

Executive Summary:

Midlands Technical College (MTC) proposes *The Nuclear Systems Technician Scholarship Program* in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Trade School and Community College Scholarship grant program. Dr. Thomas C. (Clint) Chandler, MTC Engineering Department Chair, will serve as the principal investigator and manage the grant to award approximately 25 scholarships to Nuclear majors. Dr. Chandler has led a collaboration among the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, college staff and engineering faculty for the design, approval, and implementation of the Nuclear program that began offering classes in Fall 2009. Two years ago, this initial group of dedicated professionals formed an Advisory Panel that will expand to include Student Financial Services, the Outreach and Retention Office, and the MTC Foundation. The panel will assist Dr. Chandler in overseeing the scholarship application, selection, and award process as well as guiding recruiting, mentoring, and advising services in the program. Progress on these program objectives will be monitored by Dr. Chandler and the Advisory Panel aided by a new student tracking system. Objectives include conducting effective recruiting methods to attract a large and diverse pool of program candidates, awarding scholarships to highly qualified students, providing a supportive network of services to assist in their academic progress, mentoring and advising awardees, encouraging persistence to completion of the degree, and placing graduates in auxiliary operator jobs they will retain. The benefits of the program are access to the program by quality students who could normally not afford it and meeting the impending demand for auxiliary operators in the region with a highly qualified and skilled workforce capable of sustaining the safe and responsible growth of nuclear power in the Southeast.

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