

INNOVATIVE TEACHING

2025

INNOVATIVE TEACHING

MINI GRANTS WINNERS



05.15.25 • NEWBERRY HALL • AIKEN

RECOGNIZING & CELEBRATING INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS



The Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program recognizes and celebrates innovative teaching methods by providing funds to enhance elementary, middle and high school classroom instruction. Today, we honor the 2025 award recipients.

Dinner and Social Hour

Welcome

Kim Mitchell

SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead

Remarks

J.C. Epting

SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs

Awards Presentation

Taylor Rice

SRNS Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Coordinator

\$1,050,000

donated since 2009 from SRNS
to fund local educators

Recipients

\$500 Grant Winners

African Cardboard Masks Using Makedo Kits

Michelle Griffin, St. Mary's Help of Christians School

Amp It Up...STEM Stations and Investigations

Angela Fallaw, Johnston Elementary

Art Around the World: Gytaku Printmaking

Michael Keltz, Merriwether Elementary

Benches of Knowledge: Supporting Outdoor Learning Opportunities

Barbara Glover, Carver Edisto Middle

Botley the Robot —

Coding A New Adventure at MEMS

Wanda Jones, Macedonia Elementary Middle

Building Brighter Futures: A Lego Art Revolution

Malissa Wright, William J. Clark Middle

Chemistry Launch: The Great Start

Kayla Long, Community Christian Academy

Cock A Doodle Doodle Doo, What's New? Round Two!!!

Peggy Moore, Carver Edisto Middle

Creating a Pythagorean Theorem Working Model

Evelyn Whitley-Rogers, Allendale-Fairfax Middle

Encouraging Early Engineers

Hannah Kiser, Merriwether Elementary

Engaging and Strengthening the 2nd Grade Mighty Mind

Allison Clark, Denmark Olar Elementary

Engineering Innovation Through Printmaking

Joyce Smith, Lake Marion High

**Enhancing Culinary Education
Through Specialized Tools and Equipment**

Kimberly Walters, Williston-Elko High

Enhancing Phonemic Awareness with Heggerty
*Callie Shuford, First Baptist Church North Augusta
Weekday Education*

**Enhancing Student Engagement
Through Interactive Coding Projects**
Mia Holley, New Ellenton STEAM Magnet Middle School

Escape Rooms for Education
Lisa Howard, Williston-Elko Middle

**Expanding Communication
Through Play and Reading**
Madison Brown, Evans Elementary

**Experimenting with New Energy Related Gravity
Yourself (ENERGY)**
Tammy Rohrbaugh, Guinyard Butler Middle

Exploring Global Diversity: The Multicultural Fair
Matthew Kennamer, Kennedy Middle

**Frogs, Genes, and Cells:
A Great Leap into Life Science!**
*Kristina Istre, A.R. Johnson Health Science and
Engineering Magnet School*

Funds to Enhance School Sensory Room
Bethany Stratton, North Columbia Elementary

**Fusing Technology & Hands-On Learning
for Success**
Rajananthini Velumylylum, Edisto High

**Gamifying the Classroom to Teach Core Concepts
with Math and Critical Thinking**
Ruth Watford, Lake Marion High

Hands On Minds On Phonics
Mary Jones, Mossy Creek Elementary

**Hands-On Math:
Enhancing Learning with Engaging Manipulatives**
Ashlee Chinn, Douglas Elementary

If YOU Can Dream It, YOU Can STREAM It!!!
Laura Webster, Graniteville Elementary

**Incorporating NexGen Cyber Curriculum in
Social Studies**
Jayne Andrews, Riverside Middle

Information Overload!
Kaylyn Bryant, South Aiken Baptist Christian School

Insect Life Cycles
Holly Roberts, Mossy Creek Elementary

**Leadership Through Innovation: Building Social
Skills and Career Paths with Robotics**
Aretha Tarver, Chukker Creek Elementary

Lemonade Stand for Future Leaders
Emily Bostedor, Jefferson Elementary

Level Up for the Win!
Laurie Frazier, Aiken High

**Little Astronaut Adventures:
Exploring the Solar System**
*Megan Kennamer, First Baptist Church
North Augusta Weekday Education*

