

Executive Summary

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Florence-Darlington Technical College's Nuclear Scholarship Program, *Professional Pipe Welders: Safety and Security in the Nuclear Welding Industry*, requests \$150,000 from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fund 50 scholarships to attract and prepare the next generation of pipe welders to move the Southeast safely forward with planned nuclear energy production. Because of the continued depressed economy, these scholarships are critical as many students are reluctant to incur educational debt to move their welding skills to the level required by the nuclear industry. Scholarships will allow the Academy to admit the most qualified welders, regardless of ability to pay tuition and fees. This highly successful program has innovative recruiting and marketing strategies, many components to ensure student success and instructor-student teams to ensure a high level of skills accomplishment. There are modules that focus on safety and work ethics, as well as pride of craftsmanship. A rigorous evaluation plan with both formative and summative components ensures that the Academy will have on-going feedback and overall impact data. Scholarship students will be tracked as they fulfill their academic obligation and for reporting to the NRC. A comprehensive administrative structure allows for the admittance of the most qualified welders, matriculation and success and the required placement with a nuclear related industry for at least six months. Several industries working closely with the Academy have either agreed to hire the completers or will work to place the completers.

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