

Contact:
Michele Altman, CSS
ETA International
Phone: (800) 288-3824
Fax: (765) 653-4287

5 Depot Street
Greencastle, IN 46135
www.eta-i.org

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PRESS RELEASE

ETA International Assists US Department of Labor

ETA helps establish criteria to identify experts in Electronics Engineering Technologies to update US Department of Labor database with occupational information.

Greencastle, Dec. 30, 2014: ETA International was chosen to assist the Occupational Information Network (O*NET), the nation's primary source of occupational information, in the research for the USDOL's database of Electronics Engineering Technologies.

"ETA International helped by identifying experts in a specific occupation category," Jim Rose, Business Liaison, RTI International, said. "ETA establishes criteria to identify experts and Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, the subcontractor for the USDOL, conducts the research. Our success since 2001 is due to associations such as ETA International."

Central to the project is the O*NET database, containing information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. Information from this database forms the heart of O*NET OnLine, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations. The database also provides the basis for Career Exploration Tools, which is a set of valuable assessment instruments for worksite development professionals, workers and students looking to find or change careers.

O*NET Online, a free and open source, averages one million visits each month at <http://www.onetonline.org>. Users can now search for certifications, training, licensing, and apprenticeship information. New certificate information is also included within the Education Level Required section of each report and the Skills feature describes the current tasks and hand-on skills necessary to be successful in each occupation.

"This close working relationship between ETA and RTI assures that the information is current, accurate and up-to-date," Rose said. "Usually about 80 percent of the experts contacted help by completing a series of questionnaires."

For a detailed look at the research, go to www.onet.rti.org to find information on the survey, examples of the questionnaires and the history of the project.

Electronics Engineering Technologies is designated by the USDOL as a 'Bright Outlook' occupation, meaning that the jobs in this industry are growing more rapidly than others. It also has the 'Green' designation since many of the careers in the electronics industry are emerging because of green trends.

ETA assisted RTI in an update of the USDOL database in 2011. Rose said RTI considers ETA as the primary organization to turn to when it comes time to finding subject matter experts willing to volunteer valuable information to update the database.

"ETA is genuinely interested in the welfare of its members and America's workforce as a whole," Rose said. "The only way for these updates to be accurate is with information provided by people actively working in the field."

O*NET's sister site, www.mynextmove.org, is a user-friendly site for career exploration consisting of O*NET data available in Spanish, while www.mynextmove.org/vets provides a crosswalk between military training and O*NET occupations.

The National Center for O*NET Development, based in Raleigh, NC, administers the program on behalf of the USDOL.

About Electronics Technicians Association (ETA) International:

Since 1978, ETA has issued over 150,000 professional certifications. Widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases and advancements, ETA certifications are often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. www.eta-i.org

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