

Algae Biofuels and Future Engineers

Kimberley Ogden is UAs principal investigator on a \$44million DOE biofuels project and an NSF-funded STEM educator.

The National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (NAABB), Of which the UA is a member, received a grant in 2010 from the U.S. Department of Energy totaling more than \$44 million for algal Biofuels And bio products research and development.

Kim Ogden, professor of chemical and environmental engineering serves as The University of Arizona’s principal investigator and is also head of the Alliance’s engineering efforts.



Professor Kim Ogden

“To tackle the problem of large-scale production of algae for fuels and other products we have to have a better understanding of everything from the biology to the interfacing with existing petroleum processing plants,” Ogden said, “We’re looking at the whole thing,” she said, “from growing algae to putting fuel in your tank.” The UA’s multifaceted contribution includes water usage and quality research, and reactor design.

In 2010 Ogden was also awarded \$2.7 million by the National Science Foundation for a project to get engineering graduates and educators teaching side by side in school classrooms. The award was made under the NSF Graduate STEM Fellows in K-12 Education.

The program gives graduate students a greater understanding of their own work, and improves their teaching abilities while sparking kids’ interest in engineering. “The idea is for graduate students to invigorate the junior high and high school curricula by bringing their research related to water and energy engineered systems directly to the classroom,” Ogden said.