

Executive Summary

The goal of the proposed *Delaware County Community College Nuclear Energy Scholarship Program* is to increase the enrollment and retention of students in the College's Applied Engineering Technology (AET) Power Plant Technology Program (pending name change to Energy Technology Program). The program, a partnership with the Exelon Corporation, offers an associate degree in the energy field and provides training to students who will seek employment as operators or maintenance technicians in nuclear power plants as well as fossil fuel and renewable energy operations. The scholarships will enable the College to broaden its recruitment efforts, attract an academically talented and diverse group of students, and increase program enrollments by providing critical financial support. The scholarships will also provide a retention mechanism for students currently enrolled in the program. In addition to supporting advanced technical skills to meet the new technology demands of the nuclear energy industry served by this AET program, students will address the needs of employers for workers possessing the skills of critical thinking, teamwork, and a preparation to pursue higher-level training as the needs of the workplace change. The program also seeks to increase the number of under-represented students (females and minorities) in fields that have been dominated by males to provide a wider pool of highly trained workers for the future, which will strengthen the region's economy.

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