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Supporting the Eligibility of Academic Institutions For Grant Funding

I would like to voice support for academic institutions being eligible for grant funding. In the interest of full disclosure, our company - Advantiv Technologies - may be interested in working with an academic institution to facilitate an agricultural clean energy project.

On many occasions, particularly when involved with public-private partnerships, I have witnessed the ability of such institutions to create a multiplier effect by leveraging grant dollars in ways which are unique to their status and goals. Below are several examples:

â€¢ Viewed as trusted and objective entities, academic institutions can offer a credible and visible demonstration site to spread the word about viable clean energy technologies.

â€¢ They are directly focused on workforce development which in this case can be targeted towards technical jobs for rural communities. An academic institution can leverage a single REAP project and magnify its job creation impact.

â€¢ Colleges and universities have both the motivation and means to integrate innovative ideas, drawing from multiple academic departments (e.g. engineering, agriculture, computer science, business etc.) to create interdisciplinary teams.

â€¢ Innovative and high-impact projects often require multiple partners. Academic institutions can act as a neutral facilitator to align various interests towards a common goal.

â€¢ Academic institutions often have resources and relationships to bring in match funding.