

**Executive Summary:**

The objective of this proposal is to attract a well-qualified, broad and diverse pool of graduate students to nuclear engineering, one of the fastest growing programs at the University of Idaho (UI). The graduate student enrollment in the nuclear engineering program has gone from six in the 2005-2006 academic year to 44 in the current academic year. This rapid increase in students underscores the need to provide fellowships for them to continue their education and be trained to enter the nuclear workforce. This proposal requests funding for three doctoral level graduate students over four years. The funding will provide stipends averaging about \$23,400 per year, as well as funds for tuition, health insurance and a small amount of travel funds for students to present their work at a technical conference or fulfill an internship. The UI will demonstrate its strong institutional support for this program by providing out-of-state tuition waivers and travel funds to help students attend technical conferences. As part of our recruitment efforts, the UI will reimburse travel costs up to \$500 for students to visit the campus and meet interested faculty.

The UI has supported the expansion of nuclear engineering education by providing \$7 million towards the construction of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies research facility and has hired three tenure-track faculty members in nuclear engineering related fields. The UI also has a robust graduate marketing program which includes recruitment of multicultural and underrepresented students through the McNair Scholars and the National Name Exchange programs. This recruitment is done in conjunction with the UI's Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Tribal Liaison Office. These fellowships will allow students to participate within the nuclear energy research infrastructure which is currently in place while enjoying very close access to the facilities and expertise available at the Idaho National Laboratory.

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