



Advancing the University of Florida Training Reactor (UFTR) as a Hub for Nuclear Education, Research and Outreach

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Sharing and Outreach

ABSTRACT:

The Nuclear Engineering Program within the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida is offering a Reactor Sharing Program at the University of Florida Training Reactor (UFTR) to participating User Institutions (University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Florida International University, and the University of Central Florida) and K-12 organizations. The overall goal of the project is to cultivate a robust, diverse next-generation nuclear workforce through a program tailored to each participating group. The participating User Institutions are all Minority-Serving Institutions under the Hispanic-Serving Institution classification. The primary objective of the project is to engage students and faculty from User Institutions that do not have research reactors in quality educational, research, and outreach activities. This will be accomplished through approximately week-long transformative experiences on-site at UFTR including experiments, presentations, demonstrations, and tours. Activities will be packaged into accessible modules and made available online, so that material can be used in future course offerings at both the User Institutions and other institutions. Participants gain a deeper understanding of reactor technology and operations and a broader outlook on nuclear science and engineering research and development. The secondary objective is to engage K-12 organizations in educational opportunities, including summer workshops for teachers and tours for classes. The teach-the-teacher approach impacts thousands of students each year by preparing teachers to teach nuclear science and engineering fundamentals that meet and exceed state academic standards.