



SE Hydro Think Tank, May 16-18

2023 SE HTT Winners - Pictured left to right: Bree Mendlin (Hydropower Foundation), Tarek Lotfi (Auburn), Matthew Kozlowski (Georgia Tech), Navid Nasajpour (Georgia Tech)



PNW Hydro Think Tank, Aug 15-17

2023 PNW HTT Winners - Pictured left to right: Alvaro Madera-Cruz (Wenatchee Valley College), Samuel McCarthy (Tacoma Community College), Bree Mendlin (Hydropower Foundation), Libbie Portier (Wenatchee Valley College)

PRESS RELEASE

Hydropower Foundation's Hydro Think Tank™ Competition Gains Momentum in 2023

Hydropower Foundation, in partnership with Grant County PUD, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Chelan County PUD, Grant County PUD, HDR, and Stantec, successfully hosted its sixth Hydro Think Tank™ Competition in the Pacific Northwest, August 15th – 17th, 2023. Thirteen talented undergraduate and community college students from seven regional schools consisting of the University of Washington, Portland State University, Oregon State University, Clark College, Wenatchee Valley College, Clackamas Community College, and Tacoma Community College came together to tackle pressing hydropower maintenance and fish passage challenges. One student, Dana Weston from Wenatchee Valley College, studying renewable energy, expressed his excitement, stating, "It was a very eye-opening experience to get to see a whole world I didn't know existed. I know that I want to work in the world of Hydro after experiencing it."

Earlier this summer, The Hydropower Foundation, alongside sponsoring organizations Southern Company and Kleinschmidt, expanded the competition to Bartlett's Ferry in Alabama. Nine undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Alabama, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, Georgia Tech, and the University of Tennessee worked collaboratively to solve a challenge focused on integrating hydropower and solar energy.

The Hydropower Foundation aims to cultivate the next generation of hydropower professionals by expanding the Hydro Think Tank™ Competition in 2023, engaging 22 students in the field. The competition has demonstrated its versatility by successfully being implemented at various hydropower facilities with post-secondary students of varying educational levels. The three-day program offers exploration, training, and teamwork, providing participants with the chance to compete for cash prizes and gain a valuable addition to their resumes. Moreover, it serves as a bridge for students, from community colleges to graduate schools, to secure internships and job opportunities with partnering organizations. As the Foundation continues collaborating with the hydropower community, the Hydro Think Tank™ program becomes a valuable resource for companies to connect with talented students, filling internships and job openings with quality candidates.

The Hydropower Foundation, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing climate change by preparing the next generation of waterpower professionals, actively promotes education, research, and workforce development within the clean energy sector. The Foundation's mission is to cultivate a robust, diverse, and environmentally conscious waterpower workforce through focused education, research, and experiential learning opportunities. For more information, please visit our website at www.hydrofoundation.org.

"The Hydro Think Tank™ is about so much more than just a student competition. It is about inspiring industry leaders and students to solve today's most difficult hydropower challenges," emphasized Dale Campbell, representing Grant County PUD, a long-time supporter of the Hydro Think Tank™ program. For more information about the Hydropower Foundation and its initiatives, visit www.hydrofoundation.org.