

Executive Summary:

Ridgewater College is requesting funding under the NRC Grant Proposal HF-FN-1009-NED03, Trade School and Community College Scholarship Grant, to establish and develop a new college program designed to educate highly skilled Non-Destructive Examination Ultrasonic Technicians (NDE-UT) capable of supporting the design, construction, operation and regulation of nuclear facilities. Ridgewater College and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) are individually applying for NRC funds to establish the **National NDE Ultrasonic Fast-Track Partnership**. Collaboratively, the two colleges will establish programs in partnership with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to pilot the EPRI Fast-Track program. The NRC grant will support three critical facets of this project. First, grant funds will be used to administer scholarships to up to 12 highly qualified students who will be expected to graduate and enter the workforce in the spring of 2011 as NDE-UT technicians. Second, grant funds will assist in developing the new program by providing support to equip the lab with essential ultrasonic equipment. And third, grant funds will ensure student success by supporting instructional personnel needed for the program. The specific goals for the project include:

1. Provide NRC scholarship support for students during the first year of the program.
2. Provide academic monitoring and support for scholarship recipients.
3. Establish an effective and sustainable Fast-Track program for NDE-UT Technicians.
4. Establish processes for targeted recruitment of qualified candidates and job placement of NDE-UT Fast-Track graduates.
5. Evaluate the training program's pedagogical and programmatic approaches, collaborate on continuous improvement with EPRI and CPCC, and disseminate lessons learned.

Principal Investigator: Michael J Boehme, mike.boehme@ridgewater.edu