on Laboratory experience
- Tours of state of the art facilities
- Seminar invites to Subject Matter Experts distinguished talks



Sandia
National
Laboratories



Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory

• Success Stories

- 28 summer internship opportunities
- 10 interns converted to year-round internships
- 3 interns accepted to very competitive programs to have Sandia pay for their Masters degrees
- 4 interns hired as full time staff.

Year	Undergrad Interns	Graduate Interns	Converted to Year-round Interns	Converted to Staff
Summer 2022	8	2	2	3
Summer 2023	5	4	6	1
Summer 2024	2	7	2	
Total	15	13	10	4

CREPES Intern Highlights



Name: Yuliana Mendoza-Carmona

University: Florida International University, Georgia Institute of Technology

Degree pursuing: MS in Cybersecurity

CREPES dates: May 2022 – July 2022

Internship project topic area: Wireless Power Transfer Systems

Research interests: Cyber-Physical Systems, Power Grids, Cybersecurity



"The CREPES internship at Sandia gave me the opportunity to perform research and work with a variety of professionals in bringing an idea to reality. From it, I learned new perspectives and valuable skills."

"Being part of CREPES and interning at Sandia National Labs has significantly enhanced my understanding of grid-following systems for BESS and inspired me to contribute to sustainable energy solutions."



Name: Antonio Avila

University: University of Texas at El Paso

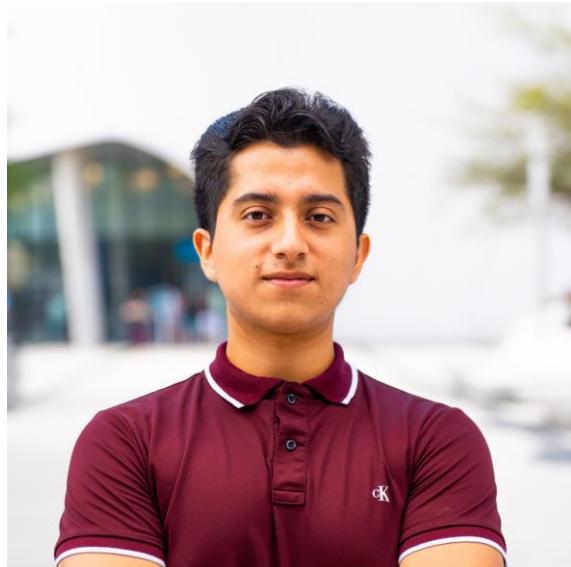
Degree pursuing: PhD in Electrical & Computer Engineering

CREPES dates: May 2023 – July 2023.

Internship project topic area: Decarbonization and Incorporating Inverter-based Resources into Power Systems

Research interests: Integrating electric vehicles (EVs), optimal demand response strategies, distributed energy resources (DERs), extreme weather events.

CREPES Intern Highlights



Name: Ernesto Alva Chavez

University: Florida International University

Degree pursuing: MS in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence

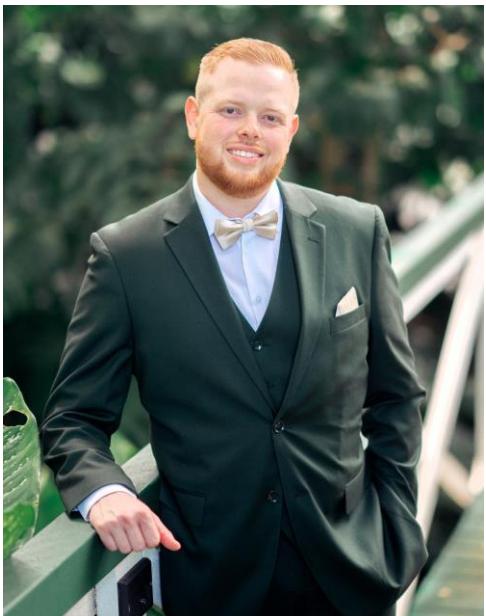
CREPES dates: May 2024 – Aug. 2024

Internship project topic area: Energy Storage

Research interests: Machine Learning, Power Systems

“My internship at Sandia has been a combination of constant learning and applying my knowledge to a real-world relevant project. Overall a very enriching experience.”

