JUNE 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

SRNS Today

SRNS kicks off summer campaign

SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Analytical Chemistry group outreach • Palmetto Shining Star • Innovative Teaching Mini Grants

Jeff Griffin
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover
This year's 100 Days of Summer campaign focuses on empowering employees to speak up for safety.

Welcome

to the June 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

I'm excited to write my first introduction letter in SRNS Today as the President and CEO and to step into this role as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Savannah River Site.

Things are starting to heat up, and SRNS is continuing its 100 Days of Summer campaign with the theme: "A safe action begins with a safe thought." The campaign reminds employees to speak up and maintain a questioning attitude at work before taking an action that could be unsafe. Employees are asked to be mindful of the heightened safety risks as the temperatures outside increase, to prevent any heat-related illnesses for us and our co-workers.

The SRNS Pit Production Laboratory's Analytical Chemistry group visited several universities and college campuses to expand their outreach efforts. Those who visited campuses shared their SRNS career experiences, the Site's history and future opportunities for the students to assist in our mission of making the world safer. Building this pipeline for future talent will create a stronger workforce for our mission needs.

SRNS Education Outreach Programs reached a huge milestone this year, by contributing over $1 million to local educators through the Innovative Teaching Mini Grants since 2008. This is an impressive achievement as SRNS continues to support STEM education throughout the CSRA and nearby areas in K-12 education. Investing in our teachers helps us prepare tomorrow's future leaders.

I look forward to continuing what my predecessors have started in completing our missions and maintaining our legacy of excellence. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our company and to SRS.

Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS℠

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. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

AC laboratory expands university outreach for future mission needs

The SRNS Pit Production Laboratory (PPL) Analytical Chemistry group is expanding university outreach efforts to address a variety of program needs and broaden the pipeline for future workforce growth within the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) organization.

"These exchanges represent an open recognition that finding, hiring and training the right talent will be pivotal to the long-term success of the organization in delivering on the pit production mission," said PPL Analytical Chemistry Manager Floyd Stanley. "By engaging with universities and colleges around the country, including our local institutions, PPL can attract and retain upcoming talent, ensuring a steady flow of skilled individuals who are well-prepared for the tasks ahead."

Some of the universities and colleges PPL has visited recently include:

- **Georgia Institute of Technology:** Stanley joined colleagues from Los Alamos National Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to address students of the Transuranic Chemistry Center of Research Excellence (TRU CoRE) at the Georgia Institute of Technology during their graduate recruitment event in early April. This event—sponsored by the NNSA—was open to students from collaborating programs across the country and aimed to promote careers in the national laboratories. Attendance this year represented a nearly 300% increase from the previous year.
- **Colorado State University:** Analytical Chemist Rebecca Thomas recently visited Colorado State University to discuss contract research developments within their radiochemistry program, meeting with faculty and students to discuss upcoming and future work. Radiochemistry is a critical knowledge area needed in future mission efforts within SRPPF; however, growth in this field has declined since the end of the Cold War. SRNS is collaborating with other national laboratory partners to foster renewed interest in radiochemistry, increasing graduate numbers and expanding the talent pipeline to meet local needs.

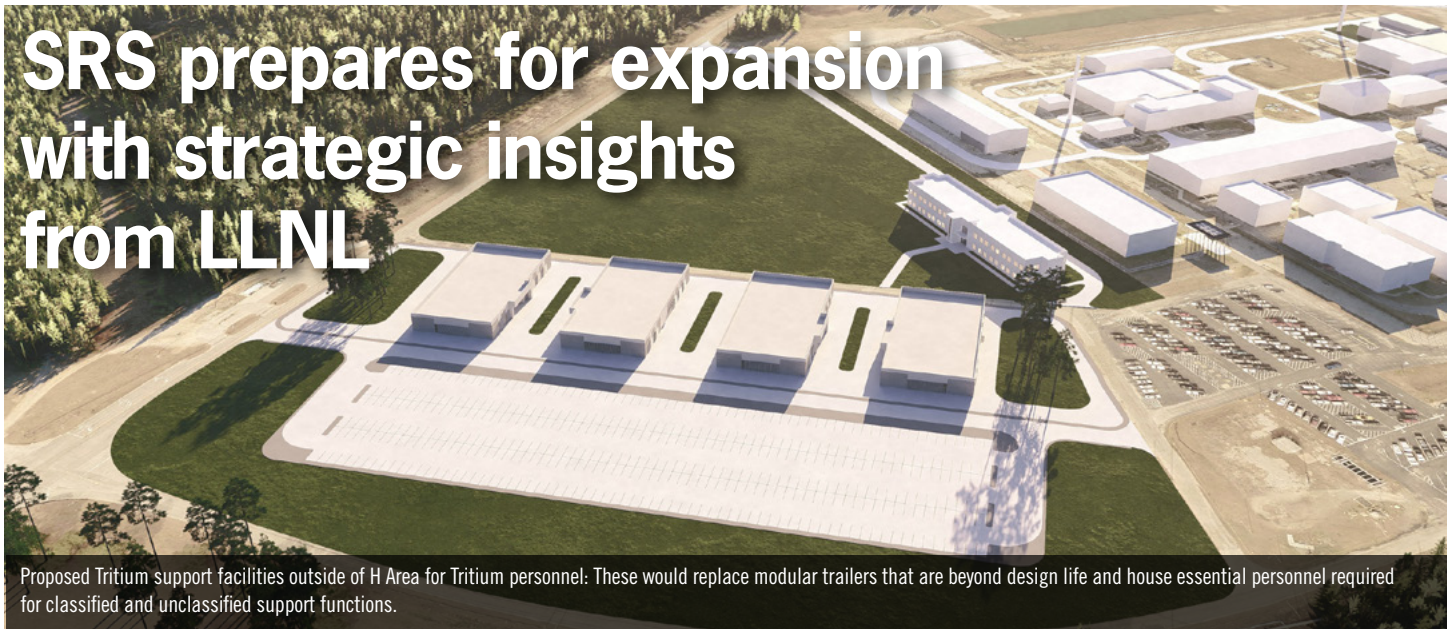
Analytical Chemist Cassidy Crandell speaks to chemistry and physics students at Whitworth University.

