Foreword

Special Issue on the NSF-Funded Workforce Accelerator for Fusion Energy Development Conference

Guest Editor

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Recent years have seen significant steps forward in fusion technology as well as large private and public investments in the sector. Against this backdrop, the fusion community has identified the need for a fusion energy workforce that spans all levels of education.

In 2024, Hampton University hosted the National Science Foundation (NSF)–Funded Workforce Accelerator for Fusion Energy Development Conference, organized locally by Calvin Lowe (Hampton University) and Saskia Mordijck (College of William & Mary). The overall organizing committee included Lowe (chair), Troy Carter (University of California–Los Angeles, NSF grant co-PI), Carlos Paz-Soldan (Columbia University, NSF grant co-PI), Caroline Anderson (Fusion Industry Association), Jaydeep Deshpande (Commonwealth Fusion Systems), Steffi Diem (University of Wisconsin–Madison), Arturo Dominguez (Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory), Arianna Gleason (SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory), Uri Shumlak (University of Washington), Kathreen Thome (General Atomics), and Mingsheng Wei (University of Rochester).

These organizers enabled transformative discussions focused toward developing the future fusion energy workforce needed for US-oriented and non-US-oriented efforts over the coming decades in both public and private sectors.

The conference and the resulting white papers are summarized with recommendations in work by Paz-Soldan et al. [1]. This special issue of *Fusion Science and Technology* provides the original white papers from several authors covering topics ranging from trade schools to organized curriculum development for undergraduate and graduate education. This special issue serves to archive the meaningful effort by the authors in a manner that is easily cited and stored for future fusion energy workforce development. In this way, we avoid any duplication of efforts and focus the limited time resources of the fusion community toward advancing the field.

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Reference

1. C. Paz-Soldan et al., "Accelerating the Fusion Workforce in the USA," *Plasma Phys. Control. Fusion*, **67**, *8*, 083701 (2025); https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6587/adfa40.