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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Executive “Steels” Welding Students for Life after School

AIKEN, S.C. (Nov. 6, 2014) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Executive Vice President and COO Fred Dohse, recently explained to dozens of South Aiken High School (SAHS) welding students the important role they may play one day at the Savannah River Site (SRS) as many SRS employees near retirement.

According to Dohse, within the next five years a significant percentage of the site population is expected to become eligible for retirement, opening several potential career paths for many of the students attending the information session, as well as other future graduates living in the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

After discussing the need for qualified welders at SRS, Dohse encouraged the students to also consider applying for positions at SRNS as production operators and radiation control technicians. Both Aiken Technical College and Augusta Technical College offer degrees for nuclear workers.

Dohse explained that SRNS has hired approximately 400 new employees this year alone, creating an opportunity for knowledge transfer between veteran employees and new hires.



*South Aiken High School students Robert Proctor and Tori Shekastehband observe welding instructor Oscar Rushton as he explains to SRNS Executive Vice President & COO Fred Dohse (right) how the students are initially taught to weld using scrap pieces of metal.*

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“What we do at the Savannah River Site is make the world safer. And, I need people I can count on to help execute that work scope. If you want to be on my team, I’ll pay you well and the sky is the limit as far as responsibility is concerned,” said Dohse. “In fact, I expect we will continue to hire new employees each year at SRS as needs arise.”

“The greatest gift any generation can give the next generation of Americans is opportunity,” added Dohse. “And, I think we are about to give that to you with the return of manufacturing jobs to the U.S. If you work hard, and if you practice the craft of welding, and are good at it, I think your future is very bright.”

Junior Tori Shekastehband, one of a two SAHS women currently venturing into what has been largely a male-dominated occupation, agreed that welding requires finesse and control, an area where women can excel. “I’m sure the points he (Dohse) made today had an impact on us. I know his talk now has me considering working at the site more than I had planned,” said Shekastehband. “I’m seriously considering earning a major in welding and minor in business.”

SAHS welding instructor Oscar Rushton was quick to note that Shekastehband is a gifted welder.

“As a junior, Tori is better than some of my advanced welders,” said Rushton. “You can ask the guys, Tori is very good.”

The morning visit ended with a tour of the high school’s welding shop. During the tour, Rushton explained that the school’s welding program is continually in need of scrap metal donations used by students to practice and refine their skills.

“I believe Mr. Dohse’s visit proves that he really cares about the future of the country and our community,” said SAHS Junior and welding student, Robert Proctor. “I also believe, with so many SRS employees retiring, we can be the ones to help ensure the future of the Savannah River Site.”

*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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