

Health Physics (HP)
Academic Program Support
NRC Commissioner's Meeting
on the Nuclear Education
Program

20 March 2009

Richard E. Toohey, PhD, CHP
President, Health Physics
Society

HP Academic Program Overview

- 23 Institutions with programs from BS to PhD
- 2 Institutions with AA only
- 4 Institutions ABET Accredited BS program
- 5 Institutions ABET Accredited MS program

HP Academic Program Overview – cont.

- Number of faculty spending >25% FTE on HP ranges from 1 to 11
- Number of enrollees for 07-08 ranges from 0 to 80
- Health Physics Education Reference Book 2007-2008 (latest edition) is available at <http://hps.org/documents/edrefbook.pdf>

HP Academic Program “Unique” Characteristics

- Degree Programs reside in various Departments – Not a single “champion” agency
 - HP – 1
 - Biology/Health – 2
 - Environmental Science – 2
 - Medical Sciences – 3
 - Physics – 6
 - Nuclear Engineering - 9

NRC Support for HP Programs

- Programs very pleased with first 2 years experience
 - Feel like an “equal partner”
 - Staff has been excellent with help and support
 - Feel NRC represents the breadth of disciplines in HP

HP Program “Wish List” for NRC Education Program Fellowships/Scholarships

- Nationally competitive program
- Students apply directly to NRC
- Identify “Eligibility” for institution
 - ABET Accredited
 - Non-ABET programs submit a one time application

HP Program “Wish List” for NRC Education Program Fellowships/Scholarships

- Should be full in level of support
 - Fellowships - tuition, fees and monthly stipend
 - Scholarships - tuition

HP Program “Wish List” for NRC Education Program New Initiative

- Education Block Grants – provide educational infrastructure
 - Junior faculty positions and research
 - Full faculty research
 - Infrastructure support
 - Student funding through HP programs

HP Program “Wish List” for NRC Education Program New Initiative

- Encourage industry/national laboratory collaboration
- Provide support for up to 5 years
- Eligible institutions and performance metrics
- Use subject area (versus geographical) consortium approach

Possible Subject Area Consortia

- Radiochemistry
- Internal Dosimetry
- Environmental HP
- Nuclear Power/Fuel Cycle HP
- D & D HP
- NORM HP
- Instrumentation/detection

Acronymns

- AA: Associate of Arts
- ABET: Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- D & D: Decontamination and Decommissioning
- NORM: Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials