

FY2023 Trades and Community College Executive Summaries

Institution Name	Award Amount	Title of Grant Award
Florence-Darlington Technical College	\$ 149,200.00	The Florence-Darlington Technical College's (FDTC) Power-Up Nuclear Scholarship Program (Power-Up)

Florence-Darlington Technical College

The Florence-Darlington Technical College's (FDTC) Power-Up Nuclear Scholarship Program (Power-Up)

Executive Summary:

Project's Objectives and Benefits. The goal of *Power Up* is to develop a professional workforce capable of constructing and maintaining the infrastructure that is crucial to the operation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials. The objectives of the program are to: **(1)** attract, enroll, matriculate, and certify 43 students for employment in the nuclear industry within 24 months; and **(2)** develop and employ an innovative program that ensures that the diversity of the program mirrors the diversity of the region (around 48 percent minority). FDTC is a Predominantly Black Institution (§§318(b) and 371(c)(9) of the HEA; 20 U.S.C. §§ 1059e(b) and 1067q(c)(9)).

Nuclear Industry Benefits. Given the involvement of labor and service providers to the nuclear industry, all three programs will produce work-ready craftspeople to meet the expanding and specific needs of the region's nuclear power producers. FDTC is located in the northeastern region of South Carolina, thus completers could work in both North/South Carolina nuclear facilities. Nuclear power generates about half of the Carolinas electrical energy. While the recovery of the region after the Pandemic has been strong, the region continues to suffer in trying to replace retiring craft workers; regionally about 33 percent of skilled professionals are at or close to retirement age. *Power-Up* is both timely and needed; the construction of new facilities and the day-to-day operation will require crafts people with the skills from *Power-Up*.

Student Benefits. Students who may not be able to pay to matriculate through one of these programs but are capable of becoming highly skilled and are dedicated to working in the nuclear industry will receive full scholarships and have the opportunity to embark on a career in their home region which pays living wages. In addition, they will receive: (1) **Access to the Structural Welding Program, Pipe Welding Program or Valve Technology** – three programs which train students for work in the nuclear industry. Students who complete these courses are highly prized by the nuclear industry and those who supply labor and supplies to the nuclear industries. (2) **Mentoring and Access to Partner Industries** -- Labor and service companies for the nuclear industry have pledged in-person one-on-one mentoring or group mentoring through interactive guest/student workshops and skills assessment and improvement; (3) **I-Beam Testing Preparation** -- A key test that is administered to potential welders with one major area nuclear employer is the I-Beam test. Pipe welders must be able to weld completely around an I-Beam in order to be certified by the employer to work at their company. Other labor providers for the nuclear industry are starting to include this test as well. FDTC will include the I-Beam testing in their classrooms and certifications preparation; (4) **Increases Completers' Competitiveness for Jobs at Partnering Institutions** -- students who complete these programs and become certified will be more competitive for jobs than will applicants who did not complete the program; and (5) *Power-Up* is an integrated component of the FDTC Advanced Welding and Piping Program -- Scholarship students will be integrated into the normal camaraderie of the welding program through shared locker areas, shared classrooms and laboratories, and shared welding materials.

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