Northwestern Energy and Sustainability Consortium
2014-2015 Post-Award Deliverable

The Northwestern Energy and Sustainability Consortium (NESC) is a team of undergraduate and graduate students from across academic disciplines dedicated to growing a collaborative and diverse energy and sustainability community at Northwestern University. NESC engages with a number of campus groups including: ESW, Wild Roots, SEED, NETG, the Kellogg Energy Club, Eco-Reps, In Our Nature, and Real Food NU, to foster strong connections between club leadership. We have a proven track record of tangibly supporting education and outreach in energy and sustainability, an objective that we share closely with ISEN. We accomplish our principle mission of improving awareness, support, and collaboration at Northwestern University around sustainability and energy by:

- **Directing student-run energy related seminars** - our Business of Energy (BOE) and Technology of Energy (TOE) seminar series provide novel and interdisciplinary perspectives into the energy industry not otherwise offered at the University. The 6-8 week-long courses are designed to give participants a broad overview of the global energy landscape by outlining the technical aspects relevant to how and why our energy economy is currently undergoing a sea change. Additionally, TOE and BOE provide graduate-level student seminar leaders the opportunity to develop and refine a unique curriculum and gain experience leading a classroom discussion. Funding for seminar leaders is now provided independently by ISEN, which allows NESC to attract experienced and motivated leaders. In its seminal year BOE drew more than 70 applicants, and TOE more than 45. These seminars continue to garner over 25 students (graduate, undergraduate, and MBA) per session. ISEN funding was essential to facilitating informal engagement and networking between student attendees, all of whom demonstrate a strong interest in energy issues, via networking dinners.

- **Organizing an annual career fair** – we hosted the 3rd Northwestern Energy and Sustainability Career Fair on February 17th, 2016 drawing 17 companies and over 200 student attendees. The career fair is organized by a team of undergraduates supported by ISEN and NU Career Advancement, and continues to offer Northwestern students and energy professionals a unique forum to network and discuss employment opportunities in today’s energy and sustainability sector.

- **Hosting quarterly Roundtable Discussions open to all current leaders of energy and sustainability student groups on campus, as well as the Office of Sustainability and ISEN** – Roundtable discussions facilitate cooperation and coordination between students engaged in sustainability and energy oriented activities and initiatives. They offer a unique forum beyond listservs that encourage our community to think collectively. ISEN funding allowed us to sponsor lunch at
these meetings, which provides an attendance incentive for otherwise busy campus leaders.

- **Working to disseminate information about sustainability activities, initiatives, programs, careers, coursework, and anything else sustainability- or energy-oriented to the student body** – NESC leaders make a concerted effort to stay educated about all sustainability- and energy-oriented activities on campus. We maintain an up-to-date listserv of all the current leaders of energy and sustainability student groups on campus. This provides a seamless promotion channel when different groups plan, execute, and promote cross-disciplinary, cross-campus events.

- **Hosting an annual cross-disciplinary speaker** – in 2015 we held a documentary screening and discussion of *Sweet Crude* featuring the film’s director Sandy Cioffi. This event was co-sponsored by the African American Studies department, the Kellogg Africa Business Club, and the History department. ISEN funding allowed us to promote the event, attracting over 50 student attendees from various disciplines, host a reception where Ms. Cioffi could directly engage with students, and sponsor Ms. Coiffi’s visit to Northwestern.

The success of NESC is dependent upon the commitment and breadth of our leadership board. Our 2014 – 2015 board included:

- Kristen Brown – Chemistry PhD
- Quentin Sherman - Materials Science and Engineering PhD
- Sean Elliott – Kellogg MBA
- Scott Brown - Journalism and Environmental Science BA
- Casey Riscoe - Materials Science and Engineering BS
- Lauren Wustenberg - Environmental Science and Environmental Policy & Culture BS
- Nneka Uzoh - Kellogg MBA
- Matthew Glazer - Materials Science and Engineering PhD

The diverse mix of discipline and academic level of the NESC board members is unique among student groups in the energy and sustainability space at Northwestern. The diversity of opinion and perspective uniquely equips NESC to coordinate a wide student population, relative to many student groups which limit their engagement to a single school or academic level. Most board members are involved with at least one other energy and sustainability group at Northwestern, facilitating the strong network between the aforementioned organizations. Biweekly board meetings serve to coordinate various activities and assess the strategic vision and success of NESC.
ISEN Student Award funding has been crucial to achieving our objectives of building a stronger community around energy and sustainability at Northwestern by increasing awareness, support, and collaboration. The strongest impact is realized by regularly hosted cross-disciplinary events that attract a wide audience. Accomplishing such efforts, as outlined above, would not be possible without continued ISEN funding and the support of our member groups. We are able to sustain these interactions throughout the year in a way that would be financially unsustainable for any of our member-groups. The continuity we provide allows us to build and maintain successful and long-term connections at the University.

We greatly appreciate ISEN’s funding during 2015, and the continued support given by the funding renewal for the 2016 year.

Sincerely,

The Northwestern Energy and Sustainability Consortium