

Nuclear Energy Systems Workforce Summit

Building the Nuclear Workforce of Tomorrow, Today

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

on the campus of

Vanderbilt University

Overarching Question: What can college and university educators do to help address the nuclear workforce challenge?

1. What are the critical disciplines currently in demand, and how might they be ranked in terms of priority to support the nuclear missions?
2. What are the skillsets and qualifications needed for each discipline?
3. What are the expected contributions from:
 - a. community colleges,
 - b. undergraduate degree programs,
 - c. graduate programs (MS & PhD), including preferred formats (e.g., in-person, web-based (synchronous or asynchronous), hybrid), and
 - d. professional continuing education including preferred formats (e.g., in-person, web-based (synchronous or asynchronous), hybrid)?
4. How do we make the nuclear workforce opportunities attractive, given competition from other sectors?
5. How can industry and academia collaborate to meet the challenge?
6. How can research be used as a vehicle to complement workforce development efforts?

7:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00

Plenary Session

8:00	Opening Comments and Facilitation	David Kosson Distinguished Professor, Vanderbilt University
8:05	John Eschenberg	Nuclear Center of Excellence Amentum
8:25	Teresa Duncan	Tennessee Board of Regents, Lead Nuclear Strategist Vice-President of Workforce Development, Roane State Community College
8:40	Cristina Paredes	Executive Director, SC Nexus for Advanced Resilient Energy



CRES
Consortium for Risk Evaluation
with Stakeholder Participation

CLEMSON

MIT
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

T
THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE
DEPARTMENT OF
NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

V
VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

9:00 – 10:00

Nuclear Power Generation

Facilitator:

Jamie Coble

Associate Department of Nuclear Engineering Head, Professor, and Southern Company Faculty Fellow
University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Presenters¹:

Michelle Conner

Senior Leader, New Nuclear Programs
Tennessee Valley Authority

Jeff Whitt

Executive Director
Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub

Discussion Provocateurs²:

Hash Hashemian

President, American Nuclear Society
President and CEO, Analysis and Measurement Services Corporation (AMS)

Olivia Blackmon

Vice President of New Nuclear
MPR Associates, Inc.

Ryan Stuckey

Human Resources Manager
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Nikki Sizemore

Government Affairs Manager
Kairos Power

10:00 – 10:20

Break

10:20– 11:20

Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Supply Chain

Facilitator:

Brian Powell

Fjeld Professor in Nuclear Environmental Engineering and Science
Clemson University

Presenters:

Lori Brady

Senior Director, Human Resources & Workforce Development
Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

Curtis Roberts

Vice President Communications and Press Officer
Orano, USA

Discussion Provocateurs:

Jason Hatfield

Vice-President, Chief of Staff
Trito-X, LLC

Ross Radel	Chief Technology Officer SHINE Technologies
Cassandra Fike-Hanley	Material Control and Accounting Team Lead Oklo, Inc.
Jeff Cooper	Chief Technology Officer Centrus Energy Corporation

11:20 – 12:20

Waste Management & Legacy Cleanup

Facilitator:

Haruko Wainwright	Assistant Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Presenters:

Greg Sosson	Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management
Jeff Richardson	President of D&D and Chief Projects Officer Energy Solutions

Discussion Provocateurs:

Rod Rimando	Director, Technology Operations U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management
Albert Kruger	Glass Scientist
Ryan Murdock	Director of Technical Services Waste Control Specialists
Clint Wolfley	Vice-President of End State Delivery and Nuclear Operations United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR)

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch and University TED Talks

Facilitator:

Craig Benson	Wisconsin Distinguished Professor Emeritus, College of Engineering University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Presenters:

Brian Powell	Fjeld Professor in Nuclear Environmental Engineering and Science Clemson University
Haruko Wainwright	Assistant Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ron Henderson	Department Chair, Physics Middle Tennessee State University
Jeffrey King	Founding Director, Nuclear Engineering Program Tennessee Tech University

Jamie Coble	Associate Department of Nuclear Engineering Head, Professor, and Southern Company Faculty Fellow University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Steve Krahm	Professor of the Practice of Nuclear Environmental Engineering Vanderbilt University

1:30 – 2:30

Nuclear Safety and Security

Facilitator:

Steve Krahm	Professor of the Practice of Nuclear Environmental Engineering Vanderbilt University
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Presenters:

Gene Sievers	Site Director Y-12 National Security Complex
Jay Mullis	Chief Nuclear Officer United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR)
Kathy Higley	President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) Distinguished Professor, College of Engineering Oregon State University

Discussion Provocateurs:

Andrew Sowder	Senior Technical Executive Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
Jason Hayward	Professor of Nuclear Engineering University of Tennessee - Knoxville
Megan Harkema	Research Engineer, Assistant Project Manager for Collaboration-Based Siting Research Vanderbilt University
Lyndsey Fyffe	Independent Consultant

2:30 – 3:30

Oversight and Regulation

Facilitator:

Sue Magidson	Senior Consultant Vanderbilt University
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Presenters:

Ron Parsons	Manager, Radioactive Material Licensing Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Jon Richards	Regional Radiation Expert & Remedial Project Manager Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4

Discussion Provocateurs:

Nathan Anderson	Director, Natural Resources and Environment U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
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Christina England	Senior Legal Advisor U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel Vice-Chair, American Bar Association's Nuclear Law Committee
Spencer Klein	Senior Project Manager Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

3:30 – 3:50

Break

3:50 – 4:50

Internships, Training and Qualifications

Facilitator:

Charleson Bell	Research Assistant Professor Vanderbilt University
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Presenters:

Lisa Marshall	Immediate Past President, American Nuclear Society (ANS) Director, Outreach, Engagement, and Retention, North Carolina State
Michelle Goodson	Director, ORAU STEM Accelerator (OSA) Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
Lauren Lathem	Advanced Nuclear Program Manager Southern Company Research, Environment, and Sustainability (RES)

Discussion Provocateurs:

Kristen Ellis	Associate Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Office of the Under Secretary of Science U.S. Department of Energy
Kent Rosenberger	Senior Director – Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC)
Denia Djokić	Assistant Research Scientist, Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, University of Michigan

4:50 – 5:10

Closing Remarks

***Invited**

¹Discussion Provocateurs are intended to come to the session with questions and discussion points to provoke discussion. The workshop format is to facilitate an interactive roundtable discussion for each session. The success of each session relies on the provocateurs to ask questions that generate discussion and to communicate their key messages.

²Plenary Presenters should limit presentations to 15 minutes. **Session Presenters** should limit presentations to 10 minutes.