## HISPANICS IN ENERGY VIRGINIA CHAPTER LAUNCH HIGHLIGHTS



From left to right, Board Members: Oscar Villatoro, Joshua Bell, Fabricio Montesdeoca, Monica Gorena, Marlu Deverick, Maria Pia Tamburri, Genesis Alvarez, Estefan Abogabir, Aaron Crespin and Wilson Davalos.

## ABOUT HIE VIRGINIA CHAPTER

After months of hard work, the Virginia chapter of Hispanics in Energy officially launched on January 31 of this year. The organization has received incredible support from the Hispanics in Energy National Chapter, the Virginia State Government, The Department of Energy, and a host of energy companies throughout the state. Hispanics In Energy (HIE) is a nonprofit organization created to propel Hispanics inclusion within the energy industry. As a newly founded chapter, Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter (HIE-VA), is looking to expand on the great work and service being done at the national level.



## SPREADING THE WORD: HISPANICS IN ENERGY ENGAGE WITH VCU STUDENTS AT SHPE VCU EVENT

Over the past few months, our organization has focused on raising awareness about the opportunities offered by Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter. We have achieved this through educational initiatives, school visits, and by sharing our mission with organizations and professionals across various industries. On April 16, two members of our organization collaborated with Dominion Energy's HOLA Employee Resource Group (ERG), to deliver a presentation at Virginia Commonwealth University. Presenters explained the organization's mission and benefits, as well as what it means to be an engineer and a typical day in the life of an engineer. If you are interested in participating and helping us spread the word in the future, please contact us at: **info@hispanicsinenergyvirginia.com** 









# WIND & SOLAR ENERGY WORKSHOP File Middle School

On February 2, HIE-VA member Francisco Morera and Dominion Energy employee Gloria Bull, participated in a community outreach program at Elko Middle School in Sandston, Virginia. The presenters met with two different classes where students learned about solar and wind energy and the exciting career opportunities these fields offer.



#### **CONNECTING ENERGY PROFESSIONALS:**

#### Recap of HIE-VA's First Networking Event

Success is said to be built on meaningful connections, which is why Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter places a strong emphasis on networking with professionals in the energy industry. On April 19, HIE-VA had the opportunity to do just that. Approximately 15 members of our organization gathered at Capital Ale House in Innsbrook to connect with each other and explore various opportunities within our fields. It was a fantastic chance for everyone to mingle over delicious appetizers and drinks. This event was sponsored by HIE-VA. We look forward to hosting similar gatherings in the near future. Stay tuned!



#### Stay connected!

Follow us on LinkedIn to keep up with the latest updates.

#### **COMING UP!**

#### **Tuesday September 3**

HIE-VA Board Member Meeting

#### **Thursday September 12**

**Engineering Enrichment Event: Offshore** Wind Project & Fall Network Event

#### Wednesday, October 30

Engineering Enrichment Event: Dynamic Line Ratings

#### November 14, 2024

Second General Body Meeting of 2024



**HIE-VA FIRST GENERAL BODY MEETING 2024** 

## A GROWING COMMUNITY

On May 30, members of the Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter gathered at the **Dominion Energy Innsbrook** Technical Center in Glen Allen, Virginia, for our first general body meeting since the chapter's launch. Attendees heard from HIE-VA's President Fabricio Montesdeoca and Michel Zajur, President of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, board members had the opportunity to provide an update on the progress of the organization. Our next general body meeting will take place on November 14, 2024.

### Hispanics in Energy Legis<mark>lative Conference at</mark>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Hispanics in Energy Virginia chapter members traveled to Washington DC for the 2024 Energy Legislative Conference, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, on February 28. The event featured keynote presentations and panel discussions with congressional members and top-level utility and energy executives, aiming to provide a factual backdrop for—and facilitate productive discourse regarding—the urgent need for more significant Hispanic equity in our nation's energy sector. Maria Pia Tamburri, the founder of HIE-VA, was granted the Outstanding Achievement Award, recognizing her efforts in starting the organization.

Reflecting on this accomplishment, Tamburri stated "I am proud to have worked with such talented colleagues to establish the Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter (HIE-VA Chapter). The HIE-VA Chapter will lead the way to raise awareness of the many opportunities for Hispanics in the energy industry. Looking forward to all the great things we are going to accomplish in the future to increase Hispanic representation."





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## Congratulations Openesis!

At HIE-VA we are proud of the accomplishments of our members. We are excited to recognize Genesis Alvarez for winning the "Originality" prize at the 2024 SHEro Awards. These awards, part of Dominion Energy's Women's Conference, honor employees who impactfully overcome challenges, demonstrate exceptional care for others, and drive change both in the workplace and beyond. Genesis was born in Hollywood, Florida and is of Cuban and Ecuadorian descent. She completed her undergraduate studies in electrical engineering at Florida Atlantic University in 2016 and went on to earn her master's degree in the same field from Virginia Tech in 2019. She is an Engineer III for Dominion Energy in the Electric Transmission Operations Team. Way to represent Genesis!

# DOMINION ENERGY'S HOLA ERG AND SHPE DC JOIN HIE-VA FOR POSTER SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, DC

On May 24, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) in Washington, DC, collaborated with Dominion Energy's Employee Resource Group, HOLA, and Hispanics in Energy Virginia Chapter (HIE-VA) for an enriching event. The gathering featured a keynote address, an engaging panel discussion, and a poster contest showcasing the research of graduate students. Following the winner's awards ceremony, attendees enjoyed a networking session with refreshments. The event attracted around 22 participants from the DMV area.