“Working for Sandia has allowed me to fulfill my career aspiration of utilizing both intellectual ability and creativity to achieve meaningful goals.”



Name: Oscar Samuel Acosta

University: The University of Texas at El Paso

Degree pursuing: PhD in Electrical & Computer Engineering

CREPES dates: May 2022 – December 2024

Internship project topic area:

- Instant arc detection to reduce wildfire ignition with fast protective relaying

- Improving resiliency during evacuations for increased EV penetration

Research interests:

- DER integration techniques, Extreme weather resilience, Grid modeling and modernization

CREPES Intern Highlights



Name: Armando Y. Montoya

University: The University of Texas at El Paso, Georgia Institute of Technology

Degree pursuing: M.S. in Electrical Engineering

CREPES dates: Jan 2022 – May 2023

Internship project topic area: Embedded System Development for Power System Protections and Power Electronics

Research interests: Designing embedded systems for optimal control of modular and distributed power electronic systems

“Working with CREPES and Sandia has allowed me to explore computer science research and shape my future career aspirations.” ~Andres Lopez, FIU

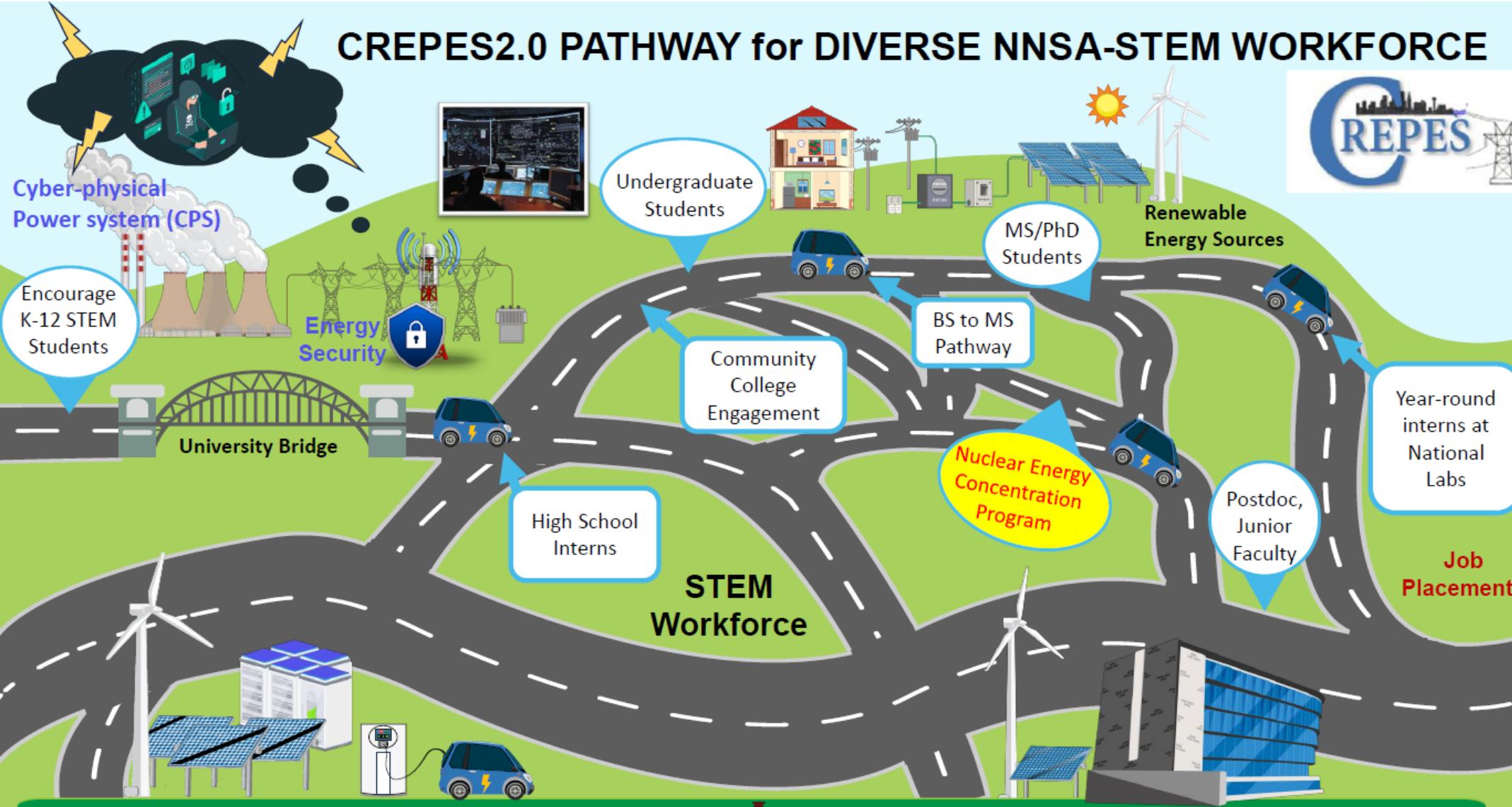
“The CREPES program paved the way for me to become a successful researcher and has opened the door to many opportunities I never thought to be possible.”

