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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

NewsRelease

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AWWA, Water Environment Federation release 'competency model' to encourage water careers

Washington D.C. – The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), two of the largest water and wastewater national associations, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Environmental Protection Agency, released the Water Sector Competency Model, which defines the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities, for prospective water professionals and encourages careers in the water sector.

The Water Sector Competency Model, posted at <http://careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/pyramid.aspx?WS=Y>, is designed to increase the pool of certified and experienced water sector professionals through a variety of training and career advancement solutions.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), worked with AWWA, WEF, and EPA to guide and finalize the documentation required to showcase the water sector competency model as a resource for the workforce challenges facing high-growth industries. AWWA and WEF are committed to supporting the competency-based training and certification in the water sector to ensure experienced and certified water sector professionals are available to support public water systems and waste water treatment plants in the future.

AWWA is supporting the initiative by engaging in a three-year research project that supports the improvement of the water sector competency model. AWWA and WEF were both instrumental in the development of the Water Sector Competency Model.

“The release of the Water Sector Competency Model represents an important moment in assuring the water sector has enough well-trained and committed professionals in the years ahead,” said AWWA President Craig Woolard.

“The Water Sector Competency Model is just what we need to attract the new generation of professionals to green jobs necessary for the sustainability of our water infrastructure,” said Peter S. Silva, Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Water.

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AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of water in North America and beyond. AWWA advances public health, safety, and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the entire water community. Through our collective strength, we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.

WEF is a non-profit association that provides technical education and training for thousands of water quality professionals who clean water and return it safely to the environment. WEF's 36,000 individual members as well as 75 affiliated member associations have represented water quality professionals who daily proudly protect public health, serve their local communities, and support clean water worldwide since 1928.