

● SEPTEMBER 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



**College Night reaches
>4,700 at new venue**

\$15K in scholarships awarded



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

TREAT workshop • Apprentices enter workforce • VPPPA awards • United Way Project Serve



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

Attendees filled the Augusta Convention Center during the SRS CSRA College Night on Sept. 12.

Welcome

to the September 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

Children are our future. This is true not only within families and communities but also within the workforce. SRNS spends a lot of energy and resources on developing an ever-extending pipeline of employees. This is done through Education Outreach programs, philanthropic efforts such as: area benefits supporting the community; and internships and apprenticeships to help train young adults making career decisions.

SRNS planned and hosted the annual SRS College Night again, this year in a new location. Over 4,700 attended the event at the Augusta Convention Center, and SRNS awarded scholarships to 15 local high school seniors. This event sees more and more participants every year.

SRNS also welcomed over 40 new Production Operator Apprentice graduates from Denmark Technical College and Augusta Technical College this month. This was the first cohort from Augusta Technical College. Operators are now being put to work in several SRNS facilities, including the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise, and in Environmental Management Operations.

Along with this work, SRNS completed the sampling of heavy water moderator tanks, marking the first time these tanks have been opened in 20 years. This will lead to eventual disposition of the moderator. Additionally, SRNS employees were recognized for Safety Leadership; selected to participate in the 11-month Weapon Intern Program with Sandia National Laboratories; and volunteered their time during Project Serve.

We hope you enjoy this edition of SRNS Today.



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)

SRS hosts environmental justice workshop



Kim Mitchell and Taylor Rice, both of SRNS, brief attendees on the SRNS Education Outreach Program during the TREAT workshop.

Over 40 educators, community leaders and student interns recently visited the University of South Carolina Aiken for the Teaching Radiation, Energy and Technology (TREAT) Workshop — held annually by the DOE-Savannah River Operations Office for nearly 30 years.

Through an environmental justice grant, DOE partners with Savannah State University to educate CSRA teachers and community leaders about environmental radiation, safety, education outreach, job training, environmental monitoring and emergency preparedness.

“Our goal with this long-standing environmental justice initiative is to educate attendees on radiation, DOE missions and the benefit of having a strong relationship with SRS,” said James Tanner, DOE Public Accountability Specialist. “Our hope is that attending educators take this information back into the classroom to inspire hundreds of students, year after year.”

“TREAT workshops are a collaboration of academia, DOE and its contractors and regulators who come together for the purpose of education and progress. DOE is proud to be on this team,” DOE-Savannah River Operations Manager Mike Budney shared with TREAT participants. “We are grateful for these knowledge-sharing exchanges that help open doors for career opportunities for students and future leaders.”

Environmental Monitoring Program Scientist Colleen Davis presented air and fish surveillance information and showed electrofishing equipment to participants.

“Presenting at the workshop allows for us to discuss environmental monitoring from the standpoint of how we measure the health of our environment and how this surveillance aids in determining dose and risk assessments to members of the surrounding community,” said Davis. “We assured the public of their safety living near the Site and the absence of increased radiation exposure risks from our operations.”



TREAT workshop attendees

SRNS Education Outreach, Radiological Control and Emergency Operations gave overviews of their programs to TREAT participants. In addition, experts from the Environmental Protection Agency, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, SRS Citizens Advisory Board and Aiken City Council came together to teach, answer questions and share potential career opportunities.

“Our aim is for attendees to leave this workshop having a clearer understanding of SRS missions and feel confident in our commitment to safety, community engagement and environmental stewardship,” said Tanner.

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“Our goal with this long-standing environmental justice initiative is to educate attendees on radiation, DOE missions and the benefit of having a strong relationship with SRS.”

**James Tanner,
DOE Public Accountability Specialist**

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Patrick Schneider, Pit Production Operations – Area Operations Director, leads a tour.



PPOP team hosts Facility Managers Forum

Members of the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) team recently hosted the SRNS Facility Managers Forum (FMF) for a briefing and tour of the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC).

The FMF is a site-wide organization of managers, who recommend policy to senior management, integrate improvement initiatives and exchange lessons learned and best practices in the area of disciplined operations.

According to Nick Miller, Deputy Vice President of Environmental Management Operations, the visit was intended to connect senior leaders from other areas of the Site with PPOP leadership to learn more about the SRPPF Program mission requirements.

“We felt it was prudent to inform the FMF members and brief them on SRPPF to determine how we can best assist,” said Miller. “Since SRPPF is such a high-priority mission, it’s important for us to be familiar with the details, including operational progress and challenges.”

This also gave us an opportunity to better integrate SRPPF presence into the FMF for more comprehensive and representative decision-making.”

Patrick Schneider, Pit Production Operations – Area Operations Director, led the briefing and tour. “The HFTOC will serve as the primary training facility for operators while the SRPPF facility is being constructed,” said Schneider. “It’s important to ensure that our workforce, especially those who are instrumental to the day-to-day operations of our many existing facilities, understand the important role the HFTOC will play in the pit production mission at SRS.”

