Category: Environmental Education

Program Title – Energy Institute for the Poudre Learning Center

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Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Award Submission in the Category of Environmental Education
Program Title – Energy Institute:
Anadarko and Poudre Learning Center

Energy Institute: Poudre Learning Center – Summary:
The Energy Institute is a unique collaboration between the oil and natural gas industry and the nonprofit community. The Poudre Learning Center (PLC), an environmental stewardship organization located in Greeley, Colorado, recognized educators often were not teaching lessons about oil and natural gas development in their K-12 classrooms simply because they did not have access to lesson plans about this sector of energy development. PLC then partnered with four leading Colorado oil and natural gas companies – Anadarko, SRC Energy, Noble Energy and PDC to create the Energy Institute. The Energy Institute’s goal is to fill curriculum gaps by offering teachers a four-day intensive course on the basics of oil and natural gas development in Colorado: geology; drilling and hydraulic fracturing of a well; land use; regulations; health, safety and environment; and the industry’s economic impact on the state. The teachers participate in a drilling and completions field tour, visit training facilities to understand what happens after a well is placed into production, and meet with city planners, state agencies and other nonprofits to get a 360-degree view of how the industry works.

Purpose of the Energy Institute:
The purpose of the Energy Institute is to provide K-12 teachers with a balanced education about the evolving science and technology used in oil and natural gas development in Colorado. The teachers gain access to a wide-range of experiences over a four-day period, from classroom work to field tours and outdoor hands-on experiences, which tell the full story about the life cycle of oil and natural gas. The curriculum is tailored with scalable lessons that accommodate varying ages of students with hands-on activities easily duplicated in the classroom. We also offer supplemental lessons, resources and speakers from our company as an ongoing resource to these teachers. Anadarko and SRC Energy primarily developed the Institute’s curriculum, which is taught by our employees, who are subject-matter experts in the oil and natural gas industry. This course also offers teachers continuing education credits through the University of Northern Colorado. The institute is free of charge to teachers, funded by the four oil and natural gas companies involved (Anadarko, SRC Energy, Noble Energy and PDC).
The process to launch the project:

This project required extensive collaboration from the four industry partners involved, the development of a comprehensive four-day curriculum, the design of supporting activities that supplement the curriculum, and ongoing recruitment of teachers through the PLC’s extensive education network. With the successful launch of this program in 2015, Anadarko supplies ongoing financial and staffing commitments to PLC each year. Collectively, the four energy companies involved invest approximately $40,000 dollars a year to keep the Energy Institute going. Our employees are the biggest contributors, giving of their time and knowledge to help educate the teachers over the four-day course.

Program Accomplishments:

In two years’ time, the Energy Institute successfully shared information with nearly 80 K-12 teachers from across northern Colorado. We have been able to provide teachers with the resources needed to teach their own lessons about oil and natural gas development in Colorado, an industry vital to the state’s economy, supporting about 230,000 jobs. We also approach the curriculum in a manner that enables teachers to form their own opinions about the industry by offering access to its inner workings and the development process firsthand. We engage in open, honest and sometimes difficult dialogue with the teachers, and our employees approach those conversations in a humble and transparent manner. There are no questions that are off limits. We encourage teachers to ask anything they feel will help them understand an often misunderstood industry. As a result, many of the teachers who have attended the Energy Institute encourage their peers to also attend and have subsequently invited our employees to speak to students in their classrooms.

About Anadarko

Anadarko’s mission is to deliver a competitive and sustainable rate of return to shareholders by exploring for, acquiring and developing oil and natural gas resources vital to the world's health and welfare. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation is among the world’s largest independent exploration and production companies, with approximately 1.44 billion barrels of oil equivalent of proved reserves as of year-end 2017. For more information about Anadarko, please visit www.anadarko.com. Anadarko employs approximately 1,100 people in Colorado and is the state’s largest producer of oil and natural gas with operations located in the DJ Basin.

Visual Aid:

Please view this video of the Energy Institute with teachers and employee testimonials:
https://youtu.be/Ue5T-t6Y7i8