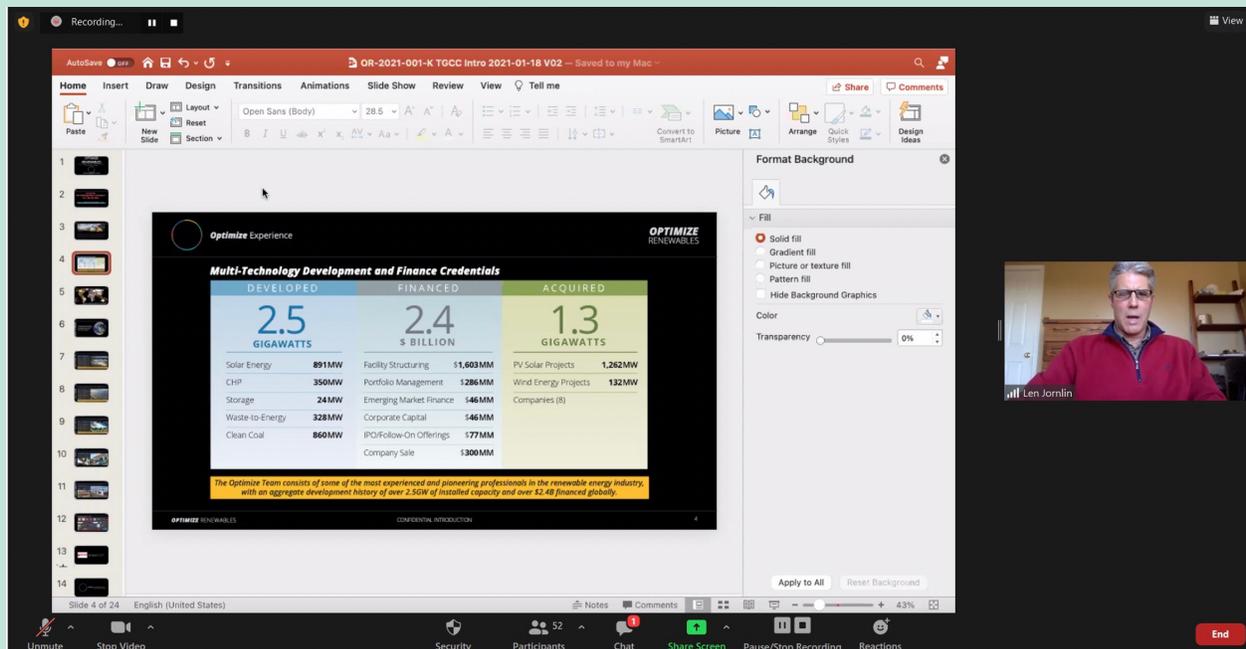


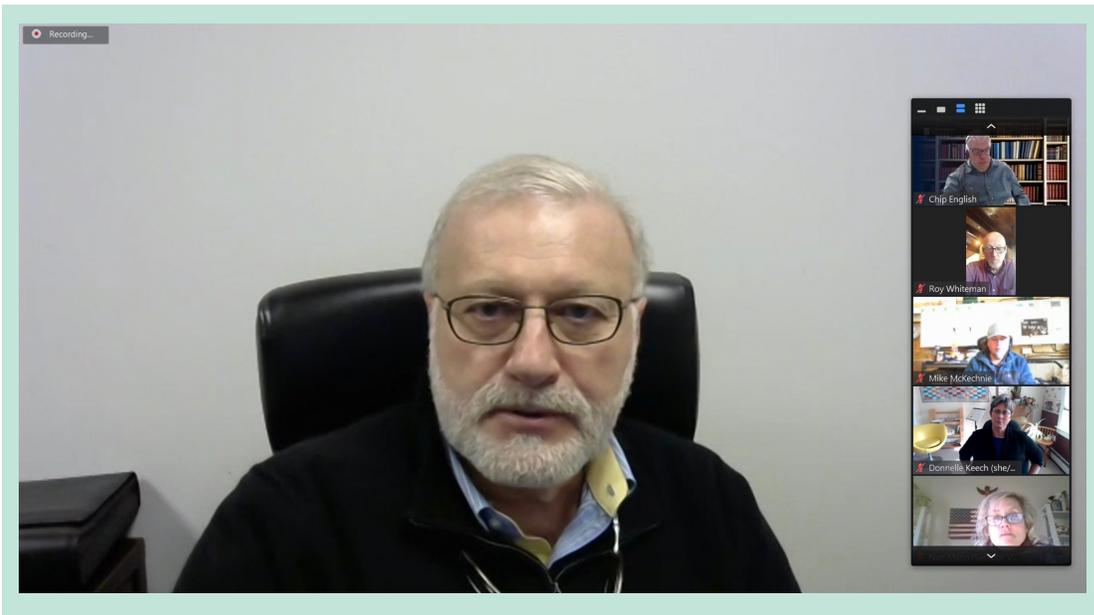


Frostburg State University's Energy Innovation Entrepreneur-in-Residence Initiative



This month, at our January 2021 Zoom Speaker Series, we featured Frostburg State University's Energy Innovation Entrepreneur-in-Residence, an ambitious new initiative led by Al Delia, FSU's Vice-President for Regional Development & Engagement, and Len Jornlin the Co-Founder and CEO of Optimize Renewables, a western Maryland based renewable energy developer and financier.

The program consists of three distinct components: workforce development, software platform development, and project development. The Appalachian Workforce Training and Renewable Energy Project Collaborative, a public-private partnership (P3), headquartered in the ABC building in Frostburg, is a unique consortium of universities, non-profits, and Maryland business and training experts who have come together in support of Governor Hogan's goal for an aggressive workforce training and job creation initiative in Western Maryland. The goal of this program is not only to provide workforce training in the clean energy industries, but to also orchestrate actual renewable energy and resiliency projects and blended financing with local municipalities, as well as in the regional private sector where training program beneficiaries will ultimately be employed. It is this linking of workforce development training to actual real world, real-time projects which makes this workforce development effort notable. Projects may include a blend of technologies including Solar, Cogeneration, Energy Storage, Wind, Biogas/Biofuels, Geothermal, and Free-flow Hydropower. With a planned laboratory on the campus of Frostburg State, Optimize and its partners will introduce students to pioneering product, service and financing developments in real-world markets.



“It is FSU’s goal to create synergy among a variety of advanced technology areas, chief among them energy. Using the FSU campus as a catalyst, focal point and test bed, we want to foster adoption of all renewable energy to improve efficiency, resiliency, savings and environmental

