

Executive Summary:

MiraCosta College, in Oceanside California, is submitting this request for funding in partnership with Southern California Edison to benefit students seeking careers in the nuclear industry through enrollment in the new Associate of Science Degree Program in Energy Technology. The degree program will offer an emphasis in Operations or Radiation Protection Technology (currently in the state approval process). The new degree, set to be offered in the fall of 2010, will replace the existing certificate programs and provide students standardized Nuclear Energy Institute and Institute of Nuclear Power Operations curricula that will support the nuclear workforce pipeline industry-wide.

The current and future demand for qualified nuclear workers across the nation is well documented. In a 2009 survey from the Nuclear Energy Institute, comparing workforce age levels throughout the industry, it was found that the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station had one of the highest number of operation and radiation protection plant staff over the age of fifty-three industry wide. Southern California Edison survey results confirm that nearly fifty percent of its workforce will be eligible for retirement in the coming five to ten years, creating a critical need for the Energy Technology degree and a marketing and outreach plan that will identify and place highly qualified candidates in the program.

With the support provided by the NRC scholarship funds, a well established partnership with Southern California Edison, and active involvement with local school districts and community organizations, MiraCosta College is positioned to begin closing the gap on the industry's growing need for skilled nuclear workforce candidates and ensure continued safe and reliable nuclear plant operations. Our aim is to recruit and place 48 highly qualified students annually, make available the resources and support to ensure student success, and provide each student graduate career placement assistance in the nuclear industry.

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