

Project Title: "LSTC/ATC – NRC Nuclear Education Trade School Scholarship Program"

Budget Request: \$150,000

A. Executive Summary: Funds are requested for Linn State Technical College (LSTC) to provide scholarships for students attending or accepted into the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Nuclear Technology or Nuclear Quality Control Technology (currently in the state's approval process). The Nuclear Technology degree program offers three options: Radiation Protection, Reactor Operations, and Instrumentation and Controls. These two-year degree programs support the nuclear energy industry workforce by providing a pool of highly qualified technicians and craft personnel ready for employment, an essential element to continued safe, efficient, and reliable electricity production. Future and present workforce shortages caused by the aging workforce within the nuclear industry is a widely-recognized problem that has been analyzed and addressed in numerous studies and public venues. With the predicted critical shortage of workers already on the horizon, the nuclear energy industry must focus on recruitment, retention, and training high-quality workers for the present and very near future. This scholarship program will play a major role in addressing these issues by providing much needed funds for qualified students to attend and complete one of the LSTC nuclear degree programs. Having a scholarship available specifically for the nuclear degrees is an integral part of the successful recruitment of qualified students. It helps in advertising the program, makes the program financially feasible for some students, and gives the degree credibility from the start.

The LSTC Nuclear Technology degree is a successful program that is being emulated by other educational institutions that endeavor to deliver a two-year nuclear degree. This scholarship is a much needed recruitment tool that is presently unavailable. It will increase enrollment of highly qualified students and will help bring awareness to the public that a two-year degree in Nuclear Technology is the doorway to a professional career.