

Executive Summary:

The Utah Nuclear Engineering Program (UNEP) has recently hired a senior faculty who also serves as its Director, and has an opening for a junior tenure-track faculty to be hired in 2010. Fully supported by the University, the program is expanding and growing in its research and is advancing its curriculum targeting the competency gaps in nuclear engineering discipline as identified by the NRC. In support to that, the Minor in Nuclear Engineering will be offered in the Fall of 2010 becoming thus the only one undergraduate nuclear engineering degree education in the State of Utah. In addition, the graduate program has been revised to cover the areas of interest to NRC, DHS and DoE, in preparing students for the nuclear workforce. This award will be fulfilling our objectives to grow and expand the program, and will be used to support the incoming young faculty offering a highly competitive start-up package; the funding will be given to that faculty to start with the competitive research (in setting up the laboratory, supporting the graduate students, and writing winning proposals), to contribute in the development of new curriculum (creating new and unique courses), and for travels to conferences, workshops and meetings, as national exposure is very important for a young faculty to learn of the opportunities, develop collaborations and recruit the outstanding students.

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