

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### WALLACE RECOGNIZES FIRST NUCLEAR ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY GRADUATING CLASS

*Dothan, Ala.*— Wallace Community College held a ceremony on Thursday, August 9 in recognition of the first class of students to complete Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET). The program, which began admitting students in fall 2010, is the College's newest career-technical program.

The NET program grew out of a request from the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program (NUCP), an agency that designed a program to meet the need for training technicians and operators for nuclear electrical generation plants. The NUCP contacted Wallace to determine the possibility of offering the training near Plant Farley, a Southern Nuclear power plant. The nearest educational facility to offer the program is Augusta Tech in Augusta, Georgia.

"This event showcases the unique partnership between Southern Nuclear and the College," said Dr. Linda C. Young, WCC president. "Southern Nuclear has provided a dedicated liaison to work with our students in preparation for taking the required employment tests and for career exploration and training." Several members of the Plant Farley workforce serve on the Advisory Committee and participate in monthly conference calls with the NET faculty and staff.

The program features coursework in three core areas: academic, career-technical, and nuclear-specific. The detailed, five-month program consists of classroom and lab instruction and tours of Plant Farley. "While the rigor of the program lends itself to very serious students, the payoff comes in the form of high skill, high wage, and high demand employment opportunities," explained Dr. Bill Sellers, coordinator, career-technical division. "Individuals who have faced industry layoffs or failure to find employment after completing a four-year degree have found the program to be one that will truly open doors to an exciting career."

Dr. Sellers and Nora Swanson, coordinator of workforce development, Southern Nuclear, presented the graduates with certificates of completion. NET is a five-semester (minimum) program. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology.

The following graduates received certificates:

**Abbeville:** Shane Money; **Dothan:** Ead Alsammani, Shawn Collins, Justin Hinkle, Kenneth Newsome, Jacob Patterson, Jacob Walker, and Zach Wise; **Gordon:** Sonji Pender; **Hartford:** Joe Hinson; **New Brockton:** Aaron Pope; **Slocumb:** Lee Sasser.

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**TAGLINE:**

Front: Michael Hannon, instructor, Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET); Back Row (left to right) Nora Swanson, coordinator, Workforce Development, Southern Nuclear; WCC graduates Kenneth Newsome, Zach Wise, Ead Alsammani, Jacob Patterson, Shane Money, Joe Hinson, Sonji Pender, Jacob Walker, Aaron Pope, Shawn Collins, Lee Sasser, and Justin Hinkle; Debi Breedlove, skills mentor, Nuclear Engineering Technology Program, WCC; Donna Christensen, training manager, Plant Farley, Southern Nuclear, a division of Southern Company; and WCC President Linda C. Young.

*NET graduation.jpg*

The Nuclear Engineering Technology program is the latest associate degree program offered through the division of Career and Technical Education. While the rigor of the program lends itself to very serious students, the payoff comes in the form of high skill, high wage and high demand employment opportunities. Individuals who have faced industry layoffs and/or failure to find employment after completing a four year degree have found the program to be one that can truly open doors to an exciting career.

Here are the IDs:

Front row, Michael Hannon, Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) instructor, WCC

Standing from left to right:

Nora Swanson, Coordinator, Workforce Development, Southern Nuclear, Birmingham

Kenneth Newsome, Dothan

Zach Wise, Dothan

Ead Alsammani, Dothan

Jacob Patterson, Dothan

Shane Money, Headland

Joe Hinson, Hartford

Sonji Pender, Gordon

Jacob Walker, Dothan

Aaron Pope, New Brockton

Shawn Collins, Dothan

Lee Sasser, Slocomb

Justin Hinkle, Dothan

Debi Breedlove, Skills Mentor, Nuclear Engineering Technology Program, WCC

Donna Christensen, Training Manager, Plant Farley, Southern Nuclear, a division of Southern Company