On World Metrology Day; present and future scientists, engineers, and technicians joined the celebration by attending the NCSLI Northwestern Region “Measurement Training Summit” held at Tektronix’s scenic Beaverton, Oregon, Campus. The overall goal of the meeting was to provide a high quality measurement science summit at minimal cost to attendees through measurement practice tutorials, white paper presentations, hands on demonstrations, and lab tours.

As the new Washington/Oregon section coordinator, this was my first time planning and coordinating an NCSLI meeting. I learned that planning and coordinating a section meeting can be challenging, but having a good team to aide in the meeting planning process can help mitigate these challenges.

Our team consisted of measurement and quality professionals working together from the electronics and aerospace industries, with Jennifer Fleenor of Tektronix taking the lead on a variety tasks that significantly supported our planning. Each team member was able to bring a unique skill set to the table, and contributed to the meeting by helping obtain the venue and meeting sponsorship, getting the word out to measurement professionals and students, planning the logistics of setting up the meeting space, recruiting exhibitors to demonstrate their latest and greatest measurement equipment, and most importantly enlisting training and knowledge transfer opportunities in the form of tutorial and white paper presentations. Without this team in place, the meeting wouldn’t have been the success it was.

The meeting began with Randy Van Wie of Tektronix welcoming attendees, discussing safety, and giving a brief overview of the scheduled Tektronix Service lab tour. Following Randy was Jack Somppi of Measurements International, and NCSLI Division VP. Jack shared a brief summary of the recent NCSLI Board of Directors meeting including; revisions to ISO/IEC 17025, the benefits of having an NCSLI membership and the upcoming NCSLI Workshop & Symposium in Grapevine, Texas.

I provided the final introductory remarks by introducing World Metrology Day and reinforcing why we have these meetings; to learn, to try something new, and to network with our fellow measurement and quality professionals. Attendees then broke out to pursue training, presentations, and get their hands on measurement equipment.

Amongst the many interesting white paper presentations and tutorials that ranged from measurement systems analysis to using water as the ultimate liquid density standard, one presentation tied in directly with the World Metrology Day theme, “Measurements and Light.” Brian Kenison of The Boeing Company gave a tutorial on “Photometric Measurements of a Light Meter.” Using a portable measurement apparatus fabricated at home that serves as a rugged replica of the lab apparatus he uses at his Boeing metrology lab in Seattle, Washington. Brian introduced attendees to one of the more unique measurement parameters in metrology, Photometry.
He began by describing how Photometry is the science of light measurement in terms of its perceived brightness to the human eye as a subset of Radiometry, and defining and discussing common terms to this measurement parameter; the candela, lumens, lux, illuminance, photopic response, luminous flux, and the inverse square law of light intensity. After introducing attendees to Photometry, Brian used his portable lab apparatus to demonstrate how one goes about calibrating a light meter using a calibrated lamp, screens, and distances to provide measurement traceability for light intensity measurements and why these measurements are important to the manufacturing of aerospace products. Brian highlighted the role light plays in our daily lives and their importance to our future.

To finish the meeting, we held a group discussion to thank our presenters and demonstrators, discuss what people had learned during the meeting, and get feedback on how to make future meetings better. We also reached out to attendees to pursue acting as hosts to future NCSLI meetings and encouraged them to spread the word on the benefits of being an NCSLI member and attending section and regional meetings. The goal of providing high quality, high value measurement training to new and future measurement and quality professionals was achieved thanks to our meeting sponsors Tektronix and The Boeing Company, our planning team, the presenters, exhibitors and NCSLI. Thanks again to everyone for making the meeting a success! We are looking forward to more meetings like this in the future.