Heliostat Consortium Seminar Series

Brought to you by the Resource, Training, and Education (RTE) topic area

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Host: Dr. Jeremy Sment

Title: Resources, Training, and Education for the Heliostat Workforce

When: March 16th
1-2 PM MST

Zoom:
https://nrel.zoomgov.com/j/1603280481?pwd=MjJKZkFZUG9pY1RqcS9TaUxFMjdRZz09

Abstract:

In the current landscape of heliostat development, newcomers to the field face a lack of resources and systematic training materials to enhance their knowledge base and develop skills to conduct heliostat R&D or operations. Exposure to Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) technologies is not widespread in university programs and industries in the United States and many new employees entering the workforce have had little prior experience with heliostat technologies, resulting in long learning curves. As part of the Heliostat Consortium (HelioCon), The Resource, Training, and Education (RTE) team seeks to develop a workforce pipeline, provide training support for new workers, create a resource database, and promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in all project efforts. This seminar will provide information on existing and future RTE opportunities and resources within the HelioCon project, which include:

- Guidelines and programs to promote DEI and engage minorities and underserved communities.
- University collaboration through RFPs, internships, visiting faculty programs, and heliostat curriculum/education development.
- Heliostat education and training materials and resource database development.

Bio:

Dr. Mitchell has been a researcher at NREL for four years. She performs algorithm development and theoretical modeling to develop technologies to characterize heliostat optics. She now serves as the technical lead on the development on the Non-intrusive Optical (NIO) technology which surveys Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) solar fields using UAS imaging. She has led UAS data collection campaigns of heliostats at Sandia National Labs, Crescent Dunes plant, and Cerro Dominador plant. She has been involved in three publications and a recently issued patent for the NIO technology. Dr. Mitchell has mentored several graduate and Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) interns and now serves as the lead of the Resource, Training, and Education topic for the Heliostat Consortium project. She received her PhD and MS in Applied Mathematics from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2017.