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**For Immediate Release**

## **Weapon Intern Program participants visit the Savannah River Site**

**AIKEN, S.C.**, (August 26, 2024) – Participants of the Weapon Intern Program (WIP), an 11-month residential educational program hosted by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently received a behind-the-scenes look at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Unique to the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), this program offers in-depth technical training, including extensive classroom instruction from subject matter experts on a variety of nuclear weapon topics and Site visits across the NSE. Only 24 participants from the Department of Energy, Department of Defense and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are accepted into the prestigious program each year.

“WIP is a prestigious internship opportunity that bolsters professional development within the Nuclear Security Enterprise,” said Lisa Lee, Pit Production Operations Development Manager, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS). “WIP has graduated over 500 interns over the past 25 years from multiple organizations within the NSE; many have gone on to become leaders in their fields.”

Site visits are intended to reinforce classroom instruction, allowing interns a greater understanding and appreciation of how each site contributes to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent.

During their visit to SRS, participants toured the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) and the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF), both under the direction of NNSA.

SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile. SRPPF is part of NNSA's two-site strategy between SRS and Los Alamos National Laboratory to produce no fewer than 80 war reserve plutonium pits per year to meet national security requirements. The two-site approach will provide an effective, responsive and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure with the flexibility to adapt to shifting requirements and counter future threats.

The visit also included a Site driving tour and a walking tour of the Savannah River National Laboratory. The current WIP class includes SRNS employees Quentin Price and Keith Abrahamson.



*Participants of the Sandia National Laboratories Weapon Intern Program recently visited the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and Savannah River Tritium Enterprise at the Savannah River Site.*

*Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; works to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and militarily effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.*

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

SRNS-2024-1500