

**SFI weekly newsletter for the week of July 27, 2009**  
**A weekly service of SFI**



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3. Conte Lab Sturgeon research to visit Tech in the week of August 20<sup>th</sup>

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1. Special Sustainability Programming at Institute for Facilities Mgmt

## SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Friends of Sustainability can now give to SFI through the MTU Fund!



Alumni, Industry, and other Friends of Sustainability now have the opportunity to donate directly to the Michigan Tech Fund for Sustainable Futures Institute. The money will be earmarked for special student and faculty recognitions and sustainability activities, including such projects as the SFI Speaker Series, undergraduate and graduate student scholarships, awards for student posters depicting sustainability, student recognitions, student and staff travel and registration fees to sustainability conferences, webinar registrations, webpage design/updates, student support workers as well as various educational and social exchanges and research in the support of sustainability. Contributions will also allow SFI to sponsor or co-sponsor events at other organizations such as the Green Campus Enterprise and the

Environmental Sustainability Committee.

You can donate to SFI in two ways: Send a check to the Michigan Tech Fund and write SFI on the memo line, or you give online at the Michigan Tech Fund's webpage at <https://www.banweb.mtu.edu/mtu/mtf/gift/give.xsql> and complete the form. When it asks where you would like your contribution to go, (3rd option) type in the name of Sustainable Futures Institute. You can donate any amount of money. No amount is too large. Please consider giving to SFI yourself and please pass the word on to other alumni and friends of sustainability.



**World Usability Day**  
Making life easy!

**2. WUD-UP! World Usability Day  
in the Upper Peninsula at  
Michigan Tech**

WUD-UP! World Usability Day Comes to Houghton Houghton, MI – Usability: it's about making our world work better, making life easier and more "user-friendly." World Usability Day is an annual, International event that has grown globally over the past several years. Events take place in locations across the world: from Germany to Japan, from the Philippines to Iceland. And again this year, for only the second time, World Usability Day is coming to the Copper Country in November. Last year's theme was Usability in Transportation. This year's theme is Usability in Sustainability! Stay tuned for more information or contact Dr. Karla Kitalong [kitalong@mtu.edu](mailto:kitalong@mtu.edu) or call her at 487-3254. WUD Chapter or Company: Michigan Technological University

### 3. Conte Lab Sturgeon research to visit Tech in the week of August 20<sup>th</sup>

A Conte Lab Sturgeon researcher will be visiting Tech to meet with other folks who work with similar species/issues. Sturgeon passage/restoration is of particular interest here at present, given the endangered status of shortnose sturgeon, but also rising interest and efforts to pass lake sturgeon in the midwest (which we occasionally get involved with). The visitor will also be establishing links with universities with strong engineering programs (a big component and recruiting potential engineering or natural resources graduate students. Anyone interested in engineering and design of power plants and fish ladders please contact Nancy Auer.

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

### 1. Wood Chips by the Ton

With their new \$12 million modern fireplace -- although it's more akin to a high-tech wood stove--Middlebury College officials estimate that they cut their fuel use by 50 percent, and their carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent, by building a biomass gasification plant that went online in January.

"Green Ideas" InsideHigherEd July 31, 2009 <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/07/31/greenideas>

## 2. NSF Selects University of Michigan Historian to Head Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

While the National Science Foundation is best known for its grants in the physical sciences and technology, it is also a major player in the social sciences. Last week the foundation announced that Myron Gutmann, a historian at the University of Michigan and director of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, will head the NSF's directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. An article on the American Historical Association's Web site said: "It is most unusual for an historian to be appointed to this key position, so this appointment is a very welcome (and very well deserved) surprise." <http://blog.historians.org/news/845/myron-gutmann-appointed-head-of-nsf-directorate-for-social-behavioral-and-economic-sciences>

## 3. IBM Smarter Planet University Jam report

Michigan Tech participated in a three-day forum held in April that brought nearly 2,000 students and faculty together with IBM experts, clients and business partners to discuss ideas for a smarter planet. IBM is pleased to share with you the Jam report entitled "Jamming for a Smarter Planet" which features your thoughtful insights and ideas for innovation on complex global problems including pollution-free, inexpensive energy; the skills students need to compete in the globally integrated economy; environmental protection and water management; and advanced healthcare. In the report we also recognize our top student and faculty contributors from the Jam. Please visit [ibm.com/university/smartplanet\\_jam](http://ibm.com/university/smartplanet_jam) to read and download the Jam insights summary report, review the press release, and listen to podcast interviews with the top two faculty contributors and Jai Menon, vice president of technical strategy and university programs, IBM. Thank you again for your participation!  
[ibm.com/university](http://ibm.com/university)

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## FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

*To submit research proposals through the Sustainable Futures Institute, add "SFI" to the DEPT/CENTER/INSTITUTE(S) column for identifying the PI's and co-PI's. SFI Director, John Sutherland, will sign the transmittal sheet on page 3. (If John Sutherland is unavailable for signing transmittal sheets, Qiong (Jane) Zhang can also sign for SFI). Submitting proposals under SFI provides wider publicity and recognition for your research as well as a 10% return on your incentive account.*

### 1. BARD Research Proposals --United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund

Average Amount \$320,000 for a three year award.

