

# Why I am CNTA: Robert Wilson



Robert Wilson

I volunteer for CNTA on their education outreach initiatives because it is my way of helping an industry that I found challenging and rewarding to work in, and hope that those who come after me will find it the same. CNTA has started the Summer Series Nuclear Institute (SSNI) to introduce up to 30 teachers per session to nuclear science, nuclear power, nuclear medicine and other career fields that use this discipline. Why teachers? I figure I may only influence 8-10 peo-

ple in my life, but a teacher teaches maybe 120-150 students per year. With our teacher workshops and the SSNI we reach approximately 100 teachers a year; that is 24,000-30,000 students that could be influenced to pursue an occupation in nuclear over a teacher's career. That is a good investment of my time and if I do this for another five to six years, that is that many more teachers and students that will hear this message. That is the reason I am CNTA.

# CNTA Mentoring Program

While seeking ideas for how CNTA could add value for its members, a sub-group of the AGENTS (Advocacy, Growth, Education, & Networking for SRS) organization suggested that CNTA consider a mentoring program. With a diverse membership and a wide variety of experience and expertise, CNTA is uniquely positioned to provide a cross-cutting view of a multitude of nuclear leadership and career development topics.

The first proposed list of topics drew significant suggestions for refinement, additions and deletions from a large cross-section of CNTA membership. A final list of over 20 topics was developed for the initial offering in the July-September time frame. Topics included: Career Development by Skipping a Few Rungs of the Ladder; Being Part of a Proposal Team; Effective Presentations; Career Planning for Females in a Male-dominated Industry; You Won't be CEO Tomorrow: Managing Your Expectations While Getting There; and What is a "Servant-Leader" and How Do I Become One?

From these topics and others, CNTA members chose over 20 separate sessions, with some members taking advantage of multiple opportunities for mentoring. The mentoring sessions were either individual or group seminars, including some sessions with multiple mentors. Volunteer mentors were selected by the Executive Director, and the mentors worked directly with those who signed up to arrange sessions. Feedback on the first round of sessions was very positive from both mentors and mentees.

"I have found a lot of value in the CNTA Mentorship Program. I was able to listen to the insights and wisdom of two leaders in our community – Charles Nickell and Dave Eyerl – on the topic of servant leadership," said Colleen Hart, CNTA member. "I am excited to further my career under the principles of servant leadership."

"I was fortunate enough to have influential people early on in my career that took the time to encourage me and provide valuable feedback," said Walter Wilson, CNTA member and mentor. "It is now time for me to pass on those nuggets of advice that have stood the test of time and have shaped my life and my career."

Solicitation for the October to December sessions was sent out in mid-September, and new sessions began in early October.

**The CNTA Mentoring Program** is not intended to supplant any LLC/Corporate mentoring programs members are part of, but rather to supplement them, offering topics with applicability no matter the company or organization. The Program offers a unique opportunity for CNTA members to benefit from the experience of other members in a low-key, informal session; all are encouraged to take part as either a mentor or mentee.



# CNTA Contact Information

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On Facebook at Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA)

The screenshot shows the CNTA website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'CNTA HOME', 'Mission', 'Education Outreach', 'Initiatives', 'Membership', 'Up & Atom', 'Award Newsletter', 'Videos', 'Board of Directors', 'Events', 'Calendar', 'Heritage', 'Letters & Guest Editorials', 'Articles/Reports/Press', and 'Teller Lecture'. The main content area features several news items: 'Teller Lecture and Banquet' (October 19), 'Executive Director Search', 'High School Essay Contest Winners', and 'Southeastern Summer Nuclear Institute'. A sidebar on the left contains social media links for Facebook and Twitter. Below the website screenshot is a Facebook page for 'Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA)'. The page shows a profile picture, a cover photo of a group of people, and a post from September 28, 2016, titled 'Former EPA Head: Environmentalists Audibly Gasp When I Say I'm Pro-Nuclear'. The post includes a video thumbnail and text about the speaker, Carl Dwyer, and the event at the Savannah River National Laboratory.