“The CREPES program helped me discover my passion for research in engineering and allowed me to gain invaluable experience through internship programs at prestigious labs like Sandia National Laboratories which has motivated me to pursue graduate school in the future.” ~Luis Garza, UTEP

Consortium for Research and Education in Power and Energy Systems (CREPES 2.0)



CREPES2.0 PATHWAY for DIVERSE NNSA-STEM WORKFORCE



CREPES Program Overall

FY 2022 –
FY 2029

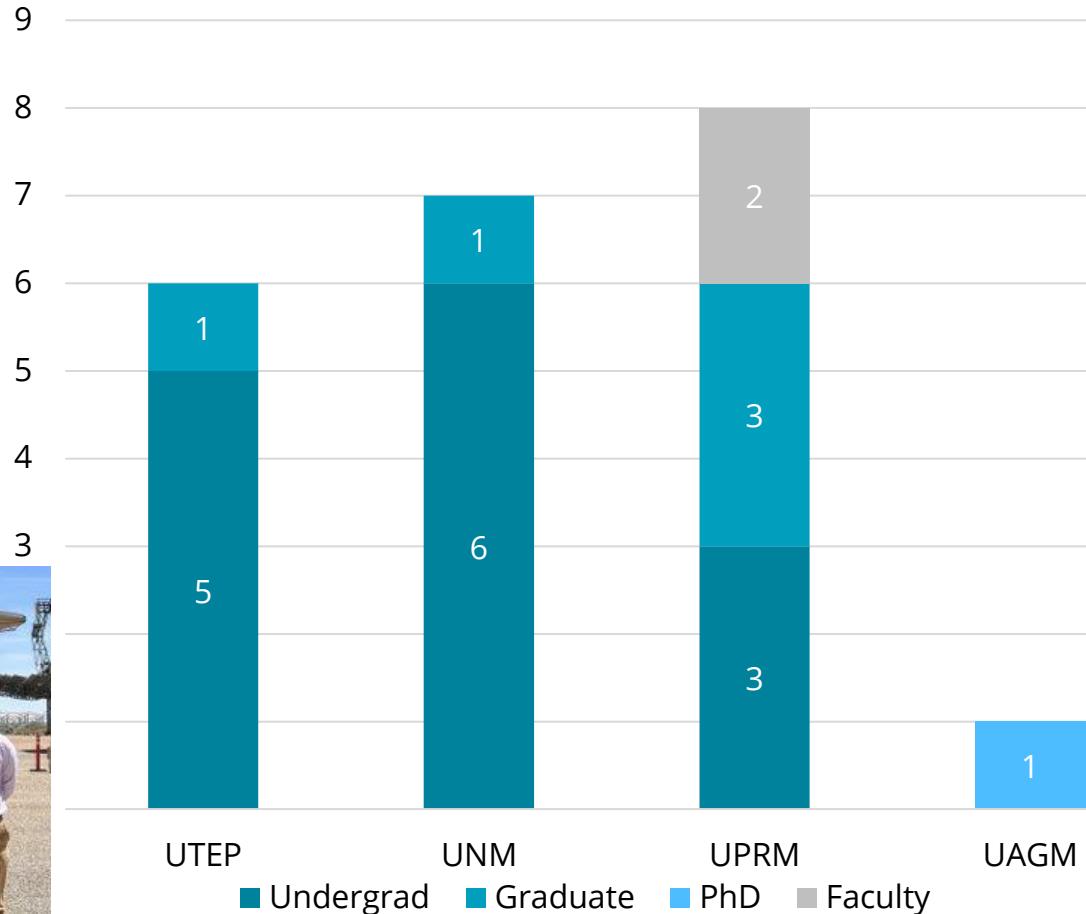
Consortium for Hybrid Resilient Energy Systems (CHRES)