In addition to learning more about the SRPPF Program scope, Miller said the visit was part of a wider initiative to get Facility Managers Forum members into the field on a regular basis, allowing for more effective networking and better facilitating lesson learning and best practices among the various Site facilities.

Site road improvements generate >13,000 tons of millings

SRNS Site Services recently completed pavement improvements to a section of the most highly travelled route at SRS. Over 13,000 tons of asphalt, milled from SRS Road C, was donated to SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) in an “Assets for Services” exchange.

The agreement allows SRSCRO to excess unwanted double and single wide trailers from the Site in exchange for assets — asphalt millings from the repaving process of Road C. This exchange has generated a cost savings of more than \$100,000 for SRNS and allows the excessed trailers to be used for community reuse or resale off-site or demolition by the SRSCRO.

Wisdom Hokey, SRNS Site Infrastructure Engineering, said, “Due to extensive cracking, many SRS paved roadways are in need of repair. Once the substructure of asphalt fails, we must completely restructure the road. The work completed on Road C generated a substantial number of millings that can be exchanged for SRSCRO services.”

The resurfacing process used on SRS roads includes milling up to 4.5 inches into deteriorated layers of old pavement. An open-graded

interlayer and binder layer are placed before adding the final asphalt surface, which prevents cracking and improves the longevity of the road.

In some cases, millings can be stockpiled for reuse at SRS to avoid the expenses of new pavement and landfill disposal.

“Milled asphalt costs about \$12 per ton, while new asphalt can cost as much as \$100 per ton,” said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Infrastructure. “This partnership between SRNS, the DOE and SRSCRO is a great way to benefit the surrounding community and save valuable resources.”

“By utilizing this program, Site Services can provide asphalt millings from Road C to SRSCRO as compensation for disposition services of excess modular office trailers,” said Brent Cole, SRNS Site Services Strategic Integration Manager. “The cost avoidance savings to DOE was over \$100,000; and SRSCRO was able to provide the asphalt millings to local county governments for various road improvement projects.”

Annual Site Environmental Report released

Each year, SRS compiles its Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) in accordance with DOE guidelines. This report is published to provide the public and SRS stakeholders with comprehensive information on the Site's environmental conditions for the previous calendar year.

SRS has been tracking environmental conditions since the Site's establishment in the early 1950s and has released an ASER annually since 1959. Over the last 70 years, the comprehensive SRS Environmental Monitoring Program has shown the following:

- The annual dose from SRS operations is less than one millirem and does not cause undue harm to our community.
- SRS protects, monitors, remediates and conserves groundwater at SRS.
- SRS employs innovative, cost-effective technologies to reduce the Site's environmental footprint.

In 2023, SRS continued to operate safely and accomplish its missions, all while upholding a strong record of environmental excellence. As in past years, the Site adhered to federal and state regulations aimed at protecting both the public and SRS employees.

The report also summarizes SRS' environmental data; sustainability efforts; compliance with relevant DOE, federal and state regulations; and updates on its remediation and surveillance monitoring programs.

"The ASER is proof of the Site's longstanding commitment to continually improve its environmental management system," said Michael Budney, Manager, DOE-Savannah River. "We strive to ensure

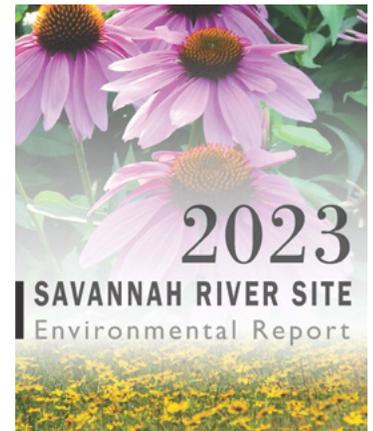
that SRS operations are protective of our workers and the public and that our community is informed and engaged in our mission execution and environmental performance."

SRNS' Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects team collects more than 10,000 monitoring samples annually from air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees.

These samples, collected on-site and from neighboring cities, towns and counties in Georgia and South Carolina, are analyzed by the Environmental Bioassay Laboratory at SRS. Results are then compiled and reported by the individual program owners in Environmental Monitoring.

"This 279-page report is a year-long focus for our team and a source of much pride, as it is a model across the DOE Complex," said Eric Doman, SRNS Environmental Monitoring Program Manager. "The ASER is DOE's primary document to educate the public on environmental programs, missions and community outreach efforts at the Site."

The 2023 ASER is available online at www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERSum/index.html.



A heavy lift: Heavy water moderator sampling completed

SRNS employees recently completed sampling of heavy water moderator tanks after almost a year of collaboration, leading to eventual disposition of the tritiated moderator.

The Spent Fuel Project at SRS has stored 42,000 gallons of heavy water moderator in tanks located in the facility housing the no-longer-in-use C-Reactor since 1984. The moderator was previously used in SRS production reactors.

