

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Gets High Marks for Education Outreach

*School systems within eight counties near SRS benefit from multiple education outreach programs, over 150,000 students and teachers reached since 2008*

AIKEN, S.C. – June 16, 2014 – The total impact the Department of Energy's (DOE) primary contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has had on the region's education systems each year is immeasurable. During the past school year alone, hundreds of schools and more than 25,000 students and teachers were directly affected through numerous SRNS education outreach programs and events.

Since SRNS became the management and operating contractor in 2008, more than 150,000 students and teachers throughout the eight counties near the DOE site have benefitted from dedicated efforts of SRNS employees to help local students and assist area educators.

“The SRNS Education Outreach Program is a highly valued resource that significantly and synergistically enhances our school systems in too many ways to list,” said Jeff Howell, Executive Director, Public Education Partners. “They assist underfunded teachers, while bringing scholarships and a myriad of intriguing learning opportunities to an amazing number of students.”

SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson acknowledged that investing in local students is also an investment in those who one day may be SRS employees. “Our programs are rich with opportunities to enlighten young



Thirty-four teams from 16 middle schools located throughout South Carolina and as well as Augusta, Ga., competed head-to-head during the final phase of this year's Future City Regional Competition. Overall, more than 25,000 students and teachers were directly affected through numerous SRNS education outreach programs and events held during the 2013/2014 school year.

minds and further enable our talented teachers who are so devoted to their students,” said Johnson.

Many of the programs offered annually by SRNS are based on learning through friendly competition. They include the CSRA Science Fair, DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl and the Future City Competition. Future City, for example, is a national program that teaches teamwork, creativity and a strong sense of individual responsibility as team members plan and work together to solve science and engineering problems while creating an innovative city of the future.

“We realize the fundamental success of any school system is the teachers,” said Johnson. “We are actively looking for new initiatives to aid them.”

SRNS annually holds an Innovative Teaching Mini Grants Program to provide financial assistance to area teachers. This competitive program provides grants to CSRA public and private elementary and middle school teachers for innovative ideas. During this past school year, grants for more than 100 teachers, totaling \$75,000, were awarded.

“With the continued community support of SRNS, our students have had the opportunity to investigate and understand math concepts, reaching peaks in learning that have surprised even us,” said Nan Croft, Warrenville Elementary School, Warrenville, S.C. “Our hats are off to SRNS and their nurturing presence in our educational environment.” Croft’s 2013 Mini Grant award made use of special teaching aids used to help students better understand the principles of fractions.

Thousands of children and young adults have benefited from SRNS education outreach programs whose primary goal is to stress the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These STEM-intensive initiatives include the Traveling Science Demonstration Program, Science



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& Technology Enrichment Program, Innovative Teaching Mini-Grants, Introduce a Girl to Engineering and various workshops, tours, lectures and demonstrations.

One of the SRNS educational events that reach the most students each year is the highly popular CSRA College Night. This event is coordinated and managed by SRNS personnel and utilizes the help of many highly valued volunteers from several CSRA companies. Last year, over 7,000 area high school students participated in this annual event, which required use of the entire floor space within the James Brown Arena in Augusta, Ga., including the primary walkways. More than 150 colleges and universities typically attend College Night, each manning an information booth.

Over the years, more than \$275,000 in scholarship funding has been offered to students attending CSRA College Night.

With the help of hundreds of caring volunteers, SRNS is proactively striving to assist local educators to help children grow in knowledge while learning important life lessons.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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