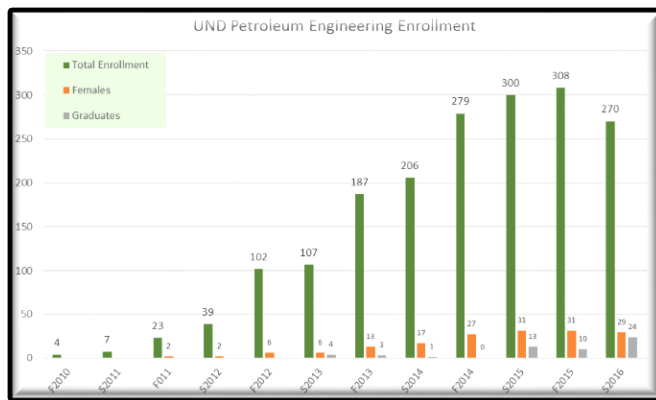


UND Petroleum Engineering: Fueling the Demand of North Dakota's Oil and Gas Industry

By: Jeff Kummer

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There is a blossoming program at the University of North Dakota, aspiring to fulfill the technical needs and unlock future technology for the oil and gas industry at home and around the globe. The UND Petroleum Engineering program, started in 2010, graduated its first four students in 2013 and today has enrollment of 270 students studying this discipline. The program, led by Dr. Vamegh Rasouli has



embraced its juxtaposition with the prolific oil and gas development in the Williston Basin, of western North Dakota, to bring a unique focus for the program on unconventional resource play development and increasing ultimate hydrocarbon recovery. “Although our students are studying on the opposite side of the state we feel very connected to the industry and find it fitting that the state has a program to complement one of its’ leading industries. The program’s Industry Advisory Council plays a critical role in this partnership

and it is our goal, in turn, to support industry with well-rounded students after graduation and laboratories suited to perform real-world research meeting the current demands of industry,” says Dr. Rasouli. “Hess Corporation is proud to support the UND Petroleum Engineering program, which features real-world research and is on track to become a premier engineering school,” states Steve McNally, General Manager of Hess Corporation’s North Dakota operations. McNally adds, “This investment in higher education is part of our commitment to make a positive impact on the communities where we do business and UND is playing a key role in helping to build rewarding careers that in turn will further strengthen the state economy for years to come.” The addition of a Petroleum Engineering program, in Grand Forks, is a natural fit for a university already home to the state’s Core Library along with the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC). “A vibrant Petroleum Engineering program here at UND creates unique partnership opportunities for the EERC, its private and governmental clients, and for the students and faculty – truly a win-win-win-win,” states John Harju, Vice President of the EERC.

For current and future students, the opportunity is immense and flexible. While the majority of the traditional students studying on campus are from North Dakota and adjoining states, the program offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity as well for an online education. Currently, there are 114 distance students earning their petroleum engineering degree online, most of whom are already working in the industry. The program also has a global footprint through collaboration with China University and Norwegian Universities offering students the opportunity for exchange programs and international industry exposure. Finally, to add another unique characteristic is the Petroleum Engineering Certificate Program, launched in 2016, which provides anyone the opportunity to take individual industry related courses to broaden their knowledge base in the oil and gas business. Joel Brown, Operations Engineer with McKenzie

Energy Partners and a member of the first graduating class of UND's Petroleum Engineering program says, "Growing up in Watford City, ND and obtaining a degree in petroleum engineering from a local university was exceptional. I am now raising my family and working for a local North Dakota company, in my hometown."

Recent UND Petroleum Engineering Graduate Employment

Company	Location	Company	Location
McKenzie Energy Partners	Watford City, ND	Marathon Oil Company	Mandan, ND
Basic Energy	Stanley, ND	Marathon Oil Company	Kenedy, TX
Marathon Oil Corporation	Minot, ND	University of North Dakota	Grand Forks, ND
Hunt Oil Company	Minot, ND	McKenzie Energy Partners	Watford City, ND
Baker Hughes	Dickinson, ND	Hathaway LLC	Bakersfield, CA
Hess Corporation	Tioga, ND	American Lotus Consulting	Pittsburgh, PA
Hess Corporation	Minot, ND	University of North Dakota	Grand Forks, ND
Marathon Oil Corporation	Minot, ND	Fives Cinetic Landis	Washington D.C.
Marathon Oil Corporation	Grand Forks, ND	Black Bear Resources	Bismarck, ND
Anadarko Petroleum	Denver, CO	Crescent Point Energy	Williston, ND
MBI Energy Services	Watford City, ND	Creedence Energy Services	Williston, ND

The University of North Dakota offers students a great college experience with the comfort of a small community, world class sport programs, and an exceptional education. The addition of the petroleum engineering program on campus undeniably enhances the offering of the university and the great state of North Dakota. "This is not your traditional petroleum engineering program. I encourage anyone, young or old, interested in the oil and gas industry to explore the opportunities this program has to offer. Unconventional resource play development is here to stay and there is a generation of professionals needed to further develop and explore new opportunities right here in our back yard," concludes Jeff Kummer, Chairman of the Industry Advisory Council to the UND Petroleum Engineering program.