"Sampling the moderator was a huge undertaking, involving coordination and input from 12 different work groups at SRS," said Inactive Facility Manager Michael Ellis. "The moderator is contaminated due to its previous use, so sampling also required proper planning and hazard mitigation."



A heavy water moderator tank

Ellis explained that there was an added challenge in the lack of personnel experienced in dealing with heavy water, as the tanks were last opened more than 20 years ago.

"Personnel with experience working with heavy water have retired or left the Site," he said. "This was an important learning experience for seasoned personnel, as well as the next generation, that ensures capability for dealing with this material in the future."

The Savannah River National Laboratory performed the radiological sample analysis, the results of which will help determine the final disposition path for this material.

"It took a tremendous amount of coordination and collaboration to get the samples shipped from the sampling tanks to the testing labs," said Alexis Hartwig, Spent Fuel Project Process Engineer. "It required continuous contact with the labs to determine what volume of material they would need to meet our requests; time frame discussion and coordination; and ensuring quality assurance requirements were met to allow for confidence in the results when determining further disposition. Knowing lab requirements also helped us gather the proper equipment for the job."

Heavy water contains deuterium, also known as heavy hydrogen. In nuclear reactors, heavy water is used as a moderator to slow down neutrons and ensure an effective fission-chain reaction occurs.

SRS Apprenticeship School welcomes six youth apprentices to program

This year, the SRS Apprenticeship School has welcomed six high school students from across the CSRA to participate in their inaugural Youth Apprenticeship program. With the success of the pilot program in 2022, the Youth Apprenticeship program has expanded, providing more students with opportunities to gain early professional development experience.

The 24-month program enables rising high school juniors or seniors to complete on-the-job training within departments across the Site including Information Technology (IT), Fire Protection and Site Training. Upon completing the program, apprentices earn a certificate recognizing them as a Youth Apprentice from the Department of Labor and are allowed to continue through the program for up to a year after graduation. After this time, students are given the option to transfer to the adult Apprenticeship Program if they wish to continue.

“We are thrilled to announce a partnership between Aiken County Public School District’s (ACPSD) Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department and SRNS to launch an IT and Emergency Medical Services Apprenticeship Program,” said Kenneth O. Lott, ACPSD CTE Director and Principal of Aiken County Career Center. “Students from North Augusta High School’s Dell Tech Crew and Aiken County Career and Technology Center’s EMS Pathway will gain hands-on training and the skills needed to excel in today’s evolving workforce, bridging the gap between education and industry.”

Considered Limited-Service Employees, youth apprentices are able to earn a wage and learn valuable professional skills while attending school. Students work part-time around their studies but can work full-time through school breaks. Depending on their high school, some students are also able to earn work-based learning credit to go towards their diploma.

Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, stated, “It is important for us to intersect the workforce pipeline at three strategic junctures: engaging the unemployed, engaging the underemployed and engaging those who enter the workforce for the first time. Youth Apprenticeships are measurable and highly productive avenues for companies to engage those who are entering the workforce for the first time.”

When asked about his time as a youth apprentice, pilot program graduate Drew Platts said, “It was an excellent experience that helped shape the career path I wanted to take after finishing high school. The apprenticeship training team taught me the process the Site uses to keep a steady pipeline of employees to fulfill the needs and keep the Site operating safely.”

Platts was hired on as a full-time Operator at SRNL upon graduating high school, where after eight months of training, he received his certificate in nuclear fundamentals and is in the process of obtaining his full facility qualifications.

Current Records Management Clerk Youth Apprentice Labria Jacobs discovered the program through LinkedIn and decided to apply to expand her horizons and learn about different career opportunities. “I am greatly enjoying my time here at SRNS,” said Jacobs. “Coming through the barricade, the vast size of the Site and number of employees who work here was very surprising to me. The safety culture is unlike anything I’ve ever seen before.”

For more information about programs offered through the SRS Apprenticeship School, visit: www.srs.gov/general/outreach/apprenticeship/apprenticeship_school.htm.



Jacob Lott and Alejandro Aguirre, Jr., Information Technology Apprentices



Elisabeth Corley and Labria Jacobs, Records Management Clerk Apprentices



Reagan Plummer and Andrew Hill, Emergency Medical Technician Apprentices

New graduates now go to work at SRS

Denmark Technical College graduates 24 new Production Operator Apprentices

SRS recently began onboarding of 24 graduates from Denmark Technical College (DTC), in Denmark, South Carolina, as part of the SRS Production Operator Apprenticeship Program.

DTC, a Historically Black College and University, applauded its graduates from two separate cohorts, at a recent graduation ceremony. DTC is one of three schools to join the SRS Production Operator Apprenticeship School since the program's inception four years ago, along with Aiken Technical College and Augusta Technical College.

"The mission of DTC is to engage, educate and empower students," said Hadi Hamid, DTC Associate Vice President of Industrial Related Technologies and Workforce. "This program is an example of that mission in action. Your successes are a statement to the transformative power of education."

The majority of DTC graduates will go to work in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise. Others have been hired for other SRNS facilities and for facilities run by Savannah River Mission Completion.