- **Appalachian State and Whitworth University:** Analytical Chemists Carl Frisby and Cassidy Crandell were recently invited to present to students at Appalachian State University and Whitworth University, respectively. Both shared anecdotes from their own career journeys, detailed their current roles with SRNS and shared future opportunities.
- These efforts align with visits to local universities, including **Augusta University, Allen University and South Carolina State University** and are part of a growing strategy to meet lab needs within the PPOP organization as the SRPPF comes online.

"Building relationships with these institutions is part of our ongoing, big-picture strategy to partner with both universities and other Labs, Plants and Sites who are producing the next generation of technical experts," said Todd Coleman, PPL Manager. "As we work to accelerate the pit production mission and ramp up staffing for both the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center and the main Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, these students will play a key role as future SRS decision makers and leaders."

SRPPF is part of the NNSA's two-site strategy for producing plutonium pits—a critical component of nuclear weapons—at the quantities needed for U.S. stockpile modernization in support of nuclear deterrence. Upon reaching steady-state operations, it is estimated that the facility will require approximately 2,100 employees in a variety of positions.

SRS prepares for expansion with strategic insights from LLNL



Proposed Tritium support facilities outside of H Area for Tritium personnel: These would replace modular trailers that are beyond design life and house essential personnel required for classified and unclassified support functions.

The SRNS Strategic Planning and Integration (SP&I) team recently hosted representatives from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to share best practices and lessons learned. This collaboration represents a pivotal step in addressing the evolving needs of NNSA at SRS.

SRNS and LLNL representatives discussed the expansion of SRS mission capabilities, which is driving a rapid increase in the Site's population and creating an immediate and ongoing need for additional office spaces. SRNS plans to hire upwards of 2,000 additional recruits over the next five years. SP&I is addressing these urgent needs to support the growing needs of the SRPPF and other NNSA-related missions. Simultaneously, the team is planning long-term, with visionary plans extending 20-30 years into the future.

"Our main goal is to provide a strategy for site-wide infrastructure revitalization and modernization, critical for NNSA's enduring mission success," said Freddie Grimm, SP&I Senior Vice President. "Our approach aligns strategic goals with Site development, ensuring efficient resource allocation and mission support."

A tour of the Site provided visitors with a firsthand look at critical infrastructure needs and ongoing projects. Topics discussed with LLNL included Standardized Acquisition and Recapitalization (STAR) Building Acquisitions, housing resource needs, current trailer occupancy, direct and indirect funding strategies for office space, limited areas, vault type rooms and commercial construction.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory personnel visit SRS to share best practices and lessons learned in infrastructure modernization.

The STAR initiative was created by NNSA in May 2019 to reduce costs and accelerate construction of small office and light laboratory facilities by developing standard, scalable building designs that can be used across the DOE-NNSA Complex.

According to Chris Hanner, SRNS Strategic Planning Director, constructing permanent facilities is the best approach for adding necessary office space and replacing end-of-life modular office trailers. Due to ongoing difficulties in securing line-item funding for large support buildings, utilizing STAR facilities at SRS has been recommended to meet immediate housing needs.

"The ProtoSTAR design maximizes occupancy and requires minimal changes for adaptation to the South Carolina climate," said Hanner. "The over 17,000-square-foot facility from Los Alamos National Laboratory's ProtoSTAR Phase II would house 95 personnel. Thirteen of these mission support facilities are planned for the next five years, pending recapitalization funding."

Cliff Shang, LLNL Associate Principal Deputy Director of Laboratory Infrastructure, shared similar challenges in 2020 when LLNL was hiring upwards of 1,000 employees per year. "Our classified areas were over 100% occupancy, so we devised a plan and executed a surge in office space construction. We overcame this challenge through determination in mission delivery, expertise of our skilled staff and collaboration with our infrastructure delivery partners to identify the best path forward. I see those same qualities in the SP&I team today. They will learn by doing, and once they complete their first projects, they will scale rapidly," said Shang.

To ensure production facilities receive the necessary support, SP&I is advocating for both direct and indirect funding to enhance project execution and delivery. The SRS Master Campus Plan will establish a vision and roadmap to effectively support NNSA missions over the next several decades, focusing on constructing new facilities and enhancing existing capabilities.

Shang concluded, "Infrastructure knowledge is meant to be shared. This visit allowed us to share best practices from our own transition period, ensuring SRS can benefit from our experiences and insights."

Rooted in responsibility

SRNS continues soil remediation efforts

SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) Engineering department performed a risk assessment on the Central Shops Scrap Lumber Pile located near N Area. The presence of low levels of arsenic were discovered in the surface soil, exceeding an acceptable risk level for the hypothetical future resident and future industrial worker receptor scenarios. Historically,this spot was utilized to burn various unknown types of wood, potentially including treated lumber and creosote-treated wood.

