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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2023 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Competition: 15 Years of Leading Area Students to Careers in Science, Technology and Engineering

AIKEN, S.C., (March 16, 2023) – 2023 marks the 15th year employees from the Savannah River Site and University of South Carolina Aiken's (USC Aiken) Ruth Patrick Science Education Center have assisted science-savvy students during the recent Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition.

Students from counties located within the greater Aiken, S.C.-Augusta, Ga. area, competed for this year's first place awards and a trip to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair competition.

"The CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair gives young people from the area the opportunity to explore the world of science and technology and develop their scientific investigation skills by planning and developing their own 'hands-on' science projects," said Taylor Rice, Science Fair Coordinator and SRNS employee.

This year's winners within the High School "Best of Show" category are:

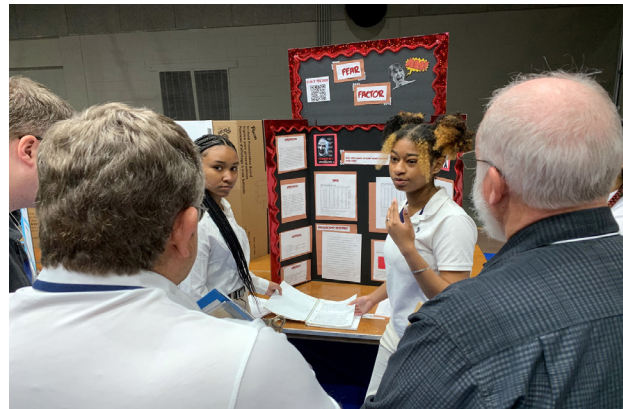
- First Place, Nidhi Shenoy, Lakeside High School;
- Second Place, Kiara Gray, Elise Green and Janee Green, A.R. Johnson Science and Engineering Magnet School;
- Third Place, Summer Cooper and Lucy Tomeo, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School.

Nearly 90 students had their projects on display at USC Aiken in an attempt to impress the judges.

"I'm happy for those who are here today because they are learning highly important presentation skills," said Kimberly Hoover, Program Coordinator for the Aiken County Engineering Department. "People will have to present during their careers. You'll have to present to teams and at conferences. You'll have to use communications skills to persuade others to see your point of view. How you do that may affect the trajectory of your career."

Kiara Gray, Elise Green and Janee Green, all students at A.R. Johnson, Augusta, Georgia, stated that being interviewed by the judges at length will have a long-term, positive impact throughout their respective occupations. "Since I'm going to be an engineer, I need to learn how to cooperate with other people and effectively talk to them to get my points across. So, I feel this competition not only provides time to speak with people I'm not comfortable with, it also has been a great experience."

Each year, approximately seven million high school students around the globe develop original research projects and present their work at local science and engineering fair competitions with the hope of making it to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Dallas, Texas.



This year's Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition second place winners (High School: Best of Show) Elise Green (left), Kiara Gray and Janee Green (not shown), A.R. Johnson Science and Engineering Magnet School, explain their project to volunteer judges.

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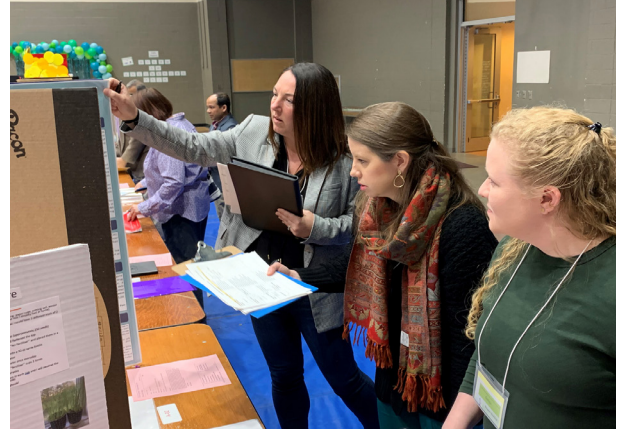
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“This is important because it stimulates our students’ interest in science while learning the advantages of asking questions and seeking answers,” said Tim Arnold, SRNS manager and committee member for the CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair. “With each project, they are often digging deeper into the sciences than they are in the classroom. That’s why there’s great value in this. These are the people who will be working at the Savannah River Site in ten to fifteen years.”

With the support of co-sponsor Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, SRNS coordinated the competition to ensure an educational and rewarding experience for each student competitor.

Projects were judged for scientific thought or noninjury-based research, creative ability, thoroughness, technical skill and clarity. The Science Fair provides public recognition for outstanding work and while giving students the opportunity to interact with local scientists and engineers.

Fifty volunteers from the Savannah River Site, USCA and the community typically participate as officials and judges for this competition.



Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair judges (from left) Christina Cannella, SRNS Tritium Facility Operations Support; Kimberly Hoover, Program Coordinator for the Aiken County Engineering Department; and Magen Garlick, SRNS H Canyon Process Control and Automation Engineering, evaluate a project.

To apply or learn more about SRNS job openings, go to www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com and click on “Careers.”

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