"Graduates, congratulations on your success," said SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Sean Alford, the keynote speaker for the event. "It takes courage to step into something new, especially when you have families and responsibilities. You answered the call. Now go out there and look for opportunities, and never forget that you are serving your country when you come to work each day."



"I could not be prouder of our nuclear fundamentals graduates. They are stepping into a workforce that is in critical need of their expertise, helping to close the gap in this vital industry," said Willie L. Todd Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of DTC.

The Production Operator Apprentice program started as a partnership between SRNS, Aiken Technical College, Apprenticeship Carolina™ and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. The eight-month program simultaneously allows for students to complete their classroom work and on-the-job training by allowing them to alternate between taking classes at the technical college and training on-site, while earning a competitive scalable wage. At the end of the program, participants will have earned a certificate in nuclear fundamentals and will have a portable credential from the Department of Labor. Since its inception, the Production Operator Apprentice program has seen over 420 graduates.

Augusta Tech/SRS celebrate new Production Operator Apprentice graduates

Augusta Technical College (Augusta Tech) and the SRS Apprenticeship School recently held a joint ceremony for 20 new graduates of the inaugural class of Production Operator Apprentices, who will now enter the workforce as nuclear operators at SRS.

"We are excited to see this next class of nuclear operators enter the SRS workforce," said Edwin Deshong, SRS Deputy Manager for DOE. "With increasing and enduring missions at the Site, it is imperative to create a pipeline of workers ready to go to work. This program is a benefit not only to SRS but to the students who take part."

According to Augusta Tech President Jermaine Whirl, the inaugural operator apprentice cohort from Augusta Tech was a huge success.

"Augusta Tech is thrilled to have joined this program and to be celebrating these graduates on this historic occasion," he said. "Thank you to the SRS Apprenticeship School for working closely with these graduates to ensure their success, but thank you most



of all to the friends and families who supported them. They and future graduates will help make a positive impact to our region."

Augusta Tech graduates will either go to work for SRNS Environmental Operations at SRS or for the Savannah River National Laboratory.

CSRA College Night sets new records



Attendees visited the Augusta Convention Center to meet with hundreds of colleges and universities.

More than 4,700 attendees filled the Augusta Convention Center in search of higher education and career opportunities during the SRS CSRA College Night on Sept. 12. SRNS awarded scholarships to 15 local high school seniors totaling \$15,000.

According to Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist, College Night has served tens of thousands of participants and awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarships over the last 30 years.

“This continues to be a huge night for high school students in our area,” said Hewitt. “College Night is the one night of the year where students can see all their options in one convenient location. Whether it’s higher education, military or apprenticeships — there is something here for everyone.”

This year, 177 SRS volunteers, seven sponsors, 114 colleges and universities, all branches of military and many local technical colleges came together for this event.

“Over the last three years, our school has transported

students here to experience this incredible opportunity and to interact with counselors and colleges throughout the Southeast and beyond,” said Gregory Thompson, Principal, South Carolina Governor’s School of Agriculture. “Some of my students are shocked to find what local schools can offer, especially in agriculture.”

Elyse Morrow, AR Johnson Magnet School senior, attended College Night with her mother, Karen Morrow, Director of Remediation, Deactivation and Decommissioning Division for the Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office (DOE-SR).

“I can’t believe they pulled my name,” Elyse Morrow explained after being randomly selected for a \$1,000 scholarship. “This is such a blessing, as I look for nuclear engineering opportunities at my favorite universities.”

“It has been heartwarming to see my youngest child experience this and take the lead on her college preparation,” said parent Karen Morrow. “Some students are not aware of all the opportunities available or need extra guidance, so I hope College Night continues to take



WATCH THE VIDEO:

Go to vimeo.com and search for “CSRA College Night 2024”

\$15,000
awarded scholarships

4,720
attendees

177
volunteers

off and spark interest in students who need it most.”

Students and parents obtained information on educational opportunities and college admission requirements, participated in seminars on HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) and LIFE (Legislative Incentive for Future Excellence) scholarships, and visited the Career Exploration area to card sort interest inventory and validate their potential career choice.

“This is my second year as a greeter and College/University Representative Volunteer,” said LaQunia Bush, SRNS Site Services Senior Training Specialist. “The SRNS Education Outreach Program plays a vital role in our community by offering these opportunities to young adults. I’m grateful to have been a part of such a positive and impactful event.”

North Augusta City Administrator Jim Clifford attended College Night with his son Jimmy, a freshman at Westminster Schools of Augusta, in search of military and technical school opportunities.

“I’m so appreciative of SRNS and the key sponsors for making this a regional event for kids to get a great cluster of schools from across the nation,” said Clifford. “We spoke to SUNY Cortland from New York, Florida Institute of Technology and local schools in South Carolina. I’m grateful for the opportunity to attend with my son and determine his college prep in high school.”