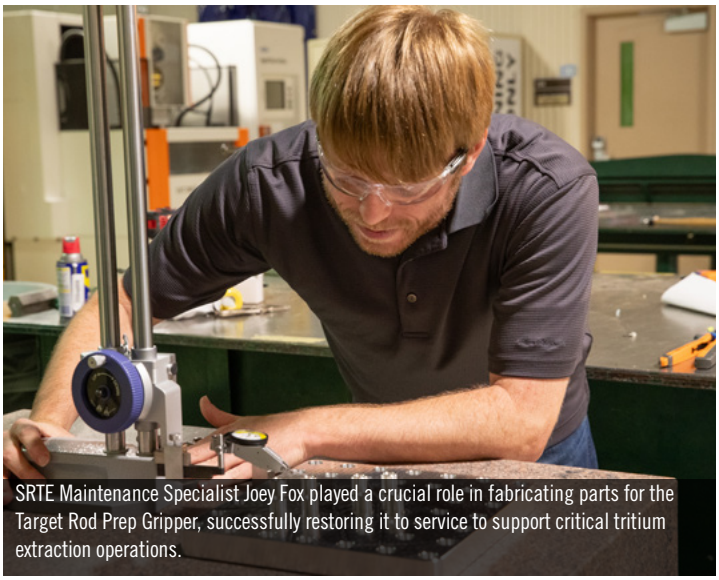
Excavation was completed in April to remove approximately 2,000 cubic yards of the contaminated soil. Once removed, the contaminated soil was disposed of off-site at the Three Rivers Landfill in Aiken, South Carolina, as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) waste, and the excavation areas were backfilled with clean soil. The purpose of this remedial action is to remove contaminated soil down to one foot below the ground surface to prevent the potential for human exposure to arsenic in surface soils.

According to Terry Killeen, Geologist and Senior Technical Advisor, "This remedial action will prevent SRS from having to perform annual Land Use Controls inspections each year for the foreseeable future, helping bring cost savings to the company."

While supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent, SRS prioritizes safe and efficient operations to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. As a part of the Site's comprehensive cleanup program, all hazardous substances are regulated under federal law, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and CERCLA.

"EC&ACP brings a wide range of skills to the table," continued Killeen. "Our program managers, engineers, environmental scientists, toxicologists, biologists, chemists and geologists work together to successfully clean up operable waste units from small soil remediation projects to reactor closures. With their combined strengths, our team is well equipped to take on future challenges and continue driving progress in environmental cleanup."

Workers remove contaminated soil from areas of N Area's Central Shops scrap lumber pile, to ensure the protection of surrounding populations.



SRTE Maintenance Specialist Joey Fox played a crucial role in fabricating parts for the Target Rod Prep Gripper, successfully restoring it to service to support critical tritium extraction operations.

Innovative solution restores key SRTE component

Employees at SRNS Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) implemented innovation when they serviced a critical mechanical component—one crucial for meeting operational needs.

Housed in the SRNS Savannah River Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF), the Target Rod Prep Module's Breaching Tool Robot Gripper Assembly underwent four months of corrective maintenance, after experiencing a mechanical failure. The gripper was recently returned to service to support resumption of tritium extraction operations.

Initially, the plan was to order new parts essential for returning the gripper to service; however, shipping delays and long fabrication lead-times prevented the timely arrival of these parts. To ensure the continuity of operations, SRTE Maintenance Machinist Joey Fox and SRTE Engineer Mike Harber took the initiative to fabricate the necessary repair parts for the tool's assembly in-house. These customized parts included a new cam shaft, cam pads, and cam gears—all critical components for maintaining the integrity and functionality of the gripper.

"Because of the type of work performed, the machinery required for extraction is subject to substantial wear and tear," said Fox. "With this innovative solution, we were able to add a special protective coating on the parts to extend degradation as they go through extraction evolutions."

Prior to the extraction process, Tritium-Producing Burnable Absorber Rods are irradiated in reactors operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Then the rods are transported to TEF, where the tritium is extracted from the rods, purified and then transferred to SRTE's H Area New Manufacturing facility to be loaded into reservoirs for shipment to the Department of Defense.

The 'rock library' is home to over 1,200 cores stored in 22,000 boxes that create 35 miles of geological core. The core is a unique, irreplaceable, and tangible archive of over 50 years of subsurface investigation.

Students tour Geological Core Repository

SRNS Education Outreach Programs recently coordinated a tour of the SRS Geological Core Repository for 14 geoscience students from Georgia Southern University (GSU). The repository, a vast warehouse of sediment and rock cores from across the Site, serves as a unique archive of over 50 years of subsurface investigations, with core samples valued at over $60 million.

"Core samples are invaluable for understanding sediment heterogeneity, physical properties and seismic hazards," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead. "They help predict groundwater movement and the behavior of contaminants and mitigants, while adding geotechnical rigor to facility siting and foundation design. Beyond SRS, core samples support university research, state and federal geologic surveys and museum displays."

Edward Lo, Assistant Professor of Geology at GSU, was inspired to make SRS an annual visit for his sedimentation and stratigraphy course after reading about the repository.

"The tour was incredibly informative, highlighting groundwater monitoring wells and coastal plains geology, which directly tie back to our curriculum," explained Lo. "I hope my students connect textbook concepts with real-world applications to ensure that nationally important work is done to the highest standards. Witnessing the Cold War history and the Site's modern role was eye-opening; every American should visit to understand how federal tax revenue is invested in our defense."

During the visit, students used various field tools to inspect and describe soil samples from the Site's Z Area, home to the Saltstone Disposal Facility. They used hand lenses for detailed inspection, grain size scales for classifying sediments, color books for accurate color description, and geologic field books to record their observations and data.

