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## Immediate Release

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## Hydro Think Tank at Rocky Reach Dam in Wenatchee, WA



Wenatchee, WA (Aug 13-15, 2019)



Hydropower Foundation is organized a competition called the Hydro Think Tank. The week of Aug 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 11 undergraduate students from the University of Washington, Walla Walla Community College, Washington State University and Portland State University were brought to Rocky Reach Dam for an intense week of hands on problem solving to give their best solution to a pressing hydropower issue presented by Chelan County PUD, Grant County PUD, Avista Utilities,

HDR and McMillen Jacobs. The week is filled with exploration, training, team work and development to compete for the grand prize of an opportunity for cash prizes, a resume booster and opportunity for potential internships and or positions with these companies.

Mirrored by the successful Think Tank hosted by Alabama Power in 2018 and prized by an OSAW award for education by the National Hydro Association in 2019. The teams were made up of 3-4 undergraduate students. Teams were judged by a panel of Company Executives and Industry engineers on ingenuity, practicality of solution, and presentation. This opportunity offered students practice with real-life business and engineering skills, hone individual talents and apply knowledge to solve a pressing need in our river systems.



Team #1 takes home first place. Pictured left, from right to left; Tracy Pennell, Alysa Velez, Alex Junge and Nick Zellerhoff.

The Foundation is continuing to work with the hydropower industry to offer the Hydro Think Tank event as an opportunity for other utility companies to secure interns and/or fill job openings with quality competing students. This event will be taking place in the northeast in spring of 2020. Utilities interested in

this type of program should reach out to Bree Mendlin, Program Director with Hydropower Foundation at [bree@hydrofoundation.org](mailto:bree@hydrofoundation.org) or at 720-280-9429.

The Hydropower Foundation was established in 1994 and became an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in 1996. Formerly, The Hydro Research Foundation, the name changed in 2019. The Foundation has two principal objectives: (1) to facilitate research; and (2) to promote educational opportunities related to hydropower.

