



Advancing Bioenergy in the Northwest Through Education

As the bioenergy sector grows in the Pacific Northwest, people with skills and knowledge will be needed to drive the next generation of innovations. Programs at Oregon State University and Walla Walla Community College (through partnership with the Agriculture Center of Excellence), created as part of the Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest project, aim to meet these needs. Federal grant funding through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture made these education and training programs possible.

Bioenergy Minor

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

At Oregon State University, six of more than 40 undergraduate students in the Bioenergy Minor will be graduating in 2015 ready to pursue a career in the bioenergy field. The interdisciplinary program, established in fall 2012, allows students to receive a minor in Bioenergy while gaining valuable research and work experience. Students are recruited for the Bioenergy Minor program from science, agriculture, forestry, engineering, education, social science and business majors, and complete a research project with a participating faculty member or industry partner.

Plant Operations

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The certificate and degree programs in Plant Operations at Walla Walla Community College are preparing students for careers in bioenergy, waste water and solid waste management, and agriculture and forestry processing. The program currently has 22 students who participate in field trips and hands-on training around the Pacific Northwest. Graduates from the program are prepared for industrial, municipal, and agricultural jobs as operators and technicians, and have found jobs or internships in industries including Pacific Ethanol, Boise Paper, Zechem, the city of Kennewick, Imperium Renewables, ConAgra, and CH2MHill.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Crystal Oldfield
Oregon State University

"I like that the Bioenergy program allows me to contribute to something so important, and I am able to gain the skills needed to tackle all the tough problems involving energy and the environment"

Bioresource Research major with the option in Bioenergy and Bioproducts

Research focus: Investigating the pre-treatment process to breakdown cellulosic biomass.

Career goals: I would like to have a career that focuses on bioenergy, bioproducts, plant physiology, or biotechnology, and work for a lab or company that focuses on sustainable practices and bettering the environment.

More information about these programs can be found at:

- Walla Walla Community College Plant Operations www.wbcc.edu/plantoperations
- Oregon State University Bioenergy Programs <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/bioenergy/>