Dillion Daniels, a senior geoscience student, said, "I have been in the Army for nearly seven years as a geospatial intelligence imagery analyst, which is where I developed a passion for geosciences. I see potential for new, motivated individuals to aid in core organization and inventory. The operational standards at SRS were similar to those I used in the Army, making the tour even more relevant to my experience."

Core samples are costly to collect, sometimes exceeding $1 million due to the depth and complexity involved. It's a cost that many universities cannot afford, making the Site's collection a unique and critical resource. They also serve a foundational role in ongoing environmental reports for agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services.

Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Geologist Terry Killeen provided students with an opportunity to perform a non-destructive stratigraphic correlation exercise on core materials.

"The significance of these cores extends beyond SRS," added Killeen. "By offering students the opportunity to visit the Site, we provide them with valuable insights into our operations and mission. Engaging with students allows us to nurture future professionals. Over the years, we have hired several interns from local schools in South Carolina and Georgia, showcasing our commitment to developing local talent."

Georgia Southern University junior Delaney Love uses a hand lens to examine a core from the Site's Saltstone Disposal Facility.

SRNS' Palmetto Shining Star Streak

SRNS Operations and Construction divisions were recently awarded Palmetto Shining Star awards from the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in recognition of the company's safety accomplishments in 2024. This marks the 10th year in a row that SRNS has received this recognition.

To qualify for this award, employers must reach one million safe work hours without a lost day due to injury or illness. SRNS Operations exceeded this benchmark three separate times during the year, with the most impressive stretch totaling 5,519,110 safe hours from late July through December. Meanwhile, SRNS Construction demonstrated remarkable progress by reducing its incident rate by 40% and surpassing 1.5 million work hours without a single lost workday case.

"The SRNS mission is to make the world safer through disciplined performance in producing and protecting nuclear materials for our nation's security, promoting global nuclear deterrence, and protecting the environment for future generations," said SRNS Senior Vice President, Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality Duane McLane. "These awards reflect the company's maintenance and growth of successful health and safety programs."

> *"Reaching these milestones isn't just about numbers, it's about the daily commitment our teams make to look out for one another and ensure everyone goes home safely."*
>
> **Diana Bowers,**
> **SRNS Safety and Health Director**

By ensuring that they—and their coworkers—are properly equipped, SRNS employees help uphold a culture where everyone goes home safe.

Throughout the year, SRNS encourages safe working environments through ongoing initiatives including leadership development for Local Safety Improvement Teams, employee wellness fairs and various safety-focused campaigns.

SRNS Safety and Health Director Diana Bowers said, "This award is a tremendous reflection of the pride our workforce takes in building and sustaining a strong safety culture. Reaching these milestones isn't just about numbers; it's about the daily commitment our teams make to look out for one another and ensure everyone goes home safely. Safety is the foundation of our operational excellence, and it plays a critical role in achieving our missions. I couldn't be prouder of the discipline, accountability and care our teams demonstrate each day."

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations awarded the 2024 Palmetto Shining Star to a total of 15 South Carolina-based companies.

2024 LiveLifeBlue Award

SRNS is proud to have recently been recognized by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina with their 2024 LiveLifeBlue award. This award honors South Carolina employers who demonstrate exceptional commitment to promoting health and wellness within the workplace.

The LiveLifeBlue award celebrates organizations that implement innovative wellness programs, fostering a culture of health and well-being among employees. SRNS was recognized for their mental health resources, wellness challenges, comprehensive health screenings, wellness rooms, webinars, mental health awareness initiatives and mental health first aid training. These programs not only enhance employee health but also contribute to increased productivity and morale.

"We are honored to receive the LiveLifeBlue award," said Cheryl Cummings, SRNS Employee Wellness Manager. "This recognition reflects our ongoing dedication to creating a supportive and healthy environment for our wonderful employees and their families."

According to Benefits Manager Cary Holbert, "Our goal is to equip

individuals with the resources and tools necessary to achieve a healthy and fulfilled life—encompassing physical, mental, emotional and financial well-being."

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is committed to encouraging healthier workplaces across the state. By recognizing organizations that prioritize employee well-being, the program aims to inspire others to adopt similar wellness-focused practices.

100 Days of Summer

SRNS kicks off summer campaign:

A safe action begins with a safe thought

SUMMER presents heightened safety risks for individuals, especially between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Each year, SRS holds its 100 Days of Summer campaign to remind employees to stay vigilant of potential hazards encountered each day to ensure they have a fun and safe summer.

SRNS is proud to promote this year's campaign theme, "A safe action begins with a safe thought." The campaign highlights the importance of cultivating an environment where individuals feel safe, respected and valued to speak their mind without fear of negative consequences.

"We all play a part in ensuring psychological safety at work," said SRNS Principal Industrial Hygienist Kristin Creed. "This campaign is really about making sure our employees feel safe to have discussions, especially those about safety concerns, with their coworkers, management or any individual they may encounter."

The SRNS Local Safety Improvement Teams (LSITs) will implement several engagement activities, including monthly activities during LSIT meetings, helpful reminders and resources in safety meetings, and a challenge to employees to think of ways to cultivate psychological safety in the workplace.

Safety and Health Director Diana Bowers stated, "A safe action truly begins with a safe thought; every voice matters when it comes to safety. By staying aware, looking out for one another and addressing everyday hazards, we not only protect ourselves but help ensure every employee returns home safely. Safety isn't just a policy; it's a shared commitment."

