

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **2016 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Competition: Part of the world's largest international pre-college science competition**

*Students from a six-county region, within the greater Aiken-Augusta area, competed for this year's blue ribbons and a trip to the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair competition*

AIKEN, S.C. – (March 16, 2016) – Hundreds of Central Savannah River Area science-savvy students recently participated in the 2016 Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS).

More than 200 students representing 42 schools from a six-county region put their project on display at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA).

“We are always impressed with the diversity of projects and themes. Many of the experiments can be extremely creative,” said Candice Dermody, SRNS Manager, Education Outreach and Talent Management. “The dedication and ingenuity displayed by the students can be inspiring.”

With the support of co-sponsor USCA, SRNS is coordinating the competition for the ninth year, ensuring an educational and rewarding experience for each student competitor.



*More than 200 students representing 42 schools from a six-county region put their project on display at the University of South Carolina Aiken during this year's Savannah River Regional Science and Engineering Fair competition.*

“This event 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 Kim Mitchell, Science Fair Coordinator and SRNS employee.

Projects were judged for scientific reasoning, creative ability, thoroughness, technical skill and clarity. This competition promotes students’ interest in science and engineering by providing public recognition of outstanding work and by giving students the opportunity to interact with local scientists and engineers.

“We are pleased to provide a variety of initiatives and valued programs that create a definitive and positive impact on local school systems, including institutions of higher education throughout the Central Savannah River Area,” said Dermody.

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

Millions of students worldwide compete each year in local and school-sponsored science fairs, showcasing their talents.

“I suffered from scoliosis, but it didn’t get bad until I was thirteen,” said Ciciley Wise, a senior at Batesburg-Leesville High School. The curvature of her spine at that time was found to be approximately 20-30 degrees out of normal alignment. “After being in a back brace 16 hours a day for two and a half years, I wanted to learn more about this condition and share the information with others. Many people suffer from scoliosis and don’t realize it or realize it, but don’t get help. So, I picked this topic mostly because it was such personal part of my life.”

Winners of these events go on to participate in regional and state fairs from which the best are awarded the opportunity to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Phoenix, Arizona, will host the 2016 International Science and Engineering Fair where approximately 1,700 high school students from over 75 countries, regions and territories will compete for nearly \$4 million in prizes.

*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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