Fox Creek High School senior Elijah Byers accepts a \$1,000 scholarship presented by Dawn Haygood, SRNS Director, Office of the President and Corporate Communications, at this year’s CSRA College Night.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Anayah Smith

Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

Elyse Morrow

AR Johnson Magnet School

Marlene Garcia-Lopez

Aiken High School

Joshua Brandt

Jefferson County High School

Elijah Byers

Fox Creek High School

Maile Matsushima

North Augusta High School

Danielle Glover

South Aiken High School

Kailynn Frails

Westside High School

Christy Wilkinson

Greenbrier High School

Aurelia Gosink

South Aiken Baptist Christian School

Jeremiah Hudson

Cross Creek High School

Mar’kea Booker

Butler High School

K’Lahna Harris

Midland Valley High School

Frank Costello

North Augusta High School

Sanaa Scott

Burke County High School

SRNS employees recognized as VPPPA Emerging Safety Leaders

SRNS employees Jade Nealious, Senior Risk Analyst, and Daryl Butler Jr., Radiological Protection Inspector, were recently nationally recognized for their outstanding safety efforts, receiving the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) Emerging Safety Leader Excellence award. This new award recognizes the next generation of safety professionals who are making a significant impact in advancing workplace health and safety.

Nealious' commitment to safety and employee engagement is evident through her involvement in numerous organizations, both on-and-off-site, that promote safety excellence, mental health preparedness and leadership. Nealious takes a hands-on approach to promoting safety awareness and mental health performance. Her passions led her to establish a non-profit organization, Crowning Lupus, to provide access to medical, academic, mental and physical resources to lupus and chronic illness patients throughout the state of South Carolina and Georgia. She also created a support group for employees and community members to have a safe space to discuss mental health. Through her vision, multiple organizations have spearheaded initiatives that continue to make a positive impact on employees and members of the community.



Jade Nealious shows her leadership off-site through her nonprofit organization Crowning Lupus.



Daryl Butler Jr. creatively promotes safety engagement as a Co-Chair of K Area's Local Safety Improvement Team.

She has served as the Chair and Co-Chair of her area's Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT) for the last two and a half years, providing valuable safety leadership and insight to every level of the company. Nealious works with newly trained Behavior Based Safety (BBS) observers to ensure they are familiar and comfortable with the BBS process and prepared to conduct safety conversations with fellow employees. Her commitment is evident in the outstanding BBS engagement in her area, where over 85% of BBS observers have completed at least one BBS observation every month for the last two years.

"It would not shock anyone to hear me say, 'Each One. Reach One. Each One. Teach One,'" said Nealious. "Even one BBS observation can make a difference, and one conversation checking in with a fellow employee can determine a mentally safe or unfit day. I firmly believe that every person's contribution to safety matters, and we must help each other continuously pursue learning mechanisms that advance mental health and human performance to ensure physical and mental safety."

Throughout his seven-year career at the Site, Butler, also known as DBJ, has grown as a safety leader who is committed to maintaining a healthy and compliant work environment that ensures the well-being of employees. As a member of the K Area Material Storage team, Butler leads strategic safety initiatives that reduce safety incident rates and enhance operational performance.

His enthusiastic approach to safety engagement is shown through his involvement in Site organizations promoting safety and leadership development. As one of the Co-Chairs of K Area's LSIT, Butler uses his creativity to make safety fun and engaging for employees. In this role, he oversees the iTROTS (Integrated the Rest of the Story) program for his LSIT, which involves investigating workplace illnesses and injuries, to determine the most effective corrective actions.

Butler also served two years on the Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) committee, an organization dedicated to helping early career professionals succeed and encourage personal and professional growth. Through LEAP, Butler volunteered with organizations such as Toys for Tots and Crowning Lupus to help give back to the community.

"Safety begins within our spirits," said Butler. "Our experiences and passion for safety have the potential to serve as inspiration for others, and I'm fortunate to be surrounded by inspirational people each day. I'm honored to receive this award from VPPPA, but inspiring and encouraging others to be safe and prodigious leaders is the true award."

Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality, stated, "We are incredibly proud of both Jade and Daryl for their dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to safety. This achievement not only reflects their individual passion, but also strengthens our collective mission to ensure a safe work environment for every employee. Congratulations to them both for this well-deserved honor!"



SRNS Program Manager Daniel White and Jennifer Weedon, SRNS Strategic Planner for Sustainability, accept the sustainability award presented by Ingrid Kolb, DOE-EM Director, Office of Management.

DOE Sustainability Award for Outstanding Climate Resilience

The Communication Tower 623-40G Structural Analysis and Upgrade Project at SRS was recently selected to receive a 2024 DOE Sustainability Award for Outstanding Climate Resilience Project — an effort and commitment to ensure DOE is a federal leader in sustainability.

“SRS consistently identifies projects to proactively improve Site infrastructure, increase reliability and avoid risk of failure,” said Brian Stephens, DOE-SR Director, Infrastructure and Operations Division. “With the release of the fiscal year 2022 Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Plan, SRS took a closer look at infrastructure risks attributed to extreme weather events.”