From Science Bowl to STEM careers

Every year, the SRNS Education Outreach Programs (EOP) hosts the DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl Competition, bringing together brilliant young minds for a fast-paced challenge. What began as a student competition has evolved into a significant talent pipeline, shaping the next generation of scientists and engineers. Some of today's newest hires at SRS once competed in these very events and are now giving back as volunteers.

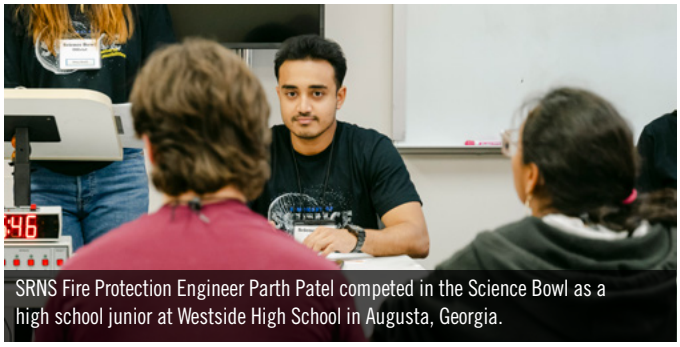
"The journey from student participant to professional mentor exemplifies the profound impact of our education outreach initiatives," said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "We don't just want to hire the best engineers and STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] leaders—we want to help create them."

Recently hired SRNS Engineers Parth Patel and Braden Lewis embody this full-circle narrative through their involvement in Science Bowl.

"It was a defining moment for me," said Patel, a Fire Protection Design Authority Engineer at SRS, who competed in the Science Bowl as a junior at Westside High in Augusta, Georgia. "The energy of the competition made me realize I wanted a career with that same excitement."

SRS is one of only three DOE sites to participate annually at the regional level since DOE created the National Science Bowl in 1991. Each year, volunteers from Site contractors make the regional tournament possible.

Beyond the competition, Science Bowl supports SRNS' long-term workforce development strategy. SRS aims to hire 9,000 additional recruits over the next five years. By introducing students to STEM pathways early, SRNS strengthens its recruitment pipeline and fosters future talent organically.



SRNS Fire Protection Engineer Parth Patel competed in the Science Bowl as a high school junior at Westside High School in Augusta, Georgia.

SRNS Associate Engineer Braden Lewis, second from right, competed in the 2020 DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl Competition for Greenbrier High School, where his team placed third.

"Science Bowl provided an outlet for my passion for STEM, ultimately leading to a career in mechanical engineering," said Lewis. "I want to pass those experiences on to the next generation."

"Programs like Science Bowl are not just good community service—they're good business," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead. "We are building relationships that begin in elementary school and continue into fulfilling careers at SRS."

SRTE's internal career fair

The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) recently held its first internal career fair to provide employees with the opportunity to explore potential career paths within its different organizational departments.

"This initiative was inspired by the enthusiastic feedback from many SRTE employees who expressed a strong desire for an event that fosters exploration and growth throughout the organization," said SRTE Human Resources Business Partner Brianna Chavis. "This particular event benefits both the employee and the organization. It fosters internal mobility, improves employee engagement and builds a stronger talent pipeline."

More than 130 SRTE employees participated in the one-day event at the Tritium facility. Various SRTE organization representatives set up informational booths to talk about their specific departments and answer questions. The 11 booths included those for Engineering, Operations, Mission Performance, the Tritium Maintenance Organization and more.

"With over 6,000 employees, career opportunities at SRNS are limitless. That can be both exciting and overwhelming to employees, particularly for those who have spent their career in one facility or functional area," said SRNS Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management Bryan Ortner. "The SRTE internal career fair broke that mold and provided an avenue for employees to learn about other jobs on-site."

SRTE employees showcase their creativity by organizing a "Jeopardy" game, allowing attendees to have fun while learning about the organization.

SRNS offers numerous career avenues, as demonstrated by the variety of opportunities showcased at the recent SRTE career fair.

"It was great to see the energy and excitement that this event generated. Many employees discovered new interests and pathways within our organization," said SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs JC Epting. "Additionally, it demonstrated how we—as a company—can empower employees to advance their careers within our own facilities."

Mini Grant awards surpass $1M

Stephanie Humphries, W.E. Parker Elementary wins a door prize during the reception. She will use the funds to purchase hands-on STEM learning kits for her classroom.

In an exciting step toward empowering educators and enriching student learning experiences, the SRNS Education Outreach Programs has surpassed a remarkable milestone, contributing over $1 million to local educators through Innovative Teaching Mini Grants since 2009.

SRNS generously supports innovative teaching methods in the Central Savannah River Area and Orangeburg County. Each year, thousands of dollars are awarded to educators from 4K through 12th grade across public, private and charter schools. This year, 110 educators received a total of $75,000 at a celebration in Aiken, South Carolina.

"This year's grant recipients are implementing a diverse range of bold ideas—from coding robots and drones to studying insect life cycles—and preparing the next generation of STEM leaders to support the Savannah River Site's growing missions in stockpile support and nonproliferation," said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "These competitive grants are designed to support creative classroom projects that inspire, engage and challenge students."

The ceremony opened with a video celebrating SRS' 75-year legacy addressing nuclear, national security, and environmental challenges, highlighting the Site's unwavering commitment to the nation.

During his opening remarks, SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs JC Epting, who has 39 years of experience in nuclear operations, stated, "Local educators are continuing this legacy by training the next generation of scientists, mathematicians and engineers. We invest in you, and you invest in STEM programs to prepare students for future roles at SRS. By tapping into students' innovation and creativity, we develop the intellectual capital needed to tackle global challenges and support America's future success."