Deadline Sep 08, 2009

BARD supports mission-oriented cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel  
Top priorities for the coming years.

- **Increased efficiency of agricultural production including sustainable development, efficient use of resources, economic evaluation of policies and regulatory issues, crops that yield higher value per unit, etc.**
- Protection of plants and animals against biotic and abiotic stress including pest genetics in biological environments, invasive species and emerging diseases, tolerance to drought, salinity, high temperature and nutrient stresses, etc.
- Food quality, safety and security including improved assessment and detection methods, food nutritive value in relation to human health, functional foods, ensured/increased quantity/supply, postharvest treatments, etc.
- Water quality and quantity including efficient use of low quality water (gray, black, saline), improved economic return for water in agriculture, crop response to soil and water quality, impact of nutrients on water quality, etc.
- Functional genomics and proteomics including production and protection traits, genetic optimization, increased yield, model systems, etc.
- Sensors and robotics linking biological phenomena with sensors or otherwise bridging into the field of bioengineering, nano-technology, precision agriculture, labor reduction, etc.
- Sustainable bio-energy systems including biofuel production systems, reduced energy costs, renewable resources, reduced greenhouse gases, diversified farm economy, etc.

Bookmark Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=15031>

### 2. Intercampus Travel Grants: UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program (TSR&TP at UC Davis

Amount: Awards are generally limited to up to \$1,000 for travel

Deadline: Continuous. Proposals are accepted throughout the year.

Requirements: Graduate Student Ph.D./M.D./Other Professional

Abstracts The UC Toxic Substances Research and Teaching Program (UC TSR&TP) announces the availability of funds for student travel for intercampus collaborations. TSR&TP invites graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in any discipline interested in initiating intercampus collaborations with individual program researchers or with existing or potential research groups or consortia involving projects related to UC TSR&TP research needs to submit applications for funding. TSR&TP wishes to especially encourage applicants who will interact with research groups that seek the means to develop preliminary data that will provide the basis for subsequent applications to extramural funding sources.

The TSR&TP meets bi-annually with its advisory committee to assess current and emerging research needs with particular attention given to needs within California. The following list is representative of high priority research needs; however, proposals that represent interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to any area of toxic substances research will be considered.

- Air pollution/ultrafine particles
- Alternative fuels and implications for toxic substances
- Biomonitoring/exposure assessment
- Environmental and health implications of nanotechnology
- Environmental contaminants from the biotechnology industry
- Flame retardants
- Green chemistry/pollution prevention
- Multiple chemical exposures at low doses
- Pharmaceuticals and personal care products
- Risk analysis
- Risk communication
- Toxics and recycled/desalinated water less..

URL for more info [http://www.tsrtp.ucdavis.edu/public/grants/current/Travel\\_RFP.php](http://www.tsrtp.ucdavis.edu/public/grants/current/Travel_RFP.php)

Email [lhstevenson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lhstevenson@ucdavis.edu)

Bookmark Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=46569>

### **3. NSF Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) - NSF 07-598**

Amount \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 (at least \$9,000,000 available for 7 to 12 awards)

Deadline Nov 17, 2009

Abstracts The CNH competition promotes quantitative, interdisciplinary analyses of relevant human and natural system processes and complex interactions among human and natural systems at diverse scales.

URL for more info [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13681](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13681)

Bookmark Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=101235>

### **4. Bioenergy - DOD Mathematics, Information and Life Sciences**

Amount: \$200 million is available for support of actions award through this BAA process. Awards average \$150,000 per year for up to five years. Awards may start any time during the fiscal year.

Deadline: Continuous.