FY2023:

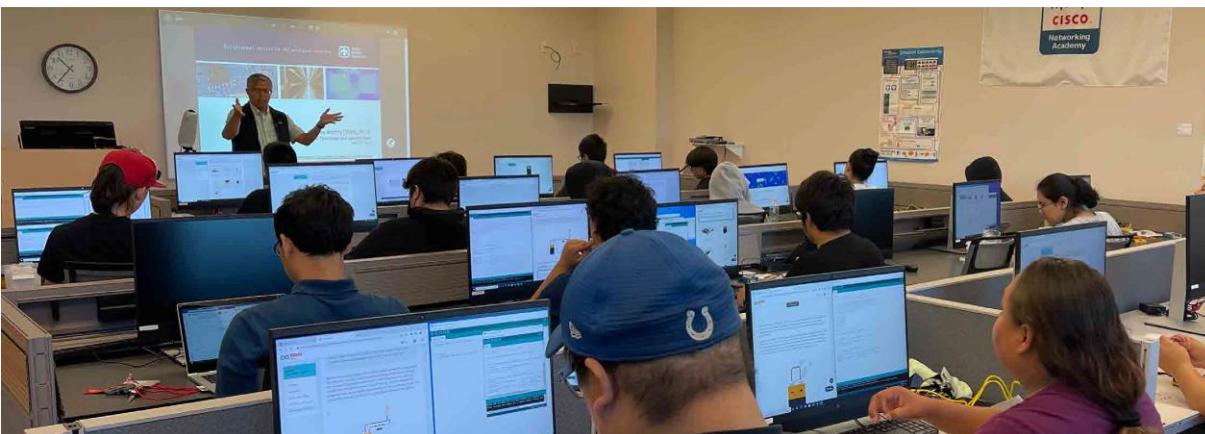
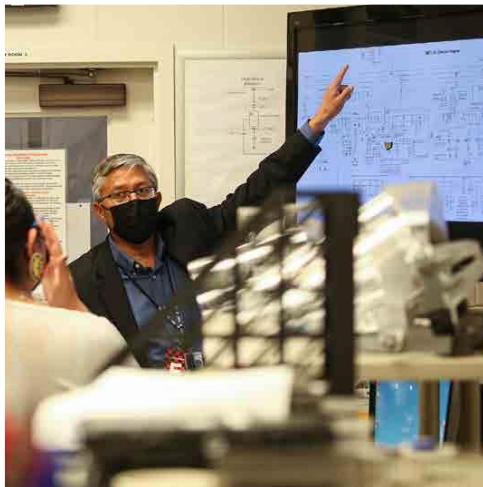
- **20** Total Students (17 CHRES Funded + 3 Direct Funded)
 - **2** Faculty Fellows
 - **4 Centers/12 Departments Represented**
 - **15** Mentors



UNIVERSITIES & ACADEMIC LEVELS



Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) Summer Camps, Sandia Tours, & SME Lectures



Stanley Atcitty (Stan), Ph.D.
Senior Scientist, IEEE Fellow
Nuclear Fuel Cycle & Grid Modernization, Center 08800
Sandia National Laboratories