Nearly 25,000 students across 74 schools will benefit from the Mini Grants, which provide $500, $750 or $1,000 to purchase STEM equipment, materials and supplies to enhance classroom instruction. Winners are chosen based on their anonymously reviewed project proposals by a panel of 50 judges.

"Winning a Mini Grant for the third year in a row is a tremendous support for our science program," said Joseph Cordova, Richmond County Copeland Elementary Educator. "Last year, we used the funds to create a mobile science cart with essential science materials since we lack dedicated science classrooms. This year, the funds will support our fifth graders' exhibition projects, bringing their prototypes to life with a 3D printer, which otherwise wouldn't be possible."

"Thanks to the grant, we conducted stellar nebula research last year, culminating in a hands-on astronomy unit where students applied chemistry and physics concepts to design and create their own nebulas," said Lisa Chizmar, an eighth-grade science teacher at Columbia County Stallings Island Middle School and two-time grant winner. "This year, we're excited to use mini microscopes to take our classes outside, keeping the joy of science alive for our students and allowing them to explore and experiment without fear."

SRNS Senior Vice President NNSA Tritium and Operations Programs JC Epting provides opening remarks at the reception.

During the SRNS Innovative Teaching Mini Grant reception in Aiken, South Carolina, 110 educators from the CSRA and Orangeburg County receive their share of $75,000.

SRNS expands workforce pipelines

Connecting local and national university engagement partnerships

Regional and national university partnerships converged during an event co-hosted by SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Mission Development and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)'s Production Analysis and Transformation (PAT) Directorate.

The University Engagement Collaboration Micro Conference, held June 4 at SRS, brought together personnel from The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and seven of the eight South Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including: Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Clinton College, Denmark Technical College, Morris College and Voorhees University.

Through existing partnerships with UTEP and other universities, both LANL and SRNS are developing technology and personnel pipelines to advance the NNSA's two-site pit production mission in support of nuclear deterrence. During the event, UTEP Vice President for Research Ahmad Itani addressed UTEP's collaborations with the NNSA and LANL—including partnerships with SRNS—while representatives from each HBCU were invited to give a brief overview of their respective institutions. All participants received a Site driving tour and heard remarks from SRNS Workforce Services and Talent Management and Savannah River National Laboratory.

According to Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President for SRNS PPOP, the event provided a forum for pursuing additional mutually-beneficial collaborations between the two sites and their established partners.

"Working with LANL, SRNS is leveraging existing partnerships and fostering new relationships to bolster our talent pipeline and ultimately the CSRA," she said. "This conference gave us a platform to connect our partners in other parts of the country with our local HBCU partners,

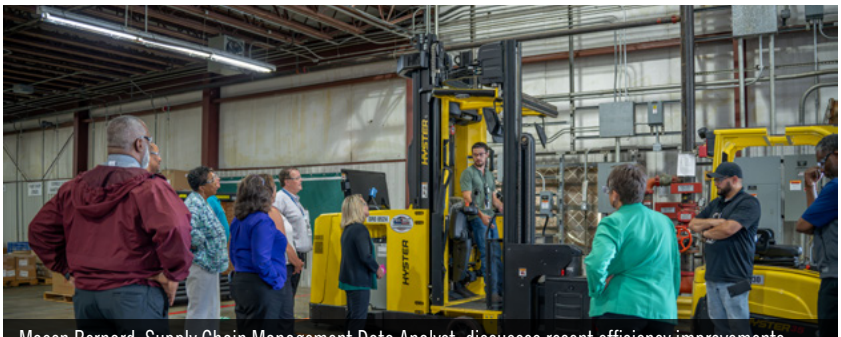
SRNS regional and national university partners met during a a University Engagement Collaboration Micro Conference, held June 4 at SRS.

with the ultimate goal of attracting students and providing access and opportunity to our HBCU partners for internships, apprenticeships, and employment at both SRNS and LANL in support of defense programs."

PPOP Mission Development supports contracts, deliverables and outcomes with the South Carolina HBCUs through an initiative funded by the U.S. Congress, designed to establish workforce development and training.

Pamela Richardson Wilks, Clinton College President, said the event, particularly the Site tour, offered an eye-opening perspective. "This experience has helped me hone in on how, as educators, we can best prepare our students and necessitate a successful workforce," she said. "I'm looking at all the ways we can prepare them and work, from an advisory perspective, to create the kinds of curriculum that institutions like SRNS and Los Alamos want to see, so that we have a steady and secure workforce pipeline partnership."

SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs' Andrew Walczak leads a tour of the Site's Machining Training Center, during a University Engagement Collaboration Micro Conference in June.



Mason Bernard, Supply Chain Management Data Analyst, discusses recent efficiency improvements at the Receiving and Distribution Center.

Transforming Supply Chain Warehousing Operations

The SRNS Supply Chain Operations and Programs (SCO&P) department is driving efficiency and innovation to meet the demanding missions of NNSA at SRS. To showcase these advancements, SCO&P recently conducted a walkthrough of the main receiving, delivery and storage facilities with members of the executive team.

The tour highlighted significant improvements in the quality of life for warehouse employees, business management practices, lean culture, system integration, data-driven decision-making, and the latest Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Oracle implementation.

“This is the most proactive approach to solution resolution that I’ve seen,” said Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services. “The team’s focus on integrating advanced data analytics, lean methodologies and employee engagement has not only improved operational efficiency but also fostered a collaborative work environment.”