The primary objectives of this program are to understand and improve the facility of certain microorganisms to produce biofuels, specifically molecular hydrogen and algal lipids, for use in fuel cells and airbreathing engines, and to utilize other complex or impure biofuels for use in compact power generation. The capacity to supply renewable hydrogen and jet biofuels on a macro-scale using biologically based systems will enable the military to power tanks, planes and ships at a predictable cost basis independent of foreign oil markets. On the other hand, microorganisms that produce electricity on the micro-scale using readily available complex or mixed biofuels could serve as portable compact power sources for such devices as remote sensors or future miniature unmanned air and land vehicles. This program supports research that explores the biochemical and molecular processes found in certain oxygenic phototrophs, such as microalgae and cyanobacteria, which enable them to generate molecular hydrogen and lipid biofuels when supplied with only water, carbon dioxide and light. Knowledge of the physiological, biochemical and genetic factors involved in limiting and augmenting production of these biofuels will be used to bioengineer photosynthetic organisms whose generation of hydrogen and lipid biofuels will be both highly efficient and controllable. Basic research in photosynthetic biochemistry, hydrogenase enzymology, and lipid biosynthesis is viewed as essential in accomplishing these objectives and, eventually, in developing the biotechnology needed to generate renewable, carbon-neutral supplies of lipid-derived jet fuels and fuel-cell hydrogen.

This program also supports research to enable the development of biofuel cells, both microbial and enzymatic, that can convert complex and impure fuel sources into electrical energy at sufficiently high power densities to be useful in portable devices. The idea is that biofuel cells will sustain their power by utilizing a wide range of fuel sources from the environment, such as ambient carbohydrates and macromolecules. Development of self-sustaining microbial or enzymatic biofuel cells will require understanding certain basic fundamental issues, including optimizing current production under variable conditions, biological mechanical energy storage, electron and proton transfer reactions and kinetics between enzymes/microbes and the electrode surface, theoretical modeling of mass transport in model biofuel cells, novel electrode designs, and enzyme engineering for faster catalysis. <http://www.wpaafb.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=8127>  
Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=115239>

### **5. NSF Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)**

Deadline Feb 26, 2010

Amount: \$30,000,000 for the first annual competition, \$20 million - \$30 million thereafter. ~40 awards 1st year

In addition, one CPS Virtual Organization (CPS-VO) will be funded at a level of up to \$200,000/year for up to five years.

No Cost Sharing

The Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) program is seeking proposals that address research challenges in three CPS themes: Foundations; Methods and Tools; and Components, Run-time Substrates, and Systems. Foundations research will develop new scientific and engineering principles, algorithms, models, and theories for the analysis and design of cyber-physical systems. Research on methods and tools will bridge the gaps between approaches to the cyber and physical elements of systems through innovations such as novel support for multiple views, new programming languages, and algorithms for reasoning about and formally verifying properties of complex integrations of cyber and physical resources. The third CPS theme concerns new hardware and software components, run-time substrates (infrastructure and platforms), and (engineered) systems motivated by grand challenge applications.

URL for more info <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08611/nsf08611.htm>

### **6. Statewide Biofuels Development Grants - 2008-2009 Request for Proposals from BioFuels Center of North Carolina**

Upper Amount \$200,000

Deadline Jan 15, 2010

The Biofuels Center of North Carolina seeks funding proposals that develop and identify cost effective feedstocks for biofuels production as compared to traditional agricultural practices. Projects that provide agricultural and forestry opportunity in North Carolina are encouraged:

URL for more info <http://www.biofuelscenter.org/index.cfm?page=content&scid=61&CategoryID=25>

Bookmark Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=116776>

### **7. DOE and USDA/CREES Biomass Research and Development Initiative**

\$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for 5-25 awards. The average award size for this program in FY 2007 was \$1.0 million.

cost share must be at least 20 %

Deadline ?

The objectives of this initiative are to develop

- technologies and processes necessary for abundant commercial production of biofuels at prices competitive with fossil fuels;
- high-value biobased products to enhance the economic viability of biofuels and power, to serve as substitutes for petroleum-based feedstocks and products, and to enhance the value of coproducts produced using the technologies and processes; and
- a diversity of economically and environmentally sustainable domestic sources of renewable biomass for conversion to biofuels, bioenergy and biobased products.

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=xJhJlFKIMjyGpt0n2MpGrkLM8xwyGTb2KTvJQ1R7t8FrPHfjyLM!492643356?oppld=45093&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

Bookmark Url <http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=117428>

### **8. NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC) Program**

Deadlines: Jun 26, 2009, Sep 25, 2009, Jan 01, 2010, Mar 06, 2010

The I/UCRC program develops long-term partnerships among industry, academe, and government. The centers are catalyzed by a small investment from the NSF and are primarily supported by industry center members, with NSF taking a supporting role in the development and evolution of the center. Each center is established to conduct research that is of interest to both the industry members and the center faculty. An I/UCRC not only contributes to the USA's research infrastructure base and enhances the intellectual capacity of the engineering and science workforce through the integration of research and education,

but also encourages and fosters international cooperation and collaborative projects. The participating NSF agencies are the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) and the Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) in the Directorate for Engineering (ENG).

