

# Growing Wayne County with Wind Energy

Luke Virgil, *Wayne County Economic Development*

Andrew Offner, *Winside Public Schools*

Don Rohde, *Wayne County Landowner*

Nate Simpson, *Northeast Community College*

**Moderator:** John Hansen, *Conference Chair*



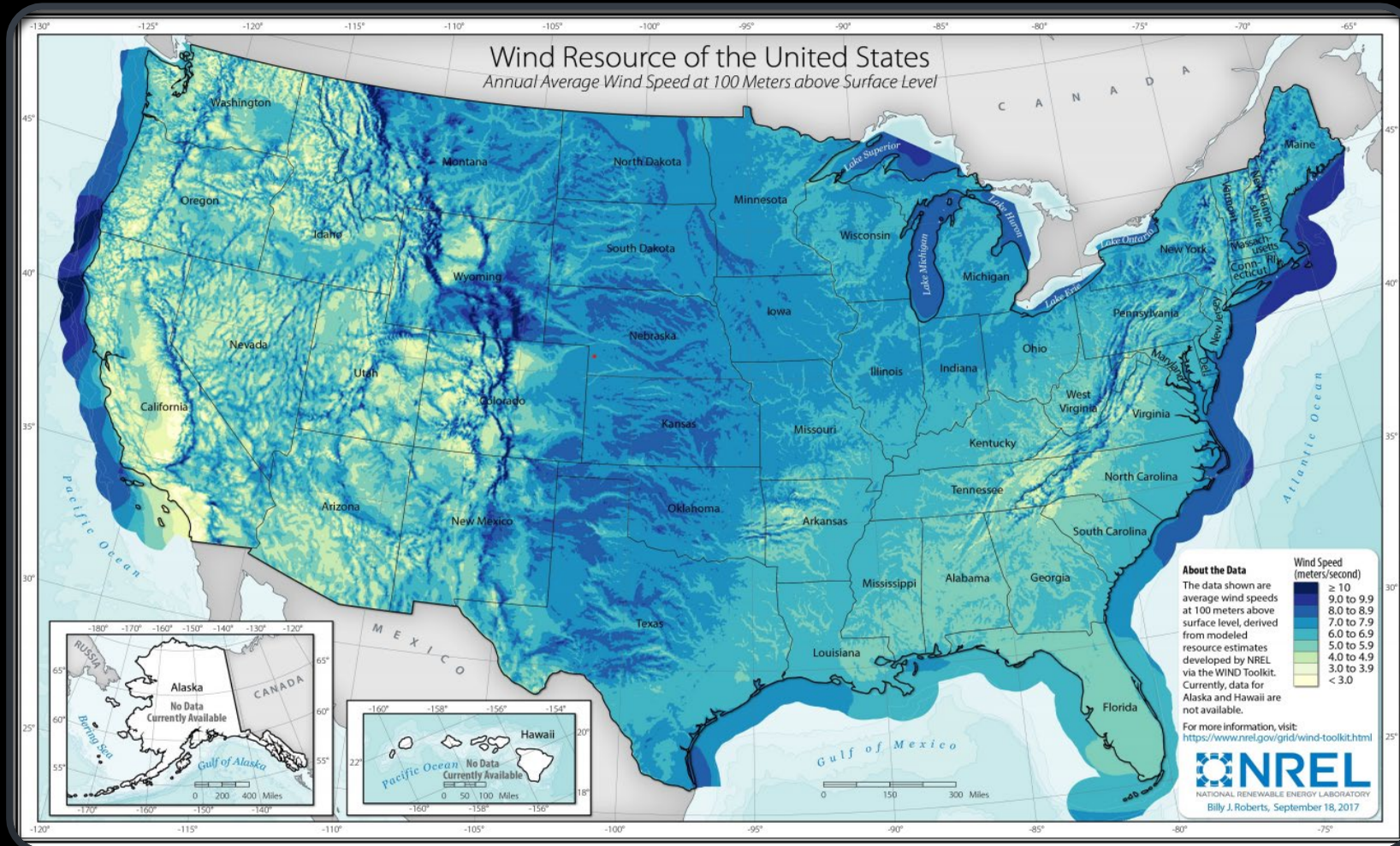
Nebraska  
Wind & Solar  
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

