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**For Immediate Release**

**Hydropower Foundation holds the 5th Annual recruiting event for hydropower.**



**Portland, OR** (Feb 22, 2023) - The Hydropower Foundation announced the success of its 5th Hiring for Hydro™ event held in Portland, OR on February 22<sup>nd</sup> alongside the Northwest Hydroelectric Association's Annual (NWEA) Conference. While this has been an annual event since 2017, the event has not been held in the Pacific Northwest since early 2020 due to COVID. This unique recruiting event is back with plans to continue its annual February schedule alongside the NWEA's annual conference. Additionally, the Hydropower Foundation plans to bring this recruiting event to Cincinnati, OH in the fall.

Hiring for Hydro™ brought together 12+ students from five colleges and community colleges in the Pacific Northwest to participate in an educational workshop about careers in hydropower and then a special recruiting session. The event has been established to address the hiring needs of the industry, build academic interest at the college level, and create a strong conduit between industry and regional schools.

Braylen Pfeffer, a student studying electrical maintenance & automation at Spokane Community College who drove six+ hours to attend the Hiring for Hydro™ Career Fair shared his experience. "The Hydropower Foundation's Hiring for Hydro™ career fair was an excellent and valuable learning experience. It provided a great deal of information on future opportunities in the industry. I am thankful for the chance to attend." The Foundation's Hiring for Hydro Career Fair was made possible by the hosting sponsor, Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWEA), and the supporting workforce partner, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The students heard unique stories from real hydropower professionals on their careers and their "why hydro" perspectives. Students learned about federal career opportunities and how to navigate the federal application process from Bill Brown, Mechanical Engineer from Grand Coulee. 2018 Hiring for Hydro™ alumni, Shannon Kellam, now Mechanical Engineer with Grant County PUD, provided a useful Hydro-101. Following the educational sessions students worked on their 30-second elevator speeches, and gained insightful tips on interviewing, as well as networking dos and don'ts. The day wrapped up with the Hiring for Hydro™ Career Fair where students met with 13+ recruiters, shared resumes, learned about job opportunities, and took away a new network of individuals who are ready and willing to support these young people in their career paths.

The Hydropower Foundation was established in 1994. The Foundation's Mission is "to increase the waterpower community's opportunity to contribute to society and the environment." Its vision is "to be a recognized leader in promoting research, education, and dialogue among and within the broad waterpower community, empowering waterpower to overcome its challenges and strengthen its contribution to a clean energy future. Areas of focus include environmental conservation; water management; workforce development including diversity, equity, and justice; research; operational optimization; and technological advancement.

For information about hydropower workforce programs, contact Bree Mendlin at [bree@hydrofoundation.org](mailto:bree@hydrofoundation.org).