

## **University of South Carolina Nuclear Engineering Faculty Excellence Program**

### **Executive Summary:**

A faculty development program is proposed to promote and enhance sustainable junior faculty research and teaching programs in nuclear engineering. This program would be applied to one new faculty member to be added as a new hire starting in Fall 2011. Support is provided in all relevant categories to enable junior faculty to build upon existing or initiate new research areas through support of graduate research assistants and funds for laboratory equipment and expenses. Support for innovations in teaching and classroom or laboratory learning is also provided under this effort.

If successful, this award would leverage other funding sources to build a strong program that while still a new program has already demonstrated several successes. USC was awarded in 2009 a \$3M Center of Economic Excellence (COEE) in Nuclear Engineering by the SC Research Centers of Economic Excellence. This endowment along with additional industry matching funds will enable the recruitment and hire of an endowed chair in nuclear engineering. Funds provided under this proposed effort, would enable the further hire of two junior faculty members leveraging this university, state, and industry support. In addition to support for these new hires, USC has committed the ground floor of the new Horizon I building (25,000 sq ft) to nuclear engineering (move in date scheduled Fall 2011). In addition to the graduate program in NE, a minor was established in Fall 2008 to provide specialized education for students pursuing careers in the nuclear field and in support of nuclear workforce development in SC and the US. These new developments have come despite the economic considerations the state and nation continue to experience and speak to the level of commitment that USC places on growing its NE program and the value recognized by the industry.

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