

LSTC NRC Nuclear Education Scholarships

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 degree in Nuclear Technology during 2011. The Nuclear Technology program offers four options: Radiation Protection, Reactor Operations, Instrumentation and Controls, and Quality Control. 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 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 future. This scholarship program is playing 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 program is an integral part of the successful recruitment of qualified students. It assists 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 has been offered since 2008 and has been a successful tool in the recruitment process. Two factors that have been impacted include increased enrollment of highly qualified students and a broader public awareness of the two-year degree in Nuclear Technology and the knowledge that it is the doorway to a professional and rewarding career.

Principal Investigator: Bruce Meffert, bruce.meffert@linnstate.edu