

**U.S. Department of Energy  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
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## ***NETL NEWS***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 30, 2011**

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### **NETL Awards Fellowship to Local Student**



**Morgantown, WV** —The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) recently awarded a Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program (MELF) internship to Yael Tucker. Ms. Tucker grew up in Morgantown and is an environmental science and molecular genetics doctorate student at West Virginia University.

In support of NETL's contributions to Natural Gas and Oil Exploration, Ms. Tucker examined bacterial diversity in Marcellus shale flowback water. Specifically, the project determined best way to isolate DNA from deep subsurface water samples for sequence analysis. It also determined what kinds of bacteria survive in deep saline environments, as well as their possible environmental roles and impacts. Lastly, it explored better methods for acquiring natural gas in a safe and efficient way.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE) offers the MELF internships. The 10 week fellowship provides interns with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience on real energy-related projects. Qualified students are provided with an insider's view to the Federal government, with the aim of encouraging them to consider future employment with FE. By offering a combination of professional experience and economic incentive, the internships support FE efforts to strengthen and diversify the future workforce available to government institutions and their support contractors.

NETL is a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory that produces technological solutions to America's energy challenges. For more than 100 years, the laboratory has focused on developing tools and processes to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to the American people. Three NETL research sites—Albany, Ore., Morgantown, W.Va., and Pittsburgh, Pa.—conduct a broad range of energy and environmental research and development activities that support DOE's mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.

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