



Obituary

Keran O'Brien, 93, ANS member since 1957 and



O'Brien

ANS Fellow; research physicist and professor; born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on November 5, 1931; his early career included positions with

the federal government; retired from the government in 1987 as director of the Manhattan Environmental Services Laboratory (an organization stemming from the

Atomic Energy Commission); served as an adjunct research professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Northern Arizona University from 1990 to 2015; referee for Elsevier and Oxford journals; author of more than 135 published papers, including groundbreaking work in cosmic ray propagation and aircrew dosimetry; in 1971, he postulated the Heliocentric Potential, a model for the modulation of galactic cosmic rays by the sun that is widely used in cosmic ray transport codes; created the lunar and interplanetary nucleon (LUIN) code in the 1970s, further improving it in the early

2000s; the latest version of the code (PLOTINUS) remains the only code taking into account nonvertical cutoffs of cosmic rays; kept active in retirement, consulting for Los Alamos National Laboratory, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, as well as the Canadian scientific community, European governments, and Australia, where he consulted for Qantas Airways; founding member and board member of many community organizations; died on August 3. ☒



FACULTY POSITION IN SCHOOL OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Job Summary:

The School of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University invites applications for one tenured/tenure-track faculty position at Assistant/Associate Professor level. Purdue University seeks to attract exceptional candidates with strong research background focusing on advanced reactor technologies including small modular reactor. The desired expertise includes advanced reactor and fast reactor technologies, nuclear fuel and fuel cycle, advanced nuclear materials, artificial intelligence, however, other nuclear related areas are also considered. Successful candidates must hold a Ph.D. degree in Nuclear Engineering or a related discipline by the employment start date and demonstrate excellent potential to build an independent research program at the forefront of their field, as well as potential to educate and mentor students. Early-career applicants should show evidence of initiating independent research, while mid-career applicants should demonstrate a sustained record of independent research within academic or industrial organizations, and contributions to education and/or mentoring. The successful candidate will conduct original research, advise graduate students, teach undergraduate and graduate level courses, and perform service at the School, College, and University levels. US citizenship is not required to apply for this position, however many external funding opportunities in these research areas are restricted to US persons.

School and College:

The School of Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University is a high ranked nuclear engineering program with its renowned core faculty engaged in all areas of School of Nuclear Engineering, as well as significant interdisciplinary efforts across campus, with other academic institutions, and with industrial partners. The School of Nuclear Engineering has outstanding facilities, including Purdue's Nuclear Reactor Facility PUR-1, the only reactor in the nation licensed with 100% digital instrumentation and control system and its Digital Twin, (<https://engineering.purdue.edu/NE/research/facilities/reactor>), the world renowned PUMA Thermal hydraulics facility, and a key member of Purdue's Manufacturing and Materials Research Laboratories (MMRL).

The School is an integral part of Purdue's College of Engineering. Purdue Engineering is one of the largest and top-ranked engineering colleges in the nation and renowned for top-notch faculty, students, unique research facilities, and a culture of collegiality and persistent pursuit of pre-eminence. According to the latest US News and World Report's disciplinary undergraduate program rankings, Purdue Engineering has 4 disciplines ranked in the top 4 in the country and 9 in the top 10. Purdue Engineering as a whole is ranked 2nd for online graduate engineering programs, 5th for graduate programs. For three years running, Purdue is ranked by the USPTO as one of the top five university campuses in the US in terms of annual number of US patents issued, and 71% of those patents come from Purdue Engineering. The College Vision for 2030 is guiding strategic growth in new directions, by investing in people, exciting initiatives, and facilities.

Application Process:

To apply, please submit application to this site https://careers.purdue.edu/job/AssistantAssociate-Professor-of-Nuclear-Engineering/39375-en_US/ including (1) cover letter, (2) a complete curriculum vitae, (3) teaching plan, (4) research plan, (5) names and contact information for at least four references. The search committee may contact references to request letters. For questions regarding applications contact the Office of Academic Affairs, College of Engineering, at coeacademicaffairs@purdue.edu. Review of applications will begin on November 24, 2026, and will continue until the position is filled. A background check is required for employment in this position.

Purdue University and the College of Engineering have a [Concierge Program](#) that provides dual career assistance and relocation services.

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/equal access university.