<http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/fo2/getRec?id=26038>

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## **JOBS & POST DOCS & INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCOLARSHIPS and CFPs**

### ***1. CFP: The PhD Sustainability Academy--Design for Sustainability October 22-27, 2009***

**Deadline: August 15, 2009**

Richard Ivey School of Business  
The University of Western Ontario



We invite submissions based on emergent ideas and working manuscripts, or more advanced manuscripts that may already be under review but have not currently been

accepted for publication. All applicants must be currently enrolled in a doctoral program. Submissions on this year's theme are welcome, but we also welcome submissions on sustainability issues in strategy and policy, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics, environmental studies, and international business and international development. We are interested in different theoretical lenses, including management, economics, psychology, arts, philosophy, political studies, geography and sociology and diverse methodologies.

The PhD Sustainability Academy is hosted by the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and the Alliance for Research on Corporate Sustainability, in collaboration with the Research Network for Business Sustainability and the oikos Foundation for Economy and Ecology. There are no registration fees. In addition, thanks to the generous support of Great West Life's Tomorrow's Educator's Program, the 2009 PhD Sustainability Academy will cover all local expenses (accommodation, meals and excursions for the duration of the event) for invited participants. However, invited participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses to and from Windermere Manor, the conference venue in London, Ontario.

<http://www.ivey.uwo.ca/centres/building/outreach/PhDAcademy/>



### ***2. The Council of Great Lakes Governors seeking Program Associate/Manager to add to its staff in Chicago***

Established in 1983, the Council of Great Lakes Governors is a non-partisan partnership of Governors from each of the eight Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec. As part of the Council's project-oriented team, the Program Associate/Manager will coordinate and assist with work related to the environment including Great Lakes protection, restoration and water management. Specifically, the Program Associate/Manager will work on the Great Lakes Governors' Priorities Initiative, which is coordinating the Governors' shared efforts on Great Lakes protection and restoration. The Program Associate/Manager will also work on the Governors' Water Management Initiative including support for the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body

and the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council. As needed, assistance will be provided on projects related to regional economic development including international trade. This position requires the Program Associate/Manager to work in Chicago, Illinois. Bachelors' degree required. An advanced degree is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. For additional information, please visit: [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org)

### ***3. Specialist, Energy Education & Curriculum Development, MIT***

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Portugal Program seeks an individual to work with faculty teams in both Portugal and at MIT in the area of curriculum development for a new sustainable energy systems Ph.D. program in Portugal. This will include monitoring student progress, helping with the design of new subjects, and presenting subjects in the negotiation and urban planning area. Requirements include a Ph.D. in a field related to sustainable energy systems and at least two years of industrial and/or academic job experience. The position is open until filled. <http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175383213>

#### **4. Research Chair, Sustainable Northern Community Dev, Lakehead U**

Lakehead University (ON) invites applications from scholars in the social sciences and humanities to be considered for two Tier 2 Canada Research Chair positions in Sustainable Northern Community Development. Candidates will be expected to conduct and coordinate interdisciplinary social science research that addresses sustainable community development in Northern Canada. The research scope will include northern Ontario, with broader application to other provincial and circumpolar 'Norths'. The successful candidate will undertake applied research in communities confronting novel, rapidly changing, unpredictable, largely externally induced environmental, social, and economic situations. Applicants should have doctoral degrees, excellent research credentials, and a demonstrated record of or potential to attract external research funding. Review of applications will begin on October 1, 2009. <http://chronicle.com/jobs/000604721-01>

#### **5. Asst/Assoc Prof, Sustainable Landscape Horticulture, Cal Poly State U**

California Polytechnic State University seeks an Assistant or Associate Professor of Sustainable Landscape Horticulture. The projected start date for the tenure-track position is January 4, 2010. The review of applications will begin September 14, 2009 and the position will remain open until filled. <http://chronicle.com/jobs/000603384-01>

#### **6. Resources Intern, AASHE**

AASHE seeks an intern for the fall of 2009 to assist with the development of the AASHE Resource Center and to assist in various other duties in the Lexington, Kentucky office. Desired skills and qualifications include strong written and oral communication skills; strong internet research skills; attention to detail; self-motivated and able to work with limited supervision; collaborative; and has interest and experience in campus sustainability. The position is open until filled. [http://www.aashe.org/highlights/resource\\_intern.php](http://www.aashe.org/highlights/resource_intern.php)

