# Technology Challenges in Designing the Future Grid to Enable Sustainable Energy Systems

## Workforce Development Challenges

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## **Changing Power & Energy World**



Growing Population, More Electronics



Rising Cost of Energy



Increasing Environmental Requirements



**Escalating Security Concerns** 



**Heightened Investor Demands** 

# Driving Technology:

- Carbon Management
- Electric Transportation
- Sustainability
- Distributed Sources
- Efficiency
- Modernization
- Reliability



## **Challenges: Big Picture Messaging**

- Big picture messaging
  - Connection to sustainability
  - Acknowledging societal costs
  - Linkage to global competition
  - Macro-benefits
  - What-if scenarios
- Audiences
- Implications
- Ownership



## **Challenges: Supply and Demand**

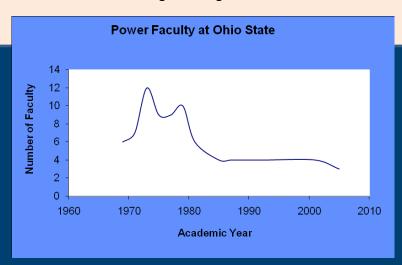
- Knowledge and quantification
- Outsourcing impact
- Productivity gains
- Believability
- Nimbleness
- Scenario planning
- Risk assessments
- Responsibility to measure
- Alignment ownership

"52 % of skilled technicians and engineers may need to be replaced in the next 10 years"

Source: 2011 CEWD Workforce Survey

Power engineering programs are weakening, declining, or ending

Source: IEEE Power Engineering Education Committee



## **Challenges: Education**

### Availability of programs

- Faculty demographics
- Monitoring of academic supply and demand
- Visibility of programs
- Research and workforce needs are not aligned
- Modular design

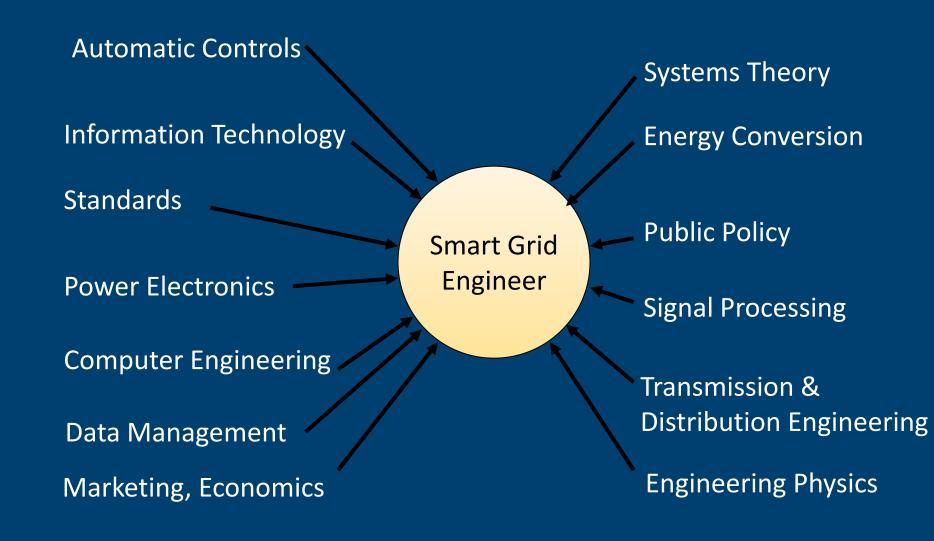
#### Industry participation

- Relevance
- Transitioning intellectual property
- Undergraduate specialization is becoming less prevalent

#### Curriculum development

- Acceptance of on-line teaching
- Institutional crosscollaboration
- Nimbleness to meet needs

## **Smart Grid is Multi-Disciplinary**



Source: Professional Resources to Implement the "Smart Grid" Gerald T. Heydt and others 2009 IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting

## **Challenges: Focus and Planning**

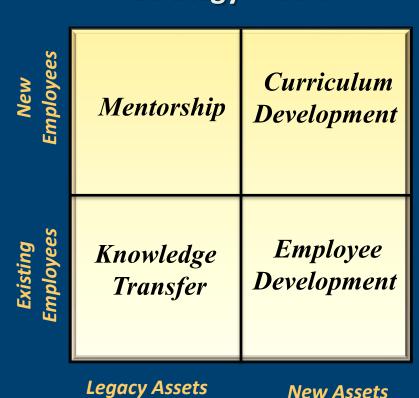
- Short-term business focus
  - Lack proactive hiring
  - Cut training programs
  - Do more with less mentality
  - Outsource
- Strategic visibility & planning
  - Competency definition
  - Succession planning
  - Retention
  - Diversity
  - Requirements for foreign nationals
  - Business risk quantification



## **Challenge: Managing the Transition**

- Monitor and develop skills
  - Tribal knowledge
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Existing and new employee development
- Consider new technologies and processes implications
- Limited time for mentoring
- Embracing diversity
- Foreign national implications
- Organizational silos
- Engineer ≠ Engineer

Workforce Transition
Strategy Matrix



## Challenges: Awareness, Collaboration

- Identity?
- Outreach, role models
- Collaboration, leveraging and scaling
- Tools and timing
- Ownership
- Roles



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### Conclusion

- Business is changing: workforce needs to evolve
- Challenges:
  - Big picture messaging
  - Supply and demand alignment
  - Education: availability, curriculum, industry involvement
  - Multi-disciplinary recognition
  - Visibility, planning, short-term focus
  - Collaboration and awareness
- Opportunities for government, educators and industry
- Managing the transition is CRITICAL!