Hydro Research Foundation

Background

- Program funded by a 5-year $3.7 million grant from the Department of Energy.
- Established to stimulate new academic interest in conventional and pumped storage hydropower.
- Recognition of large numbers of opportunities for new employees in hydropower due to growing industry and an aging workforce.

Goals & Objectives

Fellowships

- Designed to allow outstanding early-career researchers to facilitate research related to hydropower.
- Projected to award up to 40 fellowships to masters and doctoral degree students throughout the United States.
- 33 students from 19 universities were awarded the first fellowships between 2010 and 2012.

2010 - 2011 Fellows

Fellowships (Cont'd)

- Fellowships include a tuition allowance, living stipend, professorial honorarium, and participation in the annual Hydro Fellows Roundtables.
- Fellows Roundtable sponsored by industry and providing on-site visits to hydropower facilities.
- Web publishing of research results and presentation opportunities at national conferences.

2010 - 2012 Fellows

Hydropower Education

- Highlight Hydropower as a source of "green" energy.
- Promote the industry to new generation of workers.
- Attract smart, agile employees.
- Inspire new generation in order to build a work force of up and coming industry leaders.

Industry Opportunities

- Industry sponsorships for new Fellowships.
- Twelve person Steering Group from a broad array of industry and academic organizations.
- Fellows are provided a Steering Group and industry mentor relevant to research area.
- Participation in Hydro Fellows Roundtables.
- Career opportunities.

My story

- International student from Jamaica.
- Masters candidate in Environmental Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.
- Interested in hydropower and water conservation.
- Thesis topic: Design of Hydropower Project to Allow for the Downstream Passage of the American Eel.

Why Hydro Fellowship?

- Direct impact on the environment with research and the ability to connect research directly to industry.
- Access to industry mentors and companies.
- Opportunity to make connections with influential people within the industry from all over the United States.
- Ability to fund research and higher education.

Experiences as a Fellow

- Met with individuals that share similar interests.
- Gained knowledge of hydropower through engaging round table discussions and conferences.
- Connected with my industry mentor to understand what role I might play in the future of hydropower.
- Visited new places and experienced local culture at conference locations.
- Learned more information about an extraordinary field.

Why Support HRF?

- Provides opportunities that fellows would not have otherwise been able afford.
- Fascinating field with interesting potential research topics and employment opportunities.
- Promotes the hydropower industry and makes a difference in the life of each fellow.

Questions?

Contact:

- Tresha Melong, Hydro Fellow at tkmelong@wpi.edu 508-425-0346
- Deborah M. Linke, Executive Director at Deborah@hydrofoundation.org 720-722-0473
- Brenna Vaughn, Program Director at brenna@hydrofoundation.org 720-263-2736