



## Workforce Initiatives: Community Colleges Perspective Workshop

### Best Practice #3



#### **Laura Hofman**

Chemical Engineering Technology Program Director,  
Roane State Community College  
Oak Ridge, TN

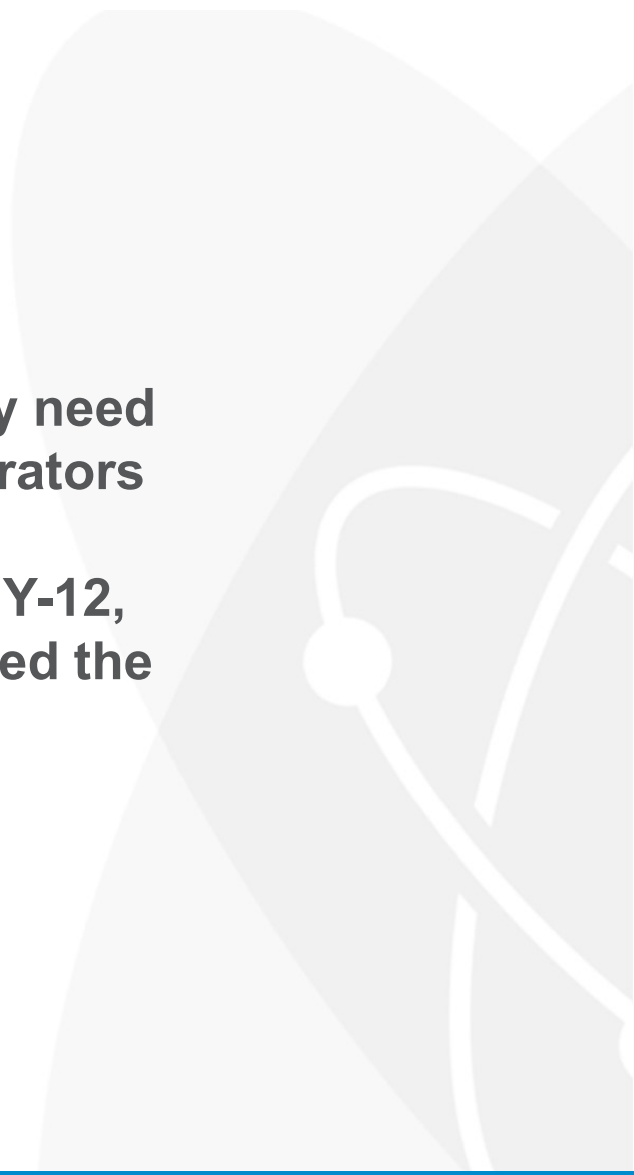
# Chemical Engineering Technology Program





## **Program Origins**

**Grew out of a community need for trained chemical operators and technicians. Local companies (UCOR, CNS Y-12, and Tate & Lyle) supported the creation of the program.**



## Early Program Considerations

Prepare students for chemical operator and technician careers

Incorporate advisory board guidance and support

Include both a lecture and a lab component – teach both the “why” and the “how”

Maintain small class size to maximize lab opportunities





# Target Student

Originally aimed at  
nontraditional students

Accommodated their work  
schedules with night and  
weekend classes

First class was 100%  
nontraditional

Now, we have a program student  
base that includes both  
nontraditional and those coming  
directly from high school



# Graduates







## **Industry Partnerships – critical to success**

**Serve on our Advisory Board**

**Provide opportunities for internships and apprenticeships**

**Provide class speakers**

**Provide opportunities for facility tours**

**Participate in soft-skill workshops**

**Provide equipment and financial support**

**Identify graduate job opportunities**



**Laura A. Hofman, P.E., CHMM**  
**Program Director**  
**Chemical Engineering Technology**  
hofmanla@roanestate.edu  
865-354-3000 ext 2220

