

News from the Savannah River Site

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Principal Media Contact: DT Townsend
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803.952.7566
dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

DOE Media Contact: Bill Taylor
803.952.8564
bill.taylor@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNS Gets A+ Report Card for Education Outreach

School systems within eight counties near SRS benefit from multiple education outreach programs, over 175,000 students and teachers reached since 2008

AIKEN, S.C. – June 24, 2015 – The total impact the Department of Energy’s (DOE) primary contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has had on the region’s education systems each year is immeasurable. During the past school year alone, hundreds of schools and more than 27,000 students and teachers were directly affected through SRNS education outreach programs and events.

“They impact an amazing number of teachers and students each year through grants, scholarships and inspiring learning opportunities,” said Dr. Liz Stewart, Public Education Partners Board Chair. “The SRNS Education Outreach Program is a highly valued resource that enhances our school systems in many ways.”

Since SRNS became the management and operating contractor in 2008, more than 175,000 students and teachers throughout the eight counties near the Savannah River Site that have benefitted from their dedicated efforts to help local students and assist area educators.

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson acknowledged that investing in local students is also an investment in those who one day may be SRS employees. “Our programs are developed to enlighten young minds and further equip our talented teachers,” said Johnson.



Over the 2014/2015 school year, more than 175,000 students throughout the eight counties near the Savannah River Site benefitted from education programs managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Recently, hundreds of students benefitted from the “SRS Traveling Science Program” where volunteers like SRNS engineer Leslie Sprague (above) conduct demonstrations and experiments for area educators and students (Davidson Fine Arts School students shown).

Many of the programs offered annually by SRNS are based on learning through friendly competition. They include the CSRA Science Fair, DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl and the Future City Competition. Future City, for example, is a national program that teaches teamwork, creativity and a strong sense of individual responsibility as team members plan and work together to solve science and engineering problems while creating an innovative city of the future.

“Ultimately, the heart of any school is their teachers,” said Johnson. “We must continually look for ways to help them be successful.”

SRNS annually holds an Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program to provide financial assistance to area teachers through corporate funding provided by SRNS community giving. This competitive program provides grants to CSRA public and private elementary and middle school teachers for innovative ideas. During this past school year, grants for more than 150 teachers, totaling \$75,000, were awarded.

Thousands of children and young adults have benefited from SRNS education outreach programs whose primary goal is to stress the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These STEM-intensive initiatives include the Traveling Science Demonstration Program, Science & Technology Enrichment Program, Innovative Teaching Mini-Grants, Introduce a Girl to Engineering and various workshops, tours, lectures and demonstrations.

One of the SRNS educational events that reach the most students each year is the highly popular CSRA College Night. This event is coordinated and managed by SRNS personnel and utilizes the help of many highly valued volunteers from several CSRA companies. Last year, over 6,000 area high school students participated in this annual event, which required use of the entire floor space within the James Brown Arena in Augusta, Ga. More than 150 colleges and universities typically attend College Night, each manning an information booth.

Over the years, more than \$275,000 in scholarship funding has been offered to students attending CSRA College Night.

With the help of hundreds of caring volunteers, SRNS is proactively striving to assist local educators to help children grow in knowledge while learning important life lessons.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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