Apprenticeship Program

Idaho Rural Water Association

WHAT IS IDAHO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION?

IDAHO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ORIGINALLY FORMED IN 1987 TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES IN IDAHO WITH POPULATIONS UNDER 10,000. THE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION IS CURRENTLY COMPRISED OF OVER 350 DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY SYSTEMS IN IDAHO. THOSE 350 UTILITY SYSTEMS ELECT A SEVEN-MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO GOVERN THE ASSOCIATION. THE DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED FROM IRWA'S MEMBER SYSTEMS.

THE WATER AND WASTEWATER INDUSTRY

WHAT IS THIS INDUSTRY

AND

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

BENEFITS OF WATER FOR IDAHO'S COMMUNITIES

Investing in water is good business – improved water resources management and improved water supply and sanitation contributes significantly to increased production and productivity within economic sectors.

Good management of water resources brings more certainty and efficiency in productivity across economic sectors and contributes to the health of the ecosystem. Taken together, these interventions lead to immediate and long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits that make a difference to lives of people.

Safe and readily available water is important for public health, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production or recreational purposes.

IDENTIFYING THE NEED IN IDAHO

A SHRINKING LABOR POOL AND AN AGING WORKFORCE

Idaho Rural Water Association's Solution:

CREATE AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

OUR MISSION

IDAHO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER GROWTH AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF IDAHO'S WATER AND WASTEWATER INDUSTRY THROUGH TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION, MENTORSHIP, AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

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IRWA
WATER AND WASTEWATER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Our program makes learning easy by bringing the apprentice virtual, instructor-led courses at an affordable rate.

We offer tuition match scholarships to communities under 10,000 in population and provide apprentices with all their books and learning materials.

Each of our apprentices is assigned a mentor at the start of the program to help guide them as they work through their on-the-job training.

We believe the combination of quality instructor-led related technical instruction and mentorship in on-the-job training makes our program a standout.

TWO STRUCTURED MODELS

Idaho Rural Water Association's Apprenticeship Program is tailored to fit the needs of the apprentice and the employer. We offer two unique programs that prepare the apprentice for Class I or Class II licensure.

1

1-Year ACE Program

Our 1-year ACE (Apprenticeship Candidate Enrollee) program offers students 144 hours of Related Technical Instruction in either the Water or Wastewater fields. Our robust training program prepares the apprentice to sit for the Class I licensure exam.

2

2-Year Registered Apprenticeship Program

Our 2-year Nationally Recognized Registered Apprenticeship Program offers students 288 hours of Related Technical Training in either the water or wastewater field and 4,000 hours of on-the-job training. At the end of the two-year program, apprentices will be prepared to sit for the Class II licensure exam

Technical Instruction

Drinking Water Program

Year 1 – Water System Operations Specialist	144 hours*
Course	**Hours***
Orientation	6
Small Water Systems	33
Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance	33
Beginning Water Treatment Plant Operation	33
Confined Space Entry Permit	8
Excavation Hazards: Trenching and Shoring	6
Electrical Safety	4
Regulatory Updates	6
Certification Review	12
Math Review	3
Total hours	**144**

Year 2 – Water System Operations Specialist	144 hours*
Course	**Hours***
Advanced Water Treatment Plant Operation	40
Water Distribution System Construction	16
Emergency Response/Security/SCADA	18
Chlorine Disinfection and Safety	6
O&M Manuals/Reporting	6
Centrifugal Pump Basics, Controls & Troubleshooting	6
Cross Connection and Backflow Basics	6
Sanitary Survey	6
Utility Management Certification	16
Certification Review	16
Advanced Math Review	8
Total hours	**144**

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Technical Instruction

Wastewater Program

Year 1 – Wastewater System Operations Specialist	144 hours*
Course	**Hours***
Orientation	6
Beginning Wastewater Collections	36
Beginning Wastewater Treatment	42
Confined Space Entry Permit	8
Excavation Hazards: Trenching and Shoring	6
Electrical Safety	4
Regulatory Updates	12
Understanding Wastewater Discharge Permits	6
Certification Review	18
Math Review	6
Total hours	**144**

Year 2 – Wastewater System Operations Specialist	144 hours*
Course	**Hours***
Advanced Wastewater Collections	34
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	34
Emergency Response/Security/SCADA	18
O&M Manuals/Reporting	6
Understanding Wastewater Discharge Permits	6
Cross Connection and Backflow Basics	6
Utility Management Certification	16
Certification Review	18
Advanced Math Review	6
Total hours	**144**

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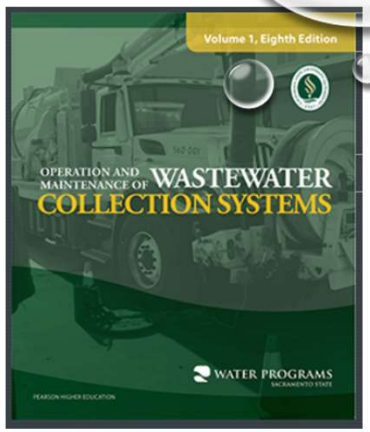
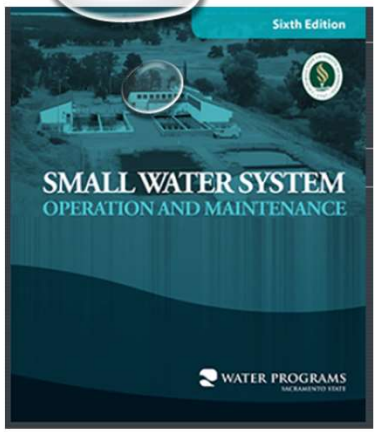




