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Nuclear school; INL holds school for early-career nuclear engineers

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After less than two days at Idaho National Laboratory's Modeling, Experimentation and Validation (MeV) School in Idaho Falls, Tomasz Kozlowski was well into an intensive mental tune-up.

Classes began Tuesday and, by Wednesday afternoon, Kozlowski, a researcher and lecturer in nuclear energy in Sweden, was already feeling the effects of 12-hour days of classes and study.

"It's exhausting!" he said.

Kozlowski is one of 53 American and international students and researchers attending the school, which has some of the top international experts in the nuclear field acting as lecturers.

Teri Ehresman, a communications officer for the Nuclear Science and Technology division of INL, said the school is geared toward nuclear engineers just beginning their careers.

This is the school's first year and Ehresman said INL wants to hold MeV School annually, with each year having a different focus. This year's primary topics are thermal hydraulics, reactor physics and safety analysis.

The lectures and classes students attend cover a broad range of topics, but all of them relate to the focus material.

Brandon Wilson, who is pursuing his doctorate in mechanical engineering at **Utah State University**, has found the different classes quite useful. Even though the school's still in its opening days, he said he's developed a better idea of where the industry should be heading

Although Wilson is studying mechanical engineering, he wants to apply his knowledge to nuclear energy.

"(The classes have) given me a lot of insight on other routes I could take with my research," Wilson said.

Students are able to connect directly with leaders in the field, ask questions and share ideas, which Kozlowski has found very useful because they receive immediate feedback

"That's a pretty good setup," he said. "I'm pretty happy about it."

Education reporter Samantha Pak can be reached at 542-6750. Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

From around the world

Countries represented at this year's Modeling, Experimentation and Validation School:

Argentina, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United States