Erected in 1998, the 600-foot-tall Communication Tower supports approximately 2,000 radios for SRS Emergency Services and remote workers. It was constructed to withstand 80 mph winds but offered limited support for ice accumulation. The team embarked on a way to improve the lifespan and resiliency of the tower against extreme weather events.

“It wasn’t easy moving this resilience project forward — it took time to secure the necessary funding required to perform the integrity testing for the guyed wire system and foundation anchors,” said Brent Cole, SRNS Site Services Strategic Integration Manager. “Although the tower was not actively failing, we highlighted the potential negative impacts on SRS and the surrounding community if the Tower stopped functioning properly.”

A structural engineer conducted a more in-depth inspection and structural life-cycle analysis using Guided Ultrasonic Wave Testing — discovering the Tower had mild corrosion ranging from 8-12%. Following the inspection, SRNS Structural Analysis recommended additional internal bracing to reinforce the legs and foundation. Now, the Communication Tower can withstand 102 mph wind speeds, 131 mph wind gusts and remains functional under the weight of one inch of ice.

“Ensuring our first responders and security forces have a resilient and reliable communications infrastructure is of utmost importance in the event of a crisis or natural disaster. These upgrades will measurably improve the probability it will function when needed,” said Judson Davis, SRNS Facility Maintenance Manager for Spent Fuels Project.

The upgrades will add 1,000 radios to the network over the next two years and extend the Tower’s life by an additional 10 years — resulting in a cost avoidance of more than \$5 million over the next decade. The project was recommended as a case study for the Federal Climate Resilience Best Practices Guide.

Future safety leader

SRNS employee’s daughter receives VPPPA Sergeant Safety Scholarship

Each year, the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association (VPPPA) offers four scholarships worth \$3,500 to support students pursuing a vocational, undergraduate or graduate degree in the safety, health or environmental fields.



Kamdyn Neale

This year, Kamdyn Neale, daughter of SRNS employee Zachary Ashcraft, was awarded the 2024 VPPPA Sergeant Safety Scholarship for her leadership and commitment to the environmental, safety and health fields. Other scholarships offered by VPPPA include the June Brothers Scholarship, Stephen Brown Scholarship and William “Sully” Sullivan Scholarship.

A recent graduate of Silver Bluff High School in Aiken, South Carolina, Neale was Captain of the Academic Team, Supply Officer of the Naval Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program and a proud member of both the National Honor Society and National Beta Club, while also attending dual enrollment courses at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken). In the fall, she will be attending USC Aiken with the intention of double majoring in chemistry and mechanical engineering with a minor in mathematics.

Over the course of the last two years while networking with SRS employees, Neale has developed a strong interest in Chemical Engineering. “When I learned about the VPPPA Sergeant Safety Scholarship, I knew that I had to apply,” she said. “I have always been passionate about environmental safety and engineering, and I hope to pursue that passion as a chemical engineer at the Savannah River Site after graduation.”

Applicants must be employed at a VPPPA full-member site in good standing and associated with the Department of Defense (DOD), or a DOD contractor, or the child/grandchild/spouse of an employee at a VPPPA full-member site in good standing. This scholarship is open to students enrolled in, or enrolling in, a college or university.

For more than 35 years, the VPPPA has awarded more than \$182,000 in scholarships and professional education grants to students in occupational safety and health. To learn more about the VPPPA Scholarship Program, visit vpppa.org/membership/scholarships/.

SRNS employees support the local community through Project Serve

Over 70 SRNS employees recently volunteered their time at the United Way agencies across the greater Augusta area as part of the annual Project Serve campaign, benefitting the United Way of the CSRA.

Volunteers spent the day completing needed facility maintenance and repairs at five different agency sites. This year's projects included landscaping, fence repairing, painting, floor repairing, playground construction, basic repairs and more.

"It's important that the needs of these charitable organizations are met in order for them to successfully achieve their missions," said Ethan Guidry SRNS Project Serve Chair. "SRNS employees have always been willing to donate their time, talent and skills to support the numerous project request from the agencies."

SRNS Lead Emergency Preparedness Specialist Keith McGuire has volunteered with United Way for almost 19 years. This year, he served as team lead at the Heritage Academy, an independent school offering a quality Christ-centered education to children of diverse economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

"Our team accomplished several projects across the school's campus, including installing a new fence, laying mulch around the playground, trimming tree limbs and cleaning overgrown flower beds," said McGuire. "It's rewarding to know that these improvements are impacting the lives of individuals living right here in our community."

Other Project Serve teams from SRNS completed projects at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, Jessye Norman School of the Arts, Camp Tanglewood and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Augusta.

Guidry was proud of their accomplishments and humbled by the overall participation of SRNS employees and their selflessness to volunteer on a day they normally would be off.

"Our employees' passion and dedication to impacting the local community through the United Way Project Serve is truly inspiring," said Guidry. "Their unwavering commitment and hard work demonstrate our companies' core values and our collective desire to make a positive difference in the CSRA."

Project Serve assists United Way agencies that provide support to 31 different programs, at 19 partner agencies throughout the region. SRNS is a dedicated supporter of the United Way, having raised over \$800,000 for local United Way agencies during the 2023 SRS United Way campaign.



