

# The Water Futures Collaborative

Lead Organization: University of Minnesota  
Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Marr  
Project Budget: \$200,000

## Project Team

- ❖ University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- ❖ Natel Energy, Inc.

## Program Goal

Cultivate new pathways for local environmental justice communities and under-represented learners to move into sustainable water and waterpower careers.

## Program Overview

### Participant Recruitment

#### Engage | Invite | Welcome

**Engage** with disadvantaged and underrepresented student groups at UMN Twin Cities.

**Invite** energetic, curious, collaborative, intelligent, hopeful students to apply.

**Welcome** high-quality applicants to participate in the Collaborative

### Impacts for participants:

- Increase knowledge on water, innovation, entrepreneurialism, hydropower
- Exposure to a range of careers in water and energy fields as well as mentor relationships with professionals

### For underserved student communities:

- Increase participation and success of community-members in water-focused careers
- Support understanding of community-led research and it's impact on ecological justice communities.

## 2022 Summer Program

### WaterLabs



10 week water curriculum

Field trips, tours

Career development, Mentors

Core focus on hydropower

### Innovation Project



Develop small hydro innovation

Team based design project

Staff Mentors assist with project

Project continued over school year

### Building Pathways



Facilitated conversations

Explore challenges and barriers limited participation

Student participants and team staff members



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