Angela Foreman, SRNS Senior Manager of Strategic Innovation, said, “Our goal is to meet NNSA’s enduring missions with enhanced efficiency. Since fiscal year 2024, we’ve implemented several key improvements in business management, including rigorous cost savings tracking and integrated project management. Our first-line managers and material processors are all collaborating to create meaningful change.”

Efforts to improve productivity include better warehouse space utilization, advanced logistics maturity, and formulating comprehensive strategies for both current and future warehouse capabilities.

“We’ve noticed a significant boost in psychological safety, gradually bridging the gap between management and employees,” said James Dutton, SRNS Delivery First Line Manager. “Everyone is more forthcoming, introducing new ideas without fear, and contributing innovative solutions to benefit the company.”

The team has successfully adapted to the SRNL Oracle implementation, leading to the integration of three separate systems and the ability to process incoming and outbound materials. Data from April 2025 shows a positive trend in operational efficiency, with notable improvements in cycle times and quicker resolution for problem area items. The team achieved a receipt-to-delivery cycle time of 1.74 days, which is better than the historical average that exceeded the two-day target.

Tammy Rimes, SRNS SCO&P Senior Director, concluded, “Our focus has shifted from simply reducing problem resolution time to proactively preventing issues by identifying the root cause. This team aims to deliver unparalleled service, reliability and value to our customers because the ‘mission begins with us’ and our ability to provide the materials and services needed to support the Site.”

Criticality Safety Engineering Partnership

SRNS has partnered with North Carolina State University (NCSU) to address the ongoing need for specialists in the field of Nuclear and Criticality Safety Engineering (N&CSE) at the Site. This partnership has led to the creation of the SRNS N&CSE University Pipeline Program course, a one-semester, three-hour elective course that launched in the Fall 2024 semester and is offered to both undergraduate seniors and graduate students.

SRNS N&CSE personnel recently visited the NCSU campus to promote the pipeline course to the students within the American Nuclear Society. The missions of the Site were promoted and discussed at the event attracting both undergraduates and graduate students in engineering fields.

“Roles such as criticality safety engineers and nuclear accident analysts have traditionally been challenging to recruit and retain,” said Tracy Stover, Criticality Safety Program Manager. “These are niche, high-demand experts, which are typically recruited from nuclear engineering or related programs.”

The DOE approved the start of the SRNS N&CSE University Pipeline Program course to assist the company’s needs by training potential future talent for the specialized roles. Curriculum is developed and taught by SRNS personnel to prepare students to support N&CSE at SRS.

The results of the NCSU pilot program will determine if course expansion will be explored for South Carolina State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Students with interest in the pilot program attended the promotional event at North Carolina State University.

2025 SRNS scholarship award recipients

Empowering futures

Celebrating 15 scholars and a $45,000 legacy

SRNS recently awarded 15 children of SRNS employees with a total of $45,000 in college scholarships at the 2025 Family Scholarship Awards Ceremony. The event was held at Newberry Hall in Aiken, South Carolina.

The SRNS Family Scholarship program showcases the company's commitment to supporting the workforce by providing aid to graduating seniors of company employees that are pursuing higher education. By offering scholarships, SRNS can also attract promising students and potential future employees, while retaining existing employees by supporting their dependents' education.

Since 2009, SRNS has presented college scholarships to more than 200 graduating high school students, providing $720,000 overall. Through this program, SRNS employees see the high value their company places on education. The recipients are selected based on ability, leadership, scholastic assessment and achievement.

One of the award recipients, Emma Tang, stated, "Receiving this award from SRNS is such an incredible honor. To be recognized in this way means a lot and I'm thankful for the support. This encourages me to keep striving, learning and growing in everything I do."

"Supporting the academic journey of these exceptional students aligns with our commitment to fostering educational excellence," said Sean Alford, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. This scholarship not only invests in their futures but also in the future of our communities."

2025 SRNS Family Scholarship recipients

Thomas Battey
Aquinas High School,
child of Thomas Battey
of F Area Operations

Adrien Beak
Horse Creek Academy,
child of Timothy Beak
of Operational Technology

Sara Blume
Fox Creek High School,
child of Tonya Tran
of Information Technology

Alena Crowley
South Aiken Baptist Christian School,
child of Alexia Crowley of Contracts and
Supply Chain Management

Kaylah Feinauer
Palmetto Independent Educators,
child of Daniel Feinauer of Facilities
and Systems Engineering

Victoria Goodson
Aiken High School,
child of Tommy Goodson
of Safeguards, Security
and Emergency Services

Da Young Han
Greenbrier High School,
child of Kai Han of Pit Production
Operations and Programs

Josiah Johnson
Barnwell High School, child of John
Johnson of Operational Excellence

Audrey McCurry
Fox Creek High School, child of Daniel
McCurry of Operational Technology

Madelyn McGhee
Augusta Christian High School,
child of Marcus McGhee
of Operational Technology

Carter Scott
Lakeside High School, child of Derek
Colligan of Radiological Protection

Emma Tang
Greenbrier High School,
child of Yun Yen Tang of Facilities
and Systems Engineering

Adam Towner
South Carolina Governor's School for
Science and Mathematics,
child of Stacey Towner of Pit Production
Operations and Program

Robert Watkins
Aiken High School, child of Robert
Watkins of SRPPF Engineering

Richard Zhang
Naperville Central High School,
child of Jianhua Zhang of Facilities
and Systems Engineering

