



MichiganTech

SFI Speaker Series

April 8

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Integration of Electric
Generation Resources
for the Next Generation
Utility: Bringing Wind
Energy onto the Grid

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www.sfi.mtu.edu

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SFI CHRONICLE

Highlights of Current Research and Education Projects

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SFI Shares Funding for Biofuel Research Center



Michigan Tech and Michigan State received \$1.4M from the US Department of Energy to establish a new Forestry Biofuel Statewide Collaboration Center to focus on cellulosic biofuels a commercial reality. SFI deputy director **David Shonnard** (ChemEng), who leads the new center, commented that this funding "will help solidify the SFI-MSU collaboration to help industry partners commercialize production of forest-based biofuels, bioenergy and bioproducts." He added that "Our collective goals are to create profitable enterprises, increase jobs, reduce

emissions, and promote energy independence."

Shonnard holds the Robbins Chair of Sustainable Materials and is a lead researcher in a \$2 million state-funded Center of Energy Excellence (CoEE), another collaborative effort of Michigan Tech, Michigan State and Frontier Renewable Resources.

New Center research will be identified in collaboration with industry partners. In general, faculty and students will develop solutions to a variety of barriers to commercialization of bio-

fuels. They will inventory available forest feedstock; develop a feedstock supply chain model; explore the economic and environmental implications of biofuel technology; continue innovation in forest cultivation, harvesting and energy conversion processes; support technology transfer and develop sustainability guidelines.

This new center is part of Michigan's Centers of Excellence Initiative in Alternative Energy in which for-profit companies team with universities to research, develop and commercialize technologies.