FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  

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MSU PEARL Receives Grant from Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Develop an Environmental Training Center

To address the needs of workforce training and workforce diversity in the nations nuclear power industry, Morgan State University Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL), received a grant from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to establish the Power Plant Environmental Training Center (PPETC). The Center will provide a program of environmental lectures and workshops to students from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) focused on the interrelationship of aquatic systems and operations of nuclear power plants. The two main objectives of establishing this center are to (1) develop the workforce needed to prevent and mitigate accidents, ensure radiation safety, and protect the environment, and (2) reduce environmental induced outages at nuclear power plants.

The Goals for this project are to: i) help develop a trained and qualified diverse workforce for the nuclear power industry, and ii) provide training to that perspective workforce on potential aquatic impacts to the nuclear power industry. To achieve these Goals, the PPETC will provide a student focused experience in a two-pronged approach. First we will develop and offer a general environmental systems lecture series. This lecture series will be offered as a guest lecture program that will be presented to engineering classes at MSIs around the country. Secondly, we will develop an intensive in-house academic workshop for students and faculty from Minority Serving Institutions to provide training in the interrelationship of operational and environmental aspects of the nuclear power industry. The intent of this approach is to reach as many prospective minority
students that may be interested in working in the nuclear industry with a general lecture in environmental issues to supplement their regular degree curriculum. For those with an interest in a deeper learning experience, we offer the in-house intensive summer workshop experience.

These efforts will help develop a trained and qualified diverse workforce for the nuclear power industry.

The MSU PEARL, a 22,000 square foot laboratory and office building, is located near the Patuxent River (part of Chesapeake Bay watershed) in Saint Leonard, Maryland. Research conducted at the facility is designed to increase the understanding of coastal ecosystems, so that they may be properly managed and protected.

Morgan State University, founded in 1867, is a Carnegie classified Doctoral Research Institution offering more than 70 academic programs leading to bachelor’s degrees as well as programs at the master’s and doctoral levels. As Maryland’s Public Urban Research University, Morgan serves a multi-ethnic and multi-racial student body and seeks to ensure that the doors of higher education are opened as wide as possible to as many as possible. For more information on Morgan State University, visit www.morgan.edu.

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