**Little Scientists Exploring Our World
Through Play**
Babs Bowers, Oakwood Windsor Elementary

Making Memorable Maps
Stephanie Prandy, Kennedy Middle

Manipulating Math to Add Merit

Christi McWaters, East Aiken School of the Arts

Mapping the World:

Exploring World History Through Maps

Juliet Joseph, Hunter Kinard Tyler Middle/High

Microbit Programing Project

Amanda Waymer, Aiken Scholars Academy

Mindfulness Garden

Courtney Shannon, MAAT, ATR-P, Willie Jeffries School of Excellence

Model Rocketry and Physics Exploration

Bryan Pugh, Edisto High

Network Ready: Preparing Silver Bluff Students for the Digital Future by Expanding IT and Networking Education

Steve Campbell, Silver Bluff High

Numbers Come to Life:

Engaging Math Through Play

Lauren Scarbrough, Savannah River Academy

Poetry in Motion: Using Micro:

Bits to Innovate Language Arts

Patricia Saxon, New Ellenton Middle STEAM Magnet School

Print Your Dreams

Rebekah Trull, Merriwether Middle

Project Wisdom Character Education Curriculum

Cathy Huger, Lake Marion Middle

Reading Rockstars

Brittany Hallman, Edisto Primary

Rolling Out the Slabs!

*Lillie Dunning, Lockett Elementary/
Branchville High*

Shaping into STEM

Kendra Browning, McBean Elementary

Shining a Light on Learning:

Empowering Pre-K Special Education through Light Table Engagement

Lillian Mann, Merriwether Elementary

Slam into Poetry: A Multimedia Experience

Cherelle Washington, Lake Marion Middle

Steam Reading: Encouraging Love of Reading and Exploration in the Sciences

Mary Gwyn, Dover Elementary

STEM Stories:

Building Literacy Through Science

Cindy Bachelder, Savannah River Academy

Students Practicing Activities and Challenging Each Other (SPACE)

Hannah Johnson, Guinyard Butler Middle

Students Tackle Astronomy and Reflect (STAR)

Travis Washington, Guinyard Butler Middle

Teaching Team Building Skills through Robotics

Jessica Jenkins, Riverside Middle

The Nitty GRITty of Robotics

Becca Hamilton, Merriwether Elementary

The Reading Revolution:

Enhancing Classroom Libraries

Amanda Fair-Coles, Dover Elementary

There and Back Again: A Physics Student's Tale

Kimberly Coffin, Midland Valley High

Thinking Outside the Desk

Dana Ergle, Aiken Intermediate

Tiny Techies, Mouse Masters

Cassie Miller, Merriwether Elementary

Touch, See, Solve:**Interactive Math for All Learners**

Leah Bynes, JD Lever Elementary

Try It, Write It, Teach It

Sarah Kirkendohl, Merriwether Elementary

Ultimate Drone Ball

Regina Dunbar, Paul Knox Middle

\$750 Grant Winners**Building Blocks for a Brighter Future**

Kristen Womack, W.E. Parker Elementary

Clean Hands, Bright Minds:**Soap Making with STEM**

Amy Wolfe, Mossy Creek Elementary

**Empowering Students Through Innovative
STEM Media**

*Roberta Robinson, A.R. Johnson Health Science
and Engineering Magnet School*

**Empowering Young Minds: STEM Bins
Essentials, Money Kit, and Liquid Measurement**

*Tabatha Versch, South Aiken Baptist
Christian School*

**Getting to the Root of the Issue! How Science
Talks, Hands-On Learning, and Vocabulary
Development Cultivate Young Scientists!**

