

## **Central Virginia Community College: Preparing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Workforce**

### **Executive Summary**

The CVCC Grow Your Own program provides a integrated strategic workforce development plan to meet the demand for skilled workers for the high tech careers of the future. Although the program focuses on nuclear technology, the model is easily reproduced for any career cluster. The program focuses on developing a pipeline for nuclear technicians which begins in middle school with activities such as summer academies, STEM modules, STEM reading, faculty development and career information. The pipeline continues in high school with dual enrollment nuclear CTE program, work-based learning, internships, job shadowing, assessments, mentoring and industry tours. These pipeline activities prepare students for community college and university pipeline activities which include degree and certification programs. An integral part of the educational process is significant work-based learning component is required for each participants. This is possible through strong industry partnerships with companies such as Areva, Babcock & Wilcox and Dominion Nuclear.

Current training/education programs include: engineering, NRRPT, Quality Assurance, Repair Technology, machining, NDT and automation. The companies play an active role in the pipeline and provide experts in these fields, which train, mentor and interact with the students throughout the pipeline. The goal of the continuum is to introduce students to activities and programs related to the key technology and to involve the industry in as many of these activities as possible. Students earn a significant amount of college credit from work-based learning and the curriculum is designed to integrate with industry standards and requirements. This early affiliation with the companies provides many of the students with paid tuitions and books, living stipends, salary and insurance. Requested funding of \$149,966 will provide tuition books and stipends for support up to 30 new students in this nuclear training pipelines for these companies.

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