# **WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AT NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

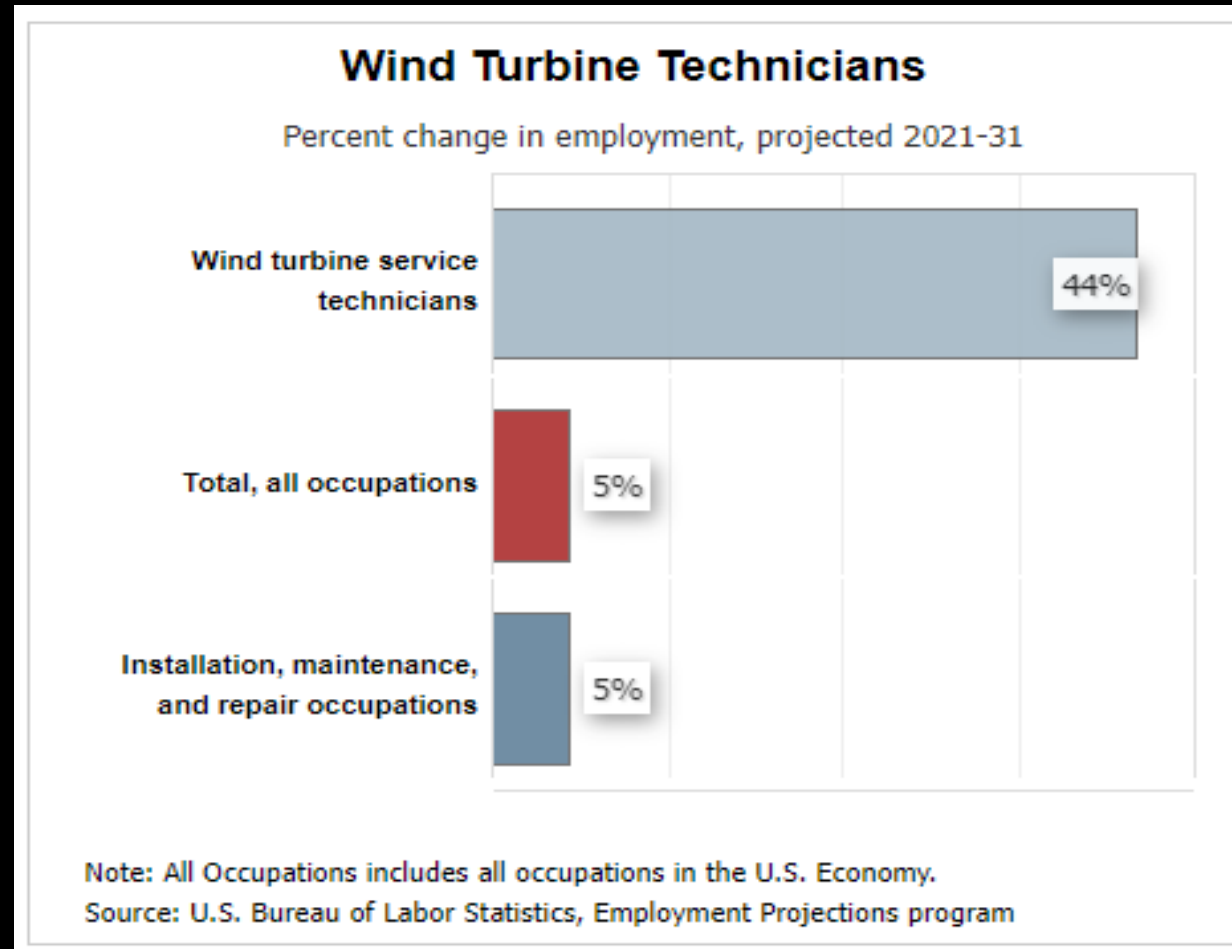
LOCAL STUDENT POSITIONS AND WAGES

**Northeast**  
community college

# NE NEBRASKA IS PRIME AREA TO BE A WIND TECHNICIAN



# PROJECTED INCREASE IN TECH POSITIONS



# WIND ENERGY GRADUATE EMPLOYERS

---

- GE RENEWABLE ENERGY
  - Plum Creek, Wayne Co. and Broken Bow II, Custer Co.
- NEXTERA ENERGY
  - Sholes Windfarm, Wayne Co.
- SIEMENS GAMESA
  - Haystack Windfarm, Wayne Co.
- NORDEX ACCIONA
  - Rattlesnake Creek, Dixon Co.
- VESTAS
  - Grande Prairie, Holt Co.
- INVENERGY
  - Upstream, Prairie Breeze II, III, Thunderhead, Antelope, Boone, and Wheeler Co.
- CLEARWAY ENERGY
  - Laredo Ridge, Boone Co. and Broken Bow I, Custer Co.
- NPPD
- RENEW ENERGY MAINTENANCE
- NRG ENERGY

