

## **Columbia Basin College Nuclear Education Scholarship Program**

### **Executive Summary**

Columbia Basin College (CBC) request funding coinciding with the initial offering of the AA in Nuclear Technology program scheduled to begin in Fall 2009. Together, with many nuclear industry partners including Energy Northwest, as well as the prime contractors at the Hanford Site, the Nuclear Technology Advisory Committee has been assembled. In response to the tremendous attrition related to the aging workforce in the nuclear industry, the Nuclear Technology Advisory Committee has requested that CBC provide an educational pathway to train the next generation of Nuclear Technicians. CBC's Nuclear Technology program will provide a pipeline of highly qualified and talented workforce to fill the void left by retiring employees. NRC support will be a critical component in program development by providing necessary funding for academic scholarships and promotional activities designed to recruit a diverse and highly skilled first year cohort of nuclear technology students. Through a partnership with the Department of Career Development and the Office of Diversity and Outreach, promotion of the program will be carried out through the following activities:

- 1) Prominent role at the Alternative Energy Expo currently active on the CBC campus.
- 2) Distribution of program content delivered by outreach personnel during site visits.
- 3) Promotional information will be distributed to Hanford Site and Energy Northwest personnel.

Promotion activities will expand the pool of potential scholarship recipients and ensures that the most qualified students receive financial assistance to pursue their academic goals. CBC will use the NRC funding opportunity to provide approximately 15 scholarships. Each scholarship will fund tuition, fees, and books for one year of enrollment, with future funding dependant on student performance and continuation of grant funding.

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