

Executive Summary:

Idaho State University (ISU) places great importance on building and maintaining strong nuclear science and engineering programs. Undergraduate scholarships have played an essential role in the progress made toward this goal in the past five years. The objectives of the program proposed here are to provide (1) undergraduate scholarships to pursue degrees in nuclear science and engineering at ISU, and (2) professional development opportunities for scholars outside the academic environment.

ISU is requesting from NRC funds for eight two-year scholarships for undergraduate students in both nuclear engineering (5) and health physics (3). Funds are also requested to support the professional development of the scholars via a technical tour and participation in a professional technical conference. The NRC program funds would leverage an undergraduate nuclear engineering (NE) scholarship program now in its fifth year at ISU, the AREVA 2+2 scholarships. This program enabled ISU to grow its new BS program in NE and indirectly to re-invigorate its long-standing graduate program. The 2+2 program is multifaceted, and includes support for tuition, fees, health insurance; a modest stipend; and an annual tour of regional nuclear facilities. The faculty assist in placing the student scholars in summer internships at the Idaho National Laboratory. The 2+2 program is statewide and draws engineering students entering their junior year to ISU from all three Idaho research universities. Many of the features proven successful in the 2+2 program have been applied to our current NRC-funded scholarship program with positive result. This proposal is for new NRC-funded scholarships to continue with the effective features, while satisfying any new requirements set out in the NRC Announcement of Opportunity.

The proposed ISU Nuclear Education Scholarship Program would contribute to strengthening the undergraduate nuclear science and engineering program, which in turn will help grow the graduate program. ISU believes that this program will benefit the University and the nuclear industry by helping to develop successful graduates that become an integral part of the nuclear workforce.

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