Diana Bowers

AT SRNS: Director of Safety and Health

IN THE COMMUNITY: United Way Child Advocacy Center Volunteer

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

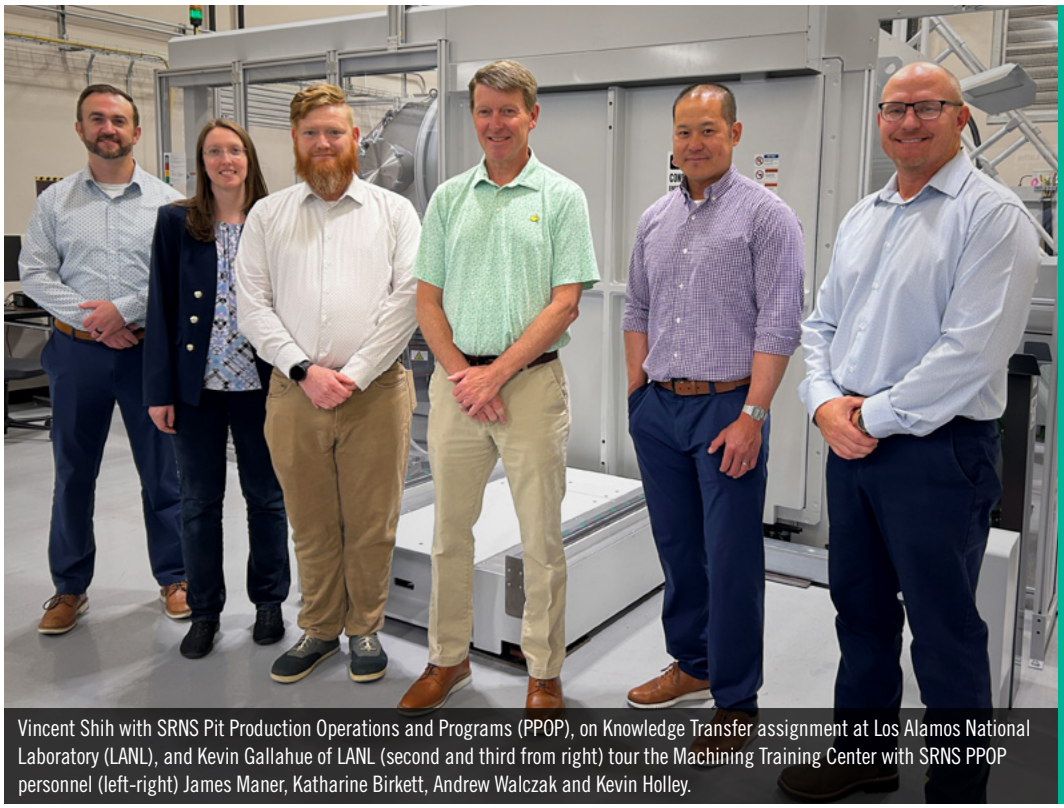
SRNS Director of Safety and Health, Diana Bowers, leads the Industrial Safety and Industrial Hygiene programs at the Site, ensuring the mitigation of hazardous conditions affecting workers, property, the environment and the general public. In this role, she oversees the programmatic and contractual requirements for the Integrated Safety Management System, injury/illness classification and overall safety culture.

Bowers holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and a Master of Science in Engineering Systems Management and Project Management from Texas A&M University. Her 15 years of experience in safety and engineering fields at the Site includes previously serving as a Construction Engineering Manager on projects such as the Surplus Plutonium Disposition and as a Civil Field Engineer at the Salt Waste Processing Facility construction. She also has experience as a field engineer at water and wastewater plants.

Bowers said, "I enjoy all the unique challenges of modifying and maintaining structures that are 75 years old, along with the opportunities to learn and grow in different organizations across the Site."

Aside from her standard job functions, Bowers actively supports and volunteers for the United Way Agency's Child Advocacy Center through Project Vision. In past years, she has also served on the Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals Steering Committee. She is also a dedicated blood donor.

Raised in a Navy family, Bowers was born in Saratoga Springs, New York, and eventually moved to Aiken, South Carolina, where she currently resides. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities with her children, watching Clemson sports, running, and volunteering as a coach for the Fermata swim team in the summer.



Vincent Shih with SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP), on Knowledge Transfer assignment at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and Kevin Gallahue of LANL (second and third from right) tour the Machining Training Center with SRNS PPOP personnel (left-right) James Maner, Katharine Birkett, Andrew Walczak and Kevin Holley.

SRNS/LANL alignment partnership

SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) personnel met at SRS May 22 and 27 to continue discussions on various topics identified during the recent SRS Leadership Team visit to LANL. Collaboration areas covered during the visit include feedstock strategy, Matrixed Executive Team initiatives and goals, Knowledge Transfer Program assignments, and High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC) needs. The group also toured the Machining Training Center and participated in an Augmented Reality tour of the HFTOC. These joint visits ensure alignment between the two sites and enhance further collaboration and partnerships to advance the NNSA pit production mission.

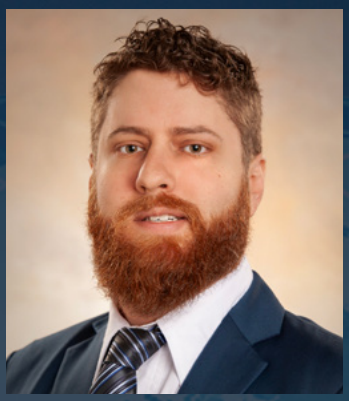
FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.

SCAN ME
to connect with our social media

Jennifer Scott
Software Project Management Office Senior Project Manager

Floyd Stanley
Analytical Chemistry Manager for Pit Production Laboratories



Tee Paschall
Project Delivery Organization Data Integration Manager

Jean Thomas
RNS Project Controls EVMS and Program Support Manager

SRNS

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms

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