

Continued Development of a Curriculum in Nuclear Environmental Protection

Executive Summary

The Physics Department at Texas Southern University (TSU), in Houston, Texas, one of the nation's largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The proposed focus is on: providing continued support for the implemented curriculum, further strengthening of the ongoing collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin, and support for the online implementation of some new courses as documented in the University's catalogue (recently approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board). Through a NRC grant for a new curriculum in environmental health physics was launched in August 2008. It is the only Health Physics Program in the Greater Houston area. This physics-based program grants a B.S. in health physics with special emphasis on environmental radiation protection. The core learning facility is the radiation detection laboratory, offered weekly for three semesters. The program website is: <http://physics.tsu.edu/Academics/BShealth.php>. Thanks to the current NRC support, a radiochemistry course and laboratory are being implemented in collaboration with University of Texas at Austin. This effort will be completed through the development and implementation of its "online" component, which will enable us to impact a significant segment of Houston's professional population. The requested funding would support the development of several online courses, administrative and logistical support for the program, equipment for the online courses, and radiation detection laboratory upgrades involving a beta spectroscopy detection system.

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