

# NRC Education Program: Achieving Desired Results & Immediate Impact

March 20, 2009

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# NRC Education Grants: Achieving Desired Results and Immediate Impact Outline

- I. Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) Case Study
- II. Industry Employment Demand
- III. Educational Continuum:  
Partnership for future nuclear workforce

# I. FDTC Case Study

- \$150,000 NRC Scholarship Grant award (for 54 scholarships)
- Made new Pipe Welding Academy possible
- Scholarships enable enrollment based on talent and not ability to pay

# I. FDTC Case Study

- Use of student “success coaches” is promoting retention/completion
- 20 certified graduate pipe welders to date (40% minority)
- 34 more certified graduates anticipated by August 2009

# I. FDTC Case Study

- All graduates working in nuclear power industry or still enrolled in higher education
- Recently employed graduate earning > \$2,000/week
- Educational pathways lead to industrial and engineering technology degrees

# I. FDTC Case Study

- Knowledge/skills are transferable to multiple industries
- Success of NRC Scholarship program and student demand led to creation of new pre-pipe welding and evening programs
- 125 students enrolled in pre-pipe welding programs since Jan. '09

# I. FDTC Case Study

- Pipe fitting and valve technician academies planned
- Demand for technicians and craftsmen > than for professionals
- Drawing students from across SC

# I. FDTC Case Study

- Adding Nuclear Power Plant Operator certificate within engineering technology program
- Pilot site for Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
- Sponsoring NEI industry: Progress Energy

# I. FDTC Case Study

- Wages in nuclear stimulate regional economies (sample median salaries without per diem or overtime)
- Reactor operator \$77,782
- Electrical Technician \$67,517
- Mechanical Technician \$66,581

## II. Industry Employment Demand

- First major growth since 1970's
- Potential for up to 26 new nuclear power plants
- New and replacement talent is needed
- The employment demand is unique in today's economy

## II. Industry Employment Demand

- Both theoretical and practical learning are required:
  - On-the-job-training alone is no longer sufficient
  - Advances in technology require greater knowledge and skills

# III. Education Continuum

- 2-year colleges: comprehensive and technologically advanced
- 1,195 community colleges in US enroll 11.5M
- Most diverse student population in higher education
- 47% attend with financial aid (76% at FDTC)

# III. Education Continuum

- Many start at 2-year colleges en route to 4 -yr. degree
- 50% of those earning engineering or science bachelor's degrees attended community college
- Technical and community colleges prepare highly skilled technicians

# III. Education Continuum

- ~50% of all employment today is in the “middle-skill” occupations:
  - More than high school
  - Less than baccalaureate
  - Government-education-industry partnership is vital to address workforce challenges

# III. Education Continuum

- Advancement of nuclear energy will not be possible without strengthening every component of the education continuum
- FDTC is pleased to be a partner with NRC in pro-actively addressing this challenge

# Conclusion

- NRC Educational Grants are having significant impact and should continue/increase
- Nuclear power industry needs more talent than is currently available or in educational pipeline at all levels

# Conclusion

- FDTC and other 2-year colleges are a critical part of the education continuum and solution to the nuclear power workforce challenge