Stephanie Humphries, W.E. Parker Elementary

Hands and Hearts on Math

Aisha Norman, Diamond Lakes Elementary

Innovate & Engineer:**STEM for Young Problem-Solvers**

Lindsay Girosky, Savannah River Academy

**Lights, Action, Sound! Completing
Electric Circuits**

Amie Sanders, Barnwell Elementary

**Pressure Injuries in the Health
Science Classroom**

*Kasey Wall, Strom Thurmond Career and
Technology Center*

**Real Life Scenarios Using 3-D Printing
and Mathematics**

Tracy Brown, Denmark Olar Middle

Science Shark Tank

Sarah Moore, Greenbrier Middle

STEM Explorers:**Building Problem-Solving Skills Through
Hands-On Learning**

Katelyn Ware, Goshen Elementary

STEM Literacy Toolkit

Olivia Holt, W.S. Hornsby Middle

We Dig It! Becoming Junior Geologists

Laken Pritchard, Barnwell Elementary

\$1,000 Grant Winners

3D Engineering Design Challenges

Timothy Spishock, Episcopal Day School

ARJ STEAM Makerspace

Cassie Ito, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School

Beyond the Dirt: Exploring Hydroponic Gardening

Stephanie Johnson, Richmond Hill Elementary

Blooming Futures:

Cultivating Growth Through Garden Education

Lindsey Hager, Mossy Creek Elementary

Botany in STEM

Jennifer McMillian, Jackson STEM Magnet Middle

Drones, Drones, Everywhere

Marco Villegas, A. Dorothy Hains Elementary

Empowering Futures:

Hands-On STEM Exploration Through Innovative Classroom Materials

Trust Dabangana, Allendale Fairfax Middle

Empowering STEM Minds with Advanced Circuit Tools

Thomas Gonzales, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet

Empowering Students through Scientific Inquiry

Samantha Lytch, North Augusta High

Engaging Young Minds:

Exploring STEM with Ozobots

Erica Goldman, Byrd Elementary

Enhancing Artistic Expression with New Media

Leah Shackleford, Wagener-Salley High

Erosion in Action: Exploring Soil Health and Human Impact

Nicolas Bernal, Davidson Fine Arts Magnet

Exploring Welding through Virtual Reality

Robert Fulmer, Barnwell County Career Center

Flight Academy:

Taking STEAM to New Heights

Leah Carlton, Glenn Hills Middle

From Abstract to 3D:

Visualizing Life's Processes

Maria Avesta, Lake Marion High

Giving Life to Prototypes:

The Impact of 3D Printing

Valery Dinkins, Martinez Elementary

Integrating Arduino & Mechatronics in STEM Classes

Richard Baker, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School

Keep Calm and Code On

Jill Paul, Merriwether Elementary

Learning about Engineering and Technology with 3D Printing

Ashley Exantus, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School

Making Critical Thinkers with Makerspace

Melanie Starks, East Aiken School of the Arts

Micro-vision: Getting Outside to Discover What is Just Beyond Your Eyes

Lisa Augustine-Chizmar, Stallings Island Middle

Multi-curriculum STEM Activity Cart

Jami Holliday, Midland Valley Christian Academy

Printing Beyond the Page

Michelle Butts, Kennedy Middle

Seeing the Rainbow in Chemistry

Anne Ollic, Horse Creek Academy

Shaping Tomorrow, Today:

3D Printing for a Sustainable Future

Joseph Cordova, Copeland Elementary

ShowBox: Task Mastermind

Uyen Griffis, Hammond Hill Elementary

Snapping Our Way Through STEM

Elaine Ward, Hephzibah Middle

Sphero Indi

Teresa Wallace, Richmond Hill Elementary

STEAM Teaching & Eating Healthy Through Aquaponics

*Amanda Glover, A.R. Johnson Health Science
and Engineering Magnet School*

Student Learning Hallways

Jennifer Rexroat, Greenbrier Middle

The Rams Factory: Where Creativity Meets Entrepreneurship

Angelita Jordan-Washington, Schofield Middle

Transform the STEM Classroom with Makey Makey Magic!

Randall Williams, McBean Elementary

Wonder Bots

Maya Webb, Mellichamp Elementary

MINI GRANTS

2025 DATA FACT SHEET



328

GRANTS
RECEIVED

GRANTS
AWARDED

110



24,725

STUDENT
IMPACT

EDUCATOR
IMPACT

110



74

SCHOOLS
RECEIVING
AWARDS

