

USNRC Scholarship Program in Nuclear Engineering & Science at South Carolina State University

The South Carolina State University Nuclear Engineering and Science Programs are applying for a two-year \$200,000 undergraduate scholarship grant from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The grant will be used to provide tuition and book scholarship support in the amount of \$9100 to nine high potential undergraduate students majoring in Nuclear Engineering, Radiochemistry and possibly Health Physics for up to two years. Since its inception in 2001, the Nuclear Engineering Program has focused on producing minority Nuclear Engineers. The program has produced six graduates to date, with two additional students scheduled to graduate in May 2008. Over the past two years, the program has grown dramatically, and nearly half of the current 38 students are female. In November 2007, the Nuclear Engineering Program was visited by an ABET-EAC team, and received a favorable review. We are therefore expecting this program to be ABET-EAC accredited in August 2008.

The Radiochemistry program, initiated in 2005, will produce its first five graduates, all minority females, in May 2008. Of these, three are planning to pursue advanced degree in Radiochemistry or Homeland Security areas, and one has been accepted for Nuclear pharmacy training. South Carolina State University is currently working to build a Health Physics option within its Physics department, and one senior level student has already expressed interest in the program. Two Junior Colleges, Midlands Technical College in Columbia and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College have also expressed interest in joint programs in Health Physics with South Carolina State University once the program is initiated. Two preliminary meetings have already been held with these schools.