SRNS employee George Gonzalez-Minguela shovels a fresh layer of mulch around the playground of Heritage Academy in Augusta, Georgia.

SRNS employees worked together to complete a variety of landscaping projects at the Jessye Norman School of the Arts in Augusta, Georgia.





Pit production mission takes center stage

Erika Baeza-Wisdom, Deputy Vice President for NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs, presented “SRPPF: The Future of Production at SRS” at the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) Up & Atom event, held August 21.

“The plutonium pit production mission is a national security mission of vital importance,” said Baeza-Wisdom. “We are grateful for the opportunity, through organizations like CNTA, to demonstrate the SRNS commitment to keeping our neighbors, families and communities safe.”

CNTA is an Aiken-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate the public by providing objective information on the value of nuclear technology.

“We feel it’s important for our community and members of the public to understand the significance of the pit production mission, not only from a national security standpoint, but also focusing on the economic impact this new mission will have on the CSRA,” said Allison Hamilton Molnar, CNTA Executive Director.”

Weapon Intern Program participant contributes to national security missions

An SRNS employee was recently selected to participate in the Weapon Intern Program (WIP), an 11-month residential educational program hosted by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

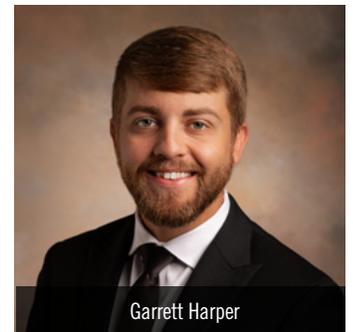
SRPP Design Authority Engineer Garrett Harper became the latest participant from SRS selected for the prestigious technical training program, whose mission is to prepare future generations of experts in nuclear weapons stewardship.

The only program of its kind within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), the WIP offers participants an in-depth, Enterprise-wide exposure to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent. Over the past 25 years, WIP has graduated over 500 participants from multiple organizations, including the DOE, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the NNSA. Only 24 participants are accepted into the program each year. Of the 24 accepted, 12 are external to Sandia, allowing for one to two candidates to participate from SRS each year.

The Program includes extensive classroom instruction from subject matter experts on a variety of nuclear weapon topics. Classroom instruction is reinforced with Site visits across the NSE, a variety of DOD facilities and historical sites. During their time in the program, WIP participants also complete class projects, such as weapon system program reviews, and a final capstone project, in which they are embedded in a Sandia working group. Those returning to SRS provide insight into nuclear weapon production and leverage established connections to support SRPPF and Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) missions.

“Acceptance into the Weapon Intern Program is a prestigious honor that is given to a select few SRS candidates each year,” said Lisa Lee, Pit Production Operations Program Development Manager, who coordinates

the SRPPF application and selection processes and also helps plan the annual WIP SRS site visit. “WIP candidates exemplify a high degree of professional dedication and personal commitment to the SRTE and SRPPF missions at SRS that support our nation’s nuclear deterrence.”



Garrett Harper

Harper started the program Sept. 16, and said he is looking forward to learning more about various aspects of nuclear weapons systems and how they may be integrated into SRS operations.

“When I return, I hope to share my experiences with other engineers to help SRPPF gain critical knowledge for our mission,” said Harper. “The goal is to come back with a well-rounded understanding of the U.S. NSE, the ‘why’ and ‘how’ things work. I hope to take the knowledge gained from the program and share it with others back at SRPPF and continue building better relations with people from across the NSE. I am looking forward to the different projects that I will have the opportunity to be involved with.”

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.

Sponsoring Women and Children's Health Center

On August 6, SRNS presented Rural Health Services, Inc. (RHS) with a \$5,000 donation to support the completion of their new facility in Aiken, South Carolina.

Spanning 19,645-square-feet, the Emanuel-McClain Women and Children's Health Center enhances healthcare services for women, infants and children. Services include prenatal care, pediatric care, family planning, mammography, delivery and related support services.

RHS Chief Executive Officer Carolyn Emanuel-McClain, the center's namesake, said, "The sponsorship from SRNS helps to enhance healthcare for our most vulnerable populations in the Aiken community and will be used to purchase additional pediatric equipment for this facility."



SRNS Executive Vice President Sean Alford presents a \$5,000 check to Rural Health Services, Inc. Board officers.

According to McClain, more than \$8 million in federal funds contributed to the center's construction, infrastructure and furnishings.

"The demand for affordable healthcare services in Aiken and surrounding areas continues to rise," McClain continued. "This center will be able to meet this need and creates a nurturing environment for families, mothers and children to thrive."

Dennis Carr said, "Each year, SRNS and its parent companies, Fluor Corporation and HII, give approximately \$1 million in sponsorships to support organizations in the surrounding community. We are thrilled to contribute to an organization that is committed to providing top-quality care to underserved populations."

The Women and Children's Health Center will offer lactation consultations for breastfeeding mothers and a diaper bank providing essential items like diapers, wipes, formula, children's clothing and feminine hygiene products to patients in need.

