

# Regional Center for Nuclear Education & Training



Due to growth, an aging workforce, international competition, and natural attrition the nuclear industry in the United States is experiencing unprecedented workforce demands. Over the next two decades, nuclear workforce needs will exceed the current pool of trained personnel. Current training platforms are not scaled to meet this need which puts both the industry and our nation at risk. In August of 2011, NSF established the Regional Center for Nuclear Education and Training (RCNET) to address these workforce demands in a unified and systematic way.

RCNET is located at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL and is a consortium of over 55 colleges and universities, 1001 industry partners, and multiple agencies and other partners. RCNET partners with academic institutions and employers to promote improvements in the education of nuclear technicians at the undergraduate and secondary school levels. RCNET focuses on curriculum development, professional development of college faculty and secondary school teachers, career pathways from secondary schools to two-year colleges and four-year institutions, and providing standardized quality resources to schools across the region in the nuclear fields of power generation, life and plant sciences, and environmental management.

RCNET has become a viable workforce pipeline, largely due to an ever-expanding network of academic, industry, and agency partnerships. RCNET's largest measure of success is the placement of over 3,000 program graduates in nuclear technician jobs at over 60 industry partner locations with over half of those receiving an industry recognized credential created by RCNET in partnership with nuclear agencies.

## Mission Statement & Goals

The Regional Center for Nuclear Education & Training (RCNET) is focused on the development and sustainability of a highly technical workforce pipeline for the nuclear fields of power generation, life and plant sciences, and environmental management. The 6 key goals are to:

1. Expand and maintain a learning repository with comprehensive standardized curriculum for power generation, life and plant sciences, and environmental management.
2. Develop, promote, and broaden partnerships between industry and academic institutions to increase articulation, college completion, and career placement.
3. Develop and provide access to best practices in hands-on training, affective domain instruction, and emerging technologies through professional development.
4. Create and disseminate marketing material to increase awareness of nuclear academic programs and careers.
5. Promote and increase the number of under-represented populations in nuclear STEM fields.

## Nuclear Careers

Nuclear technology has quietly been embedded into multiple disciplines and has become crucial to the present and future of the United States' technical fields. Nuclear industries account for more than 2.6M jobs and contribute \$120B toward the United States Gross Domestic Product. With an aging population, natural attrition, and growth, there will be over 65,000 high-paying nuclear career opportunities by 2030.



*RCNET graduate, Olivia Bell, works as an instrumentation and controls technician at FPL and was a Presidential Point of Light nominee in 2011.*



*RCNET graduates, Jose Alarcon, Casey Kraus, and Brendan McNamara, work on the IRSC flow loop during their FPL internships.*



*RCNET graduates Alysia Bilbo and Johann Garcia were the recipients of the Siemens Technical Scholarships program.*