



News Release

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Power grid operator encourages students to enter field of engineering

FOLSOM, Calif. – It is no secret there is a shortage of engineers in America and it is impacting workforce planning in many industries including the electricity sector, which is looking at ways to attract more interest in the profession. In particular, young women are being encouraged to consider engineering careers in power systems operations, grid planning and information technology. The California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO) is trying to help increase this pool of future engineers by hosting a day-at-the-grid today, May 9, 2013 for *Project Lead the Way*.

Project Lead the Way is a not-for-profit organization that partners with public schools, private and public sector companies and higher education institutions to support young women interested in becoming engineers.

The program offers pre-engineering and biomedical sciences course work for high school students and a challenging ten-week "activity oriented" engineering-technology program for middle school students. Students are introduced to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering and engineering technology to get a feeling about the rewards and benefits of being a part of such a powerful career.

"We are pleased to open our doors to *Project Lead the Way* students today to show young women the exciting opportunities in engineering here at the ISO," said Chantele Napper-Miro with the California ISO.

The first day-at-the-grid for *Project Lead the Way* will include participation from Vista Del Lago, Folsom and Cordova high schools in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District.

Media welcome. Interviews and grid control room visuals available

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

California ISO

250 Outcropping Way

Folsom

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The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.