"Sponsorships from companies like SRNS play a significant role in improving the lives and outcomes of women and children who will be served by this facility," said Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief of Administration. "We are excited to participate in this event, which signifies a crucial milestone in addressing healthcare disparities for a brighter future."

SRNS donates \$20K to Child Enrichment Inc. event

Recently, SRNS presented Child Enrichment Inc. with a \$20,000 contribution to sponsor its "Cookin' for Kids Oyster Roast" at the Columbia County Fair Grounds in Grovetown, Georgia.

Child Enrichment Inc. supports local children who are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation in the Augusta Judicial Circuit (Richmond and Burke Counties), the Columbia County Judicial Circuit (Columbia County) and six additional counties in Georgia.

"Child Enrichment is dedicated to providing a voice and a path forward to children and families in our community who have experienced abuse, neglect or child sex trafficking," said Executive Director of Child Enrichment Inc. Kari Viola-Brooke.

Through its three programs, the Child Advocacy Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, and Prevent Child Abuse Greater Augusta, the organization has found safe permanent homes and provided counseling, forensic interviewing and court advocacy for over 1,100 child abuse victims.

"We are proud to support an organization whose mission is to support children and families in our community who have experienced abuse. It's our way of giving back and ensuring these families have the resources and support they need to heal and thrive," said SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management Francine Burroughs, who presented the check to the organization.



Child Enrichment Inc.'s "Cookin' for Kids Oyster Roast"

Since 2019, SRNS has contributed \$115,000 to support the organization's mission. This year, they were the largest donor of the event, earning the title of Premier Signature Sponsor.

"The generous support from SRNS allows us to continue providing advocacy and therapy services, at no cost, to over 1,100 children each year. With your partnership, we are able to ensure that no child has to go through this journey alone, that every child has an advocate, and that every child has the chance to heal and thrive," said Viola-Brooke.

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



Voluntary Protection Programs
 Participants' Association
 Emerging Safety Leader Excellence
 award winners

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Jade Nealious
 Daryl Butler Jr.

Jade Nealious
AT SRNS: Senior Risk Analyst

IN THE COMMUNITY: Crowning Lupus – Founder, Executive Director and Mentor for the Jodie's Treasure Mentoring Program; Chair of the Empower Our Families initiative with Kappa Upsilon Omega Chapter, South Atlantic Region Sisterly Relations Committee for Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc.®; WRDW News 12 Motivational Mondays speaker

Jade Nealious currently serves as a Senior Risk Analyst at SRNS, where she establishes competencies and provisions to mitigate risk and create opportunities for different customers of NNSA, such as the Pit Production Operations and Programs. She plays an integral role in ensuring customers reach necessary milestones within program and project scope.

She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she received her bachelor's degree in Mass Communication and a master's degree in Business Administration and Management and Leadership from Southern Wesleyan University.

Nealious, who has worked at the Site for five years, has proven to be a leader through her involvement in organizations promoting safety excellence and mental health. On-site, she is a core team member of the BEES Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT), a member of Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) and part of the Unity In Diversity Council.

Outside of work, she serves as the Founder and Executive Director of Crowning Lupus, a nonprofit organization advocating for people living with lupus, and periodically hosts a Motivational Mondays segment for WRDW News 12.

Daryl Butler Jr.
AT SRNS: Radiological Protection Inspector

IN THE COMMUNITY: Volunteered with Toys for Tots, Ronald McDonald House and Cancer Support Services of Augusta, Mentor for upcoming graduates of the National Honor Society

Daryl Butler Jr. ("DBJ") has worked on-site for over seven years, currently serving as a Radiological Protection Inspector, where his goal is to ensure all those working in nuclear environments return home safely. Prior to working at SRS, Butler graduated from Lander University, receiving his bachelor's degree in Communication and master's degree in Management.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at SRNS, Butler stated, "I enjoy the fellowship and opportunity to connect, grow and put a smile on the face of others." Aside from his standard job functions, Butler serves as a Co-Chair for K Area's LSIT, where he engages employees in safety with creative presentations and games while also upholding safety standards. As a former Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) steering committee member, Butler volunteered with organizations such as Toys for Tots, Crowning Lupus and more to give back to the community.

Outside of work, Butler enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors, participating in paintball tournaments and writing poetry.

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



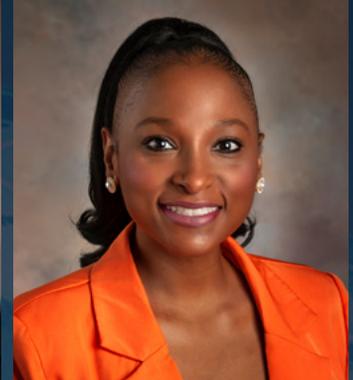
Patrick Ferguson
Senior Financial Analyst



Christina Cannella
SRTE Facility Support
Manager



Jess Robson
Supply Chain Management
Training Program Manager



Jade Nealious
Senior Risk Analyst

SRNS

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

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

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM