

Executive Summary

Title: Yakima Valley Nuclear Technology Program Development Project at Heritage University, Toppenish, WA.

PI: Kazuhiro Sonoda, Heritage University 3240 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948, Phone: (509) 865-8584 sonoda_k@heritage.edu

Co PI: Daniel Peplow, University of Washington at Heritage University 3240 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948 Phone: (509) 865-8672 dpeplow@u.washington.edu

Co PI: Mike Durst, Columbia Basin College 2600 20th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301 Phone: (509) 542-4674 mdurst@columbiabasin.edu

Total amount requested: **\$1,423,399**

Heritage University (HU), Columbia Basin College (CBC) and the University of Washington (UW) are committed to a long-term partnership in which HU faculty collaborate with CBC and UW faculty in developing a Bachelor's Degrees in Nuclear Technology (NT) and Environmental Science with emphasis on NT. The curriculum to be developed will be appropriate for the unique cultural context of South Central Washington, the Yakama Indian Reservation and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. NT related courses developed under this program will enable students with an AAS degree in NT to earn the Bachelor's Degree. The proposal also includes development of a new science course with emphasis on NT for Math & Sci. K-12 teachers. In order to serve students beyond this geographical region, all courses developed under this program will be designed for traditional and online course delivery so will be accessible to over 70 institutions. Education leaders at HU, CBC and UW developed this proposal to address the growing shortage of qualified workers and the need to inform students from elementary school to college about how they can start preparing themselves for careers and a future right here at home in the Yakima Valley.