# CLIMBING / RESCUE TRAINING



# RESCUE TRAINING



# NACELLE TRAINING

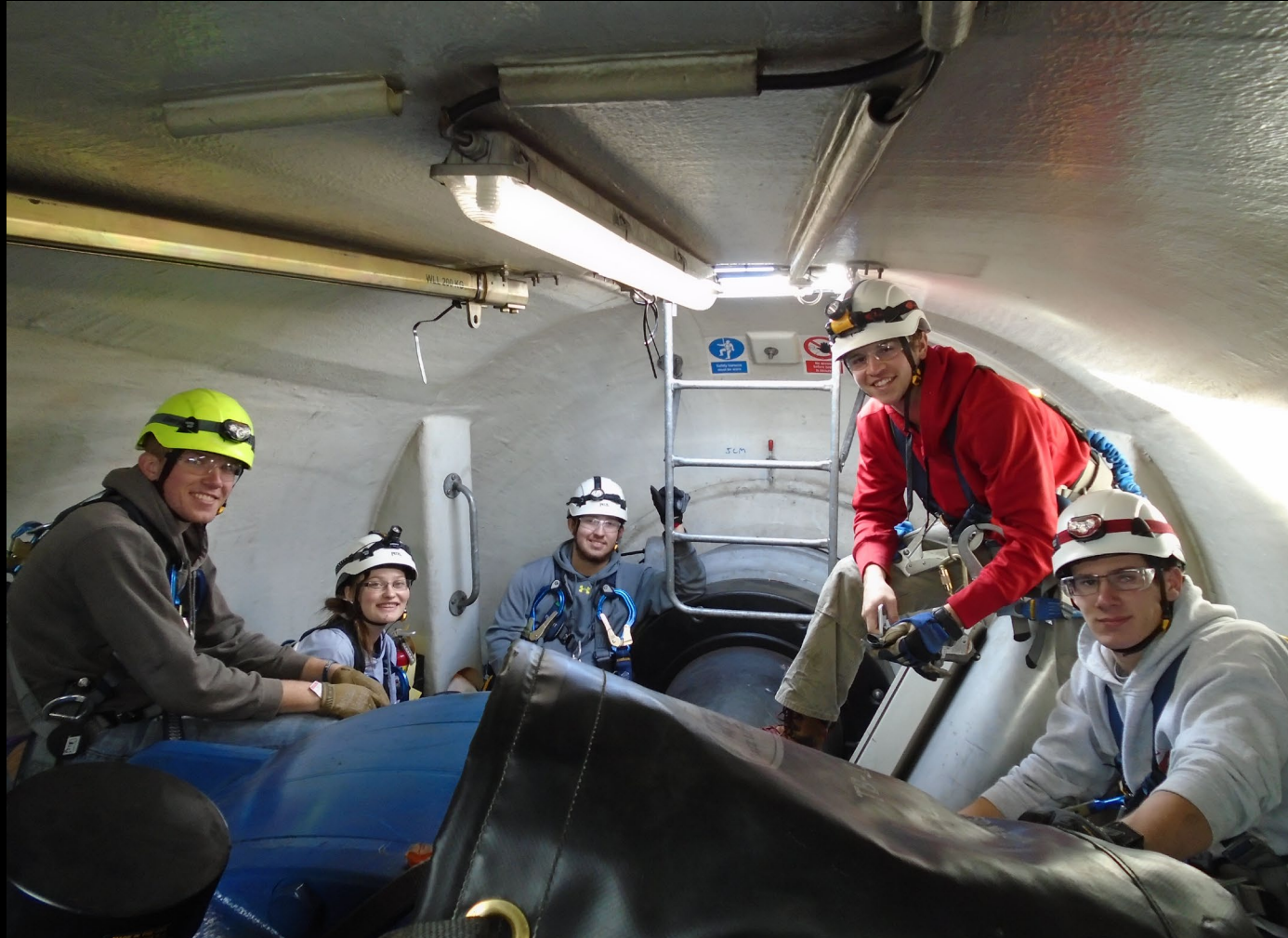




# RAPELLING TRAINING



# LOCAL SITE TOURS



# MECHANICAL TRAINING



# ELECTRICAL TRAINING



# *CAMPUS TOWER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR*



# *CAREERS COMPARABLE TO WIND TECHNICIANS*

---

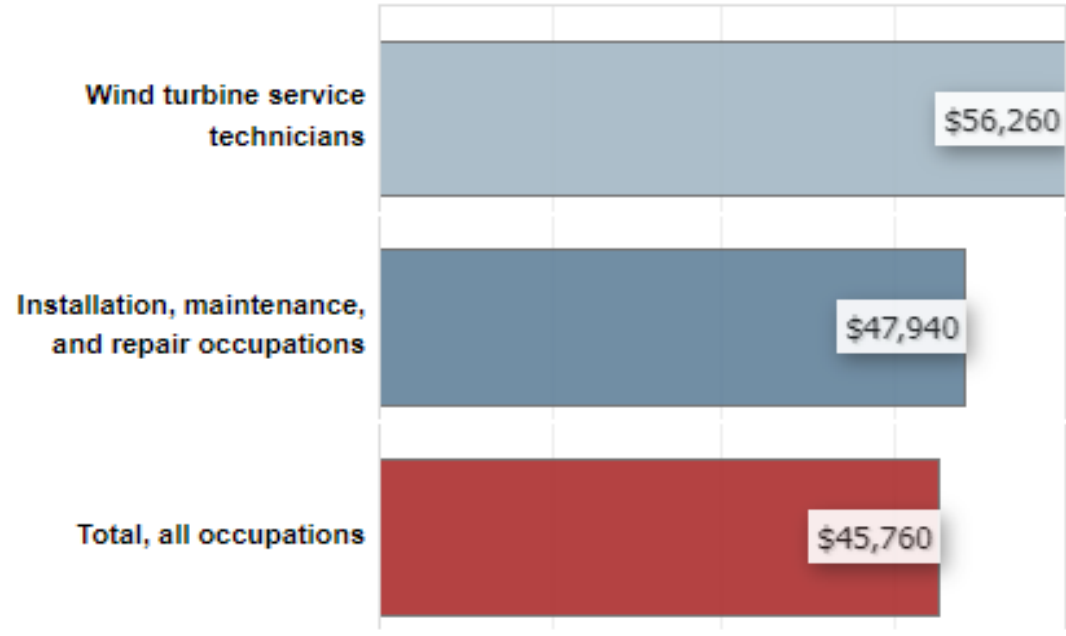
- ELECTRICIANS
- MECHANICS
- INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICIANS
- ELECTRONIC REPAIR TECHNICIANS
- SUBSTATION / UTILITY TECHNICIANS



# WAGE COMPARISON

## Wind Turbine Technicians

Median annual wages, May 2021



Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics



# Technician Wages by Positions

Nextera Energy / Sholes Windfarm  
Wayne Co.

- *Tech 3 - \$50,000 base salary*
  - *1 year diploma*
- *Tech 2 - \$55,000 base salary*
  - *1 year diploma, 2 years of experience*
- *Tech 1 - \$65,000 base salary*
  - *2 year degree, 5 years experience*



# Technician Wages by Positions

GE Energy / Plum Creek Windfarm  
Wayne Co.

- *Maintenance Tech - \$35,000 base salary*
- *Wind Tech - \$45,000 base salary*
- *Senior Tech - \$55,000 base salary*
- *Senior Lead Tech - \$80,000 base salary*
  - *2 year degree, 4 years experience*



# QUESTIONS?

---