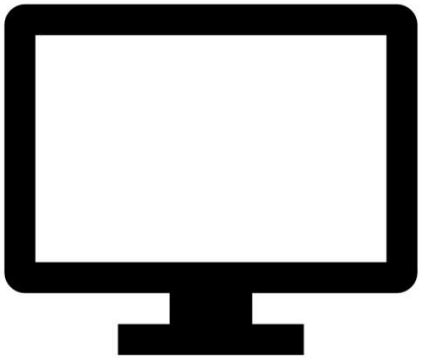
SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

Sac State Home | College of Engineering & Computer Science | Department of Civil Engineering

WATER PROGRAMS
SACRAMENTO STATE

CURRICULUM

Apprenticeship Program
Idaho Rural Water Association



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LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

- WE USE GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR OUR ONLINE, VIRTUAL CLASSES.

Casey Fisher

Wastewater

Gary Sievers

Drinking Water

OUR INSTRUCTORS

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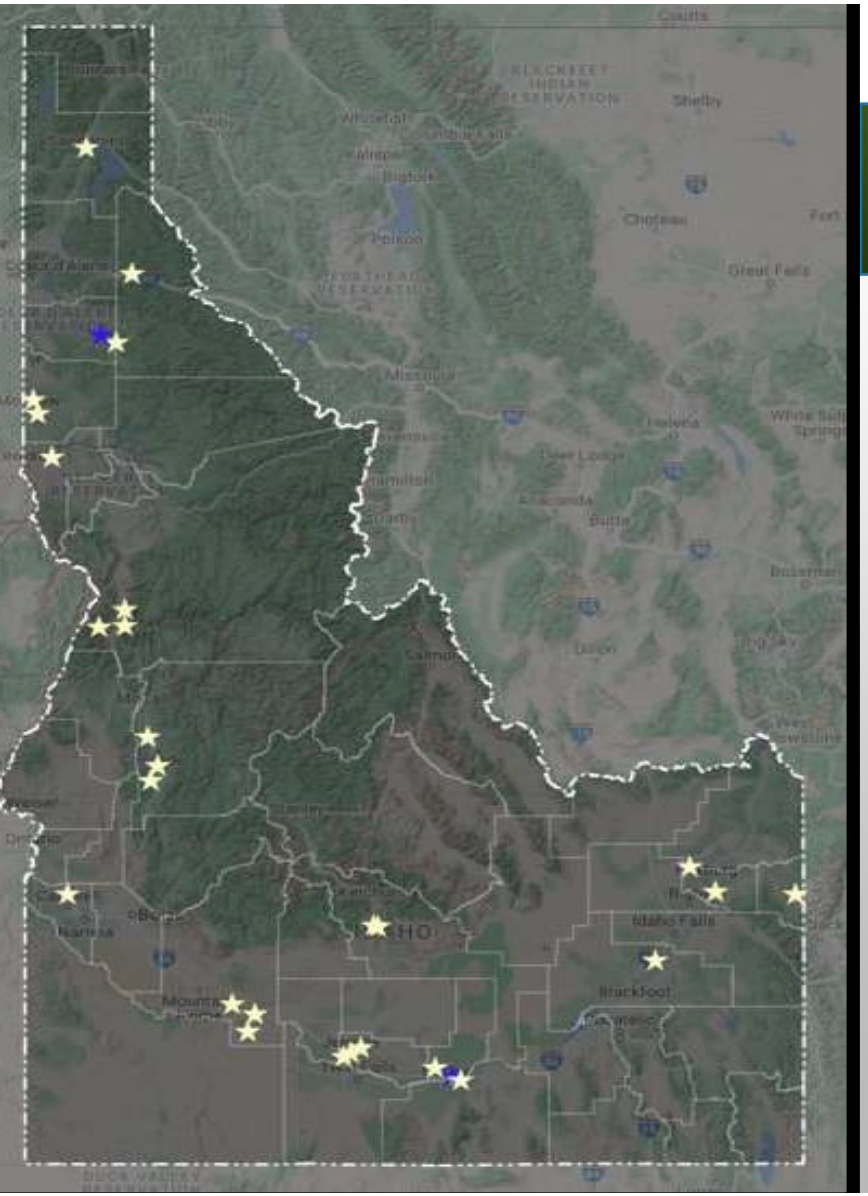

Apprentices At A Glance

- WE CURRENTLY HAVE 29 APPRENTICES ENROLLED IN OUR PROGRAM
  - 7 1-YEAR ACE APPRENTICES
  - 15 WASTEWATER PROGRAM APPRENTICES
  - 7 DRINKING WATER PROGRAM APPRENTICES

OUR GRADUATES

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IRWA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM'S FIRST GRADUATE

STEVEN GRIGSBY

CITY OF BELLEVUE

DRINKING WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

GARRETT WILLIAMS AND COLTON ALVEY

CITY OF BUHL

DRINKING WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALISTS

CHARLES JONES

CITY OF AMERICAN FALLS

WASTEWATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

OUR PARTNERS

IDAHO DEPT. OF LABOR

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

DOPL DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

NRWA NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION *America's Largest Utility Membership*

USDA Rural Development

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QUESTIONS?

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