stewardship. As part of that effort, we want to educate both students and community leaders about the possibilities, help train the workforce to install and maintain renewable energy - from EV charging stations, to solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and an all of the above microgrid development. The initial step by FSU was to name Len Jornlin as Clean Energy Entrepreneur-in-Residence to work with the community, with faculty and with students to advocate and help disseminate these technologies. Together, we have been successful in winning a Maryland Energy Administration planning grant for a microgrid on campus. Those plans are in the final stretch and will be complete this Spring. We expect to move those plans to the implementation phase once completed. This innovative program makes Frostburg State the regional hub for energy innovation and a model for Western Maryland and the Appalachian region.” – Al Delia

Director’s Report

- Our February 10th 2021 Zoom Speaker Series will feature The Nature Conservancy and the American Forest Foundation with a focus on environmental stewardship and their exciting new initiative, The Family Forest Carbon Program. Join us to learn how this unique program is unlocking the power carbon offset markets to improve forest health, fight climate change, benefit landowners and support local economies in our region. A calendar invite and Zoom link will be forwarded soon.
- Congrats to our member, Laurel Renewable Partners, LLC, for the recent announcement by Governor Justice of the start of construction of the Black Rock Wind Farm and the repowering of the Pinnacle Wind Farm - a combined 2021 investment of almost \$290M. Black Rock will pay approximately \$5.7M in property taxes over the life of the project and create up to 200 construction phase jobs and 6-10 permanent jobs. It will also invest \$50k a year to support local nonprofits. To view the press conference visit - YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pKKZtq7RuME>. This project aligns with TGCC's goal to support development of the region's emerging renewable energy sector.

Upcoming Events

North/South Core Work Group - February 2 and 16, 9:00am, *Zoom*
I-68 Regional Alliance - February 10, 2:00pm, *Zoom*
Education & Workforce Development - February 11, 9:30am, *Zoom*

February Zoom Speaker Series - February 10, Noon, *Zoom*
Executive Committee - February 11, 9:30am, *Zoom*
Energy & Natural Resources - February 18th, 10:00am, *Zoom*