



INL's Center for Advanced Energy Studies spokeswoman Kortny Rolston (right) described the program to lawmakers and capitol visitors during the recent INL Day at the Legislature.

Lawmakers learn about lab energy, security, cleanup during INL Day

By [Marilyn Whitney](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

For one day in February, Idaho's newly renovated capitol building became a bastion of energy and security research information. Lawmakers, lobbyists and citizens alike learned about Idaho National Laboratory research, programs and missions during INL Day at the Legislature.

Displays highlighting INL's nuclear energy advances, critical infrastructure protection systems, economic development programs, technology deployment and education programs circled the capitol's fourth-floor rotunda.

Throughout the day, INL staff, along with representatives from the [Idaho Cleanup Project](#) (ICP) and the [Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project](#) (AMWTP), greeted visitors and legislators and answered questions about INL.

"We made a lot of connections with people," said Harold Blackman, director of INL's [Center for Advanced Energy Studies](#), a partnership with the state's three public universities. "They wanted to hear about CAES, talk about CAES and learn how to partner with CAES."

Legislators, elected officials and guests also gathered for INL's annual legislative luncheon. The program "[E5 - Energy, Environment, Education, Economy & Excellence](#)" provided INL contractors with the opportunity to update state lawmakers on progress and developments at the laboratory.



INL Industrial Control Systems spokeswoman Sara Prentice (right) and INL Communications Director Amy Lientz discuss the program with Sen. Dean Mortimer.



State Sen. Shirley McKague and INL Energy & Environment Science & Technology spokesman Reuel Smith discuss Idaho's energy and water challenges.

INL Deputy Laboratory Director Dave Hill presented an overview of INL's diverse business base and significant economic impact to the state, noting that the laboratory is on track to achieve \$1 billion in business volume in Fiscal year 2010.

Hill highlighted INL's support of education through CAES and the [Energy Systems Technology Education Center](#) (ESTEC), a work-force development partnership with Idaho State University and Partners for Prosperity. INL's support of K-12 education has also benefited Idaho by contributing more than \$1.7 million in grants and program support over the past four years.

Hill stressed the importance of continued support for education, as organizations such as INL look to meet future work-force needs. "The thing that worries me most about the future," said Hill, "is that INL may not have the educated, skilled work force we need to carry out our mission."

ICP President John Fulton and AMWTP President Jeff Mousseau also updated legislators on key cleanup milestones and achievement toward those milestones.

ICP's cleanup work continues ahead of schedule and under budget, Fulton said. He noted that funding provided through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) saved or created 548 Idaho jobs and accelerated cleanup at the INL Site.

Mousseau told legislators that AMWTP's cleanup work is ahead of the milestones called for in the Idaho Settlement Agreement and noted that the project has shipped the largest amount of nuclear waste from any site in the DOE complex. AMWTP also benefited from ARRA funding, which created 52 new jobs for Idahoans.



INL manager Bob Neilson (right) and Idaho Technology Council President and CEO Jay Larsen discuss the logistics of making biofuels from crop waste.