

3/7/2008

Nuclear Fuel Services hosts career path-training seminar

Guidance counselors can play key role in directing students toward NFS career

(Erwin, Tenn.) - Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) is offering new tools and training for Unicoi County guidance counselors. The effort is focused toward helping students understand that great careers are available at NFS. This morning, NFS hosted a two-hour career path-training seminar at its Training Center in Erwin in cooperation with the United Steelworkers union. The company invited all guidance counselors within the Unicoi County School System to take part in the program.

“We want to hire Unicoi Countians whenever they can meet the company’s educational and security clearance requirements,” said Dwight Ferguson, President and CEO of NFS. “Today, we are sharing with guidance counselors of Unicoi County schools the many different careers that are available at our company and the types of courses students should be taking to direct them to a career that interests them.

The company has a variety of jobs including chemists, chemical operators, engineers, and health physicists. Some of these jobs offer entry-level salaries of up to \$65,000 a year. Hourly employees make nearly \$20 per hour with exceptional benefits.” Currently, 70 percent of NFS’ salaried employees hold college degrees. NFS hourly positions require at least one year of college-level chemistry credit.

NFS developed written materials including an easy to understand chart for guidance counselors to post in their offices for students. The chart directs students to course work that can lead to one of a variety of NFS careers.

“We want students and their families to understand that they don’t have to go elsewhere to find an exciting, high-paying job,” Ferguson said. “Jobs for those with the right

qualifications are right here in Unicoi County. This is another step in our effort to make Unicoi County a great place to work.”

NFS has made the local school system its primary community focus. The company has initiated a variety of programs to reward student achievement and provide job skills for vocational students and was the first private business in Tennessee to assure that graduating seniors of Unicoi County High School who do not have sufficient funds to have money for tuition to Northeast State Community College.

NFS currently employs about 750 with an additional 260 full-time contractor personnel on-site at its Erwin facility. Today, about 30 percent of NFS employees live in Unicoi County.