

Executive Summary:

Health Physics and Radiological Technology (HP/RT) is a new curriculum that has began accepting students since academic year 2007 – 2008 at Alcorn State University (ASU). The funding of scholarships will be a great incentive for this newly activated program to attract the best and brightest students from the indigenes population and train them to specialize in HP. ASU is the oldest of the 1890s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) institution with a student body that is 90% minority and 10% other. ASU is the only HBCU that has a health physics program in the state of Mississippi and to the best of our knowledge, in the nation. There are nuclear power plants located within 12 miles north and 80 miles to the south of the ASU campus, namely the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station (GGNS) and the Riverbend Nuclear Station, both owned and operated by Entergy. Entergy has shown interest to add new nuclear power plant at each of the mentioned above sites. Over sixty-five percent of the students at ASU are from the surrounding counties. Experience has shown that closeness to family and friends, being from the geographical area where one grew up, as well as job satisfaction and opportunity for advancement have a strong bearing on the retention of experienced workforce in industry. The interim program administrator is a trained nuclear engineer with experience in HP and over twenty years of teaching and research experience. A new faculty member with a degree in HP has joined the program and other members of the program are professors and researchers who have had and are active in application of radiation in various fields of science and technology. This proposal requests funds to provide 10 scholarships to cover tuition and room & board in one of the least expensive state institutions in the nation.