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NRC Awards FY14 Nuclear Education Grants

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has awarded \$15 million in grants to academic institutions in fiscal year 2014 through the Nuclear Education Program. The grants are used for scholarships, fellowships, trade school and community college scholarships and faculty development.

Congress authorized the NRC, through the Nuclear Education Program, to provide federal funding opportunities to qualified academic institutions to encourage careers and research in nuclear, mechanical and electrical engineering, health physics and related fields to meet expected future workforce needs. This fiscal year, the NRC awarded 49 grants to 37 higher education institutions, including Minority Serving Institutions, located in 23 states and Puerto Rico. These grants will help to develop a future workforce capable of designing, constructing, operating and regulating the next generation of nuclear facilities.

“There is both a domestic and world-wide need for highly qualified nuclear professionals to keep nuclear power plants and nuclear materials safe and secure,” said NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane. “As a safety regulator, the NRC is pleased to sponsor these grant programs as they offer college and university recipients an opportunity to encourage their best and brightest to pursue careers in nuclear engineering, health physics, radiochemistry, and related sciences.”

The NRC announces grant opportunities on www.grants.gov, which helps the public find and apply for federal funding opportunities. A panel of expert reviewers evaluates all the grant proposals. The panel composition is diverse with most reviewers having both experience reviewing proposals for government agencies and advanced credentials in nuclear engineering, health physics, radiochemistry or related disciplines. Each panelist has to certify that they do not have any conflict of interests for the proposals they evaluate.

With the award of the FY14 grants, the NRC Nuclear Education Program has awarded nearly \$122 million since the program began in 2007.

The [complete list of grants awarded](#) is posted on the NRC’s [website](#) along with more information on the NRC’s Nuclear Education Program.