

Building A Robust Workforce in Electric Power Engineering by Democratizing Technical Education



Dear Friends,

Good morning and welcome to this workshop. Thank you for taking the time away from your busy schedule to be here to share vision, and we are very grateful for that. I know most of you on a first-name basis and wish I was here to greet you personally. Unfortunately, I am going through some medical challenges, but with God's Grace, I will have a second chance; please keep me in your prayers.

What we have here is a team effort, and it's a BIG BIG team. I wish to thank every team member individually, but time doesn't permit it. Therefore, I will focus on two. First, CAPT Petersen from ONR. CAPT Petersen has a similar vision, that is, how important education is in our field. He has continuously supported and guided us for the last ten years. I would be remiss not to mention Terry Ericson of ONR, who retired, and shortly after, CAPT Petersen became our Program Officer. Terry recognized early on that educating a large number of students in our field, simultaneously with a first-rate education, is a matter of national security concern.

Would you believe that our first ONR grant was in 2004? That was almost twenty years ago! The second person I would like to thank is my colleague Siddharth Raju reading this note. Sidharth is the heart and soul of our efforts and doing amazing things. I am not kidding and get ready to be amazed!

Incidentally, for an old professor like me, there is nothing better than seeing former students on a rocket trajectory, overtaking in just a few years!

I wish you a highly productive workshop in identifying our next steps. I am sure you will have a great networking experience with your fellow attendees of such stellar accomplishments, simultaneously with lots of fun - breakfast burritos and green chili!

In summary, I thank you very kindly for giving us this opportunity and my personal best regards.

Ned Mohan