

Nuclear Quality Systems Technical Education Project (NQSTEP)

Executive Summary

Aiken Technical College proposes to address current documented nuclear workforce needs by designing and implementing a nuclear quality systems program for undergraduate students that can be delivered in a traditional classroom setting and as a hybrid (classroom-online). NQSTEP will provide training for workers in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) of South Carolina and Georgia, an area whose economy centers on Plant Vogtle and nearby V.C. Summer Nuclear Station, two NRC-licensed nuclear commercial power plants, as well as the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, home of the NRC-licensed Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication facility currently under construction. The nuclear employers are committed to the development of this program as evidenced by their commitment to the already formed NQS Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members representing the Savannah River Site contractors, the Commercial Nuclear power sector, and nuclear vendors. By the end of the grant period, the college will enroll 32 students in the on-campus program and 16 students in the hybrid program. The hybrid delivery will facilitate opportunities for students within the CSRA who face the barrier of time in completing their educational goals. The program will be available for use throughout the Southeast, with future plans to expand beyond the region.

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