#### **3. Organic Farmer Training Program Now accepting applications for 2010 Cohort of the the MSU Organic Farm**



The Organic Farmer Training Program is a 9 month intensive training program in year round organic farming focusing on diversified production of vegetables, flowers, fruits and herbs for local markets. Students engage in the management of the 10 acre certified organic farm including passive solar greenhouses used for year round production in cold climates and heated only by the sun. Students also engage in the management of SOF garden and field production for the farm's primary markets, including a 48week CSA, 6 month on campus farm stand, and sales to campus dining services. Students develop competencies in farm skills through skills trainings and by engaging in the day to day work and operation of the farm. Hands-on training is combined with workshops, lectures, readings, and assignments that build participants' knowledge and understanding of organic farming principles and practices. The program is designed to give participants a strong background in production skills as well as the knowledge, management, and decision making skills necessary to operate a diversified small farm.

Program participants include new and beginning farmers, urban and community farmers and gardeners, educators, and those interested in local or organic agriculture. Dates for 2010 are March 1st to November 19<sup>th</sup> for this full time intensive program Application review begins Sep 1.

[www.msuorganicfarm.org](http://www.msuorganicfarm.org)

#### **7. Registration Deadline Approaching - Greening of the Campus VIII**

September 20-23, 2009; Indianapolis, IN

Ball State University (IN) and AASHE invite registration for Greening of the Campus VIII: Embracing Change. Keynote speakers will include Frances Moore Lappé, author of Diet for a Small Planet; Geoff Chase, Dean of Undergraduate Studies at San Diego State University (CA); and Jerome Ringo, President of the Apollo Alliance. Other conference features will include pre-, post-, and in-conference workshops; a two-day tradeshow focused on environmentally sustainable and socially responsible products and services; panels, forums, and posters; and a networking reception with the Labs 21 conference. Early registration ends August 1, 2009. Discounts are available for students and AASHE members. <http://goc.iweb.bsu.edu/index.html>

### **8. Special Sustainability Programming at Institute for Facilities Mgmt**

September 10-14, 2009; Hilton Head Island, SC

APPA invites participants to its Institute for Facilities Management, a program that will feature special programming on Facilities Management Strategies for Campus Sustainability. The week-long session will offer courses on why and how the call to action on global climate change is being embraced by institutions of higher education; the current state of campus sustainability; the history of campus sustainability; APPA's recently published report in their Thought Leaders Series, "The Educational Professional's Practical Guide to Reducing the Campus Carbon Footprint;" managing campus energy; and how to measure sustainability performance of higher education institution

<http://appa.org/training/institute/index.cfm>

### **9. Ecologist, International Joint Commission**

This position is located in the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission , United States and Canada, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.



The Ecologist provides expert senior level science and policy advice related to ecology, ecosystem theory, environmental monitoring and surveillance, ecological indicators of condition, general biology and chemistry, environmental toxicology, and environmental and human health issues of emerging concern to the Commission; and integrates contemporary

ecological understanding into the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and other ongoing Commission responsibilities along the United States and Canada boundaries. Provides senior staff liaison, support, guidance, and advice to the Commission boards and other advisory bodies established to undertake work related to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Open until Friday, August 21, 2009. Full details can be found at Job Announcement Number AR271496 on USA Jobs. This position is located in the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission <[http://www.ijc.org/en/home/main\\_accueil.htm](http://www.ijc.org/en/home/main_accueil.htm)> , United States and Canada, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

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IJC-Announce mailing list

[IJC-Announce@mailman.ijc.org](mailto:IJC-Announce@mailman.ijc.org)

<http://mailman.ijc.org/mailman/listinfo/ijc-announce>

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### **NEW RESOURCES**



#### **1. Recovery.gov**

Go to [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov) for interactive maps listing the thousand of approved projects issued under various agency stimulus rewards. Recovery.gov features:

- \* Weekly updates of the agencies' funding notifications and financial and activity reports
- \* Map presenting state-by-state funding
- \* Graphs charting the weekly progress of agencies's made available and paid-out funds

- \* Map showing the recipients of funds and the resulting projects
- \* Written reports on the agencies' plans for where and how they'll spend the funds
- \* Information on Federal contracts, grants and loans
- \* A map illustrating the estimates of jobs to be created or saved and links to job information sites
- \* Links to State Recovery sites and other government Recovery sites
- \* Tools for the public to report for waste, fraud and abuse of recovery funds
- \* Oversight audits by the Inspectors General of each Agency

Recovery.gov will continue to evolve to reflect additional data as it is collected.

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## **EVENTS & CONFERENCES**

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