Email: satcitt@sandia.gov



Acknowledgement

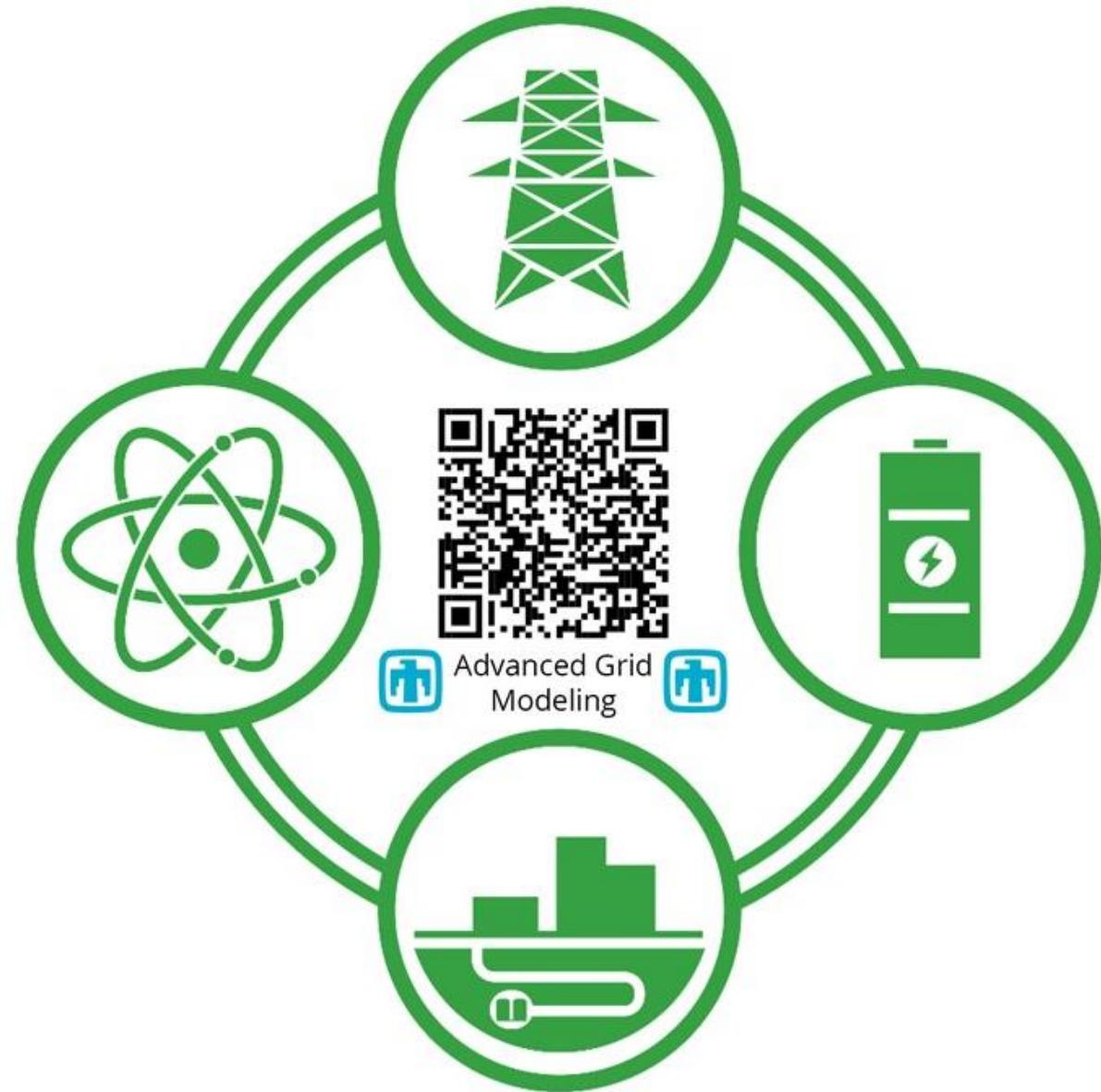
Thank you to NNSA and DOE



Thank you to the dedicated
staff, interns, and our
university partners



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



Sandia National Laboratories

Brian J. Pierre, Ph.D.
Manager – Electric Power Systems Research
bjpierr@sandia.gov

Sandia MSIPP for inquiries about partnerships,
msipp_partnership@sandia.gov