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## SRNS Mentors WORC with A.R. Johnson Students

*Introducing Nuclear Careers Through Real-World Problem Solving*



*SRNS Education Outreach Specialist Taylor Rice talks with A.R. Johnson students about their projects.*

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (December 14, 2023) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently hosted their third Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers (WORC) WORCshop in partnership with Augusta University, A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School and Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO).

WORCshop is a leading educational outreach opportunity that introduces students to nuclear science careers by solving real-world problems. SRNS mentors gathered alongside students and teachers at A.R. Johnson in Augusta, GA, for the WORCshop final showcase event on December 8.

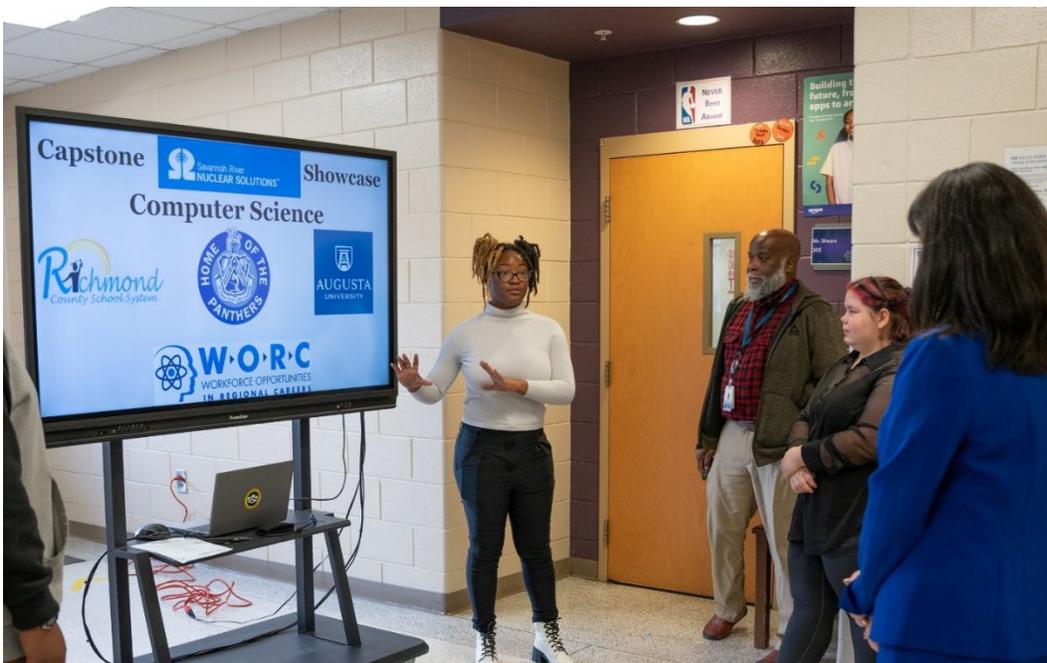
Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist, said, “The WORCshop provided an opportunity for A.R. Johnson students to be exposed to STEM fields, particularly engineering and information technology by working with SRNS mentors. Student teams developed projects exhibiting how these career fields impact our world.”

Throughout the year, eight volunteers from SRNS Engineering and IT worked with middle and high school students from A.R. Johnson to help connect their studies in the classroom with real-world scenarios. This year’s volunteers included: Emery Bassett, Scot Beck, Sean Bohrer, Chaunte Bost, Parker Johnson, Will Kellum, Logan Murray and Beshoy Wahba.

Each teacher provided a variety of general topics, such as traffic optimization or smart recycling for the WORCshop related to the subject they teach, including Computer Science, Engineering, Physical Science, Middle School Science and STEM. Students then selected a topic and developed their projects with the goal of presenting environmentally-friendly and cost-effective solutions at the showcase event.

A team of students in Christopher Shears' Computer Science class developed a mobile app concept called "The Panther Record" for their teachers and principals to utilize as a means of tracking student performance. Each student would have a QR code on their student ID lanyards that teachers could scan to take them to student profiles. In these profiles teachers would be able to make comments about student history, including dress code, disciplinary infractions or note positive performance, along with the date to keep track of how to better help students.

Students learned about timing, cost and communicating with customers. One student on the project team, Rhali Adams-Johnson, said "I really enjoyed learning from professionals how ideas are implemented in the workforce. Through this process I've learned more about the Software Development Lifecycle and the Agile Development Process, which are both tools heavily used in the industry at present."



*A.R. Johnson high school students present their concept for an app to assist their teachers and principals in keeping up with student records.*

When asked about his experience as a WORCshop mentor, SRNS Senior Fellow Engineer Sean Bohrer, who has served as a mentor for the past three years, stated, "I wanted to provide a positive impact to the community, particularly the younger generation of students interested in STEM related fields, by passing on experience and knowledge that demonstrates the

importance of STEM to real world problems and inspires students to pursue STEM careers. The most rewarding part of my experience has been seeing the enthusiasm and joy from students as they learn firsthand engineering and science concepts during their projects.”

“These professionals offer a perspective that I, as a teacher, can’t provide to my students,” said A.R. Johnson Engineering Applications teacher Justin Russell. “It is immensely transformative for our students to hear from engineers in industry who have been problem solvers for a long time and to learn the value of what is being taught in the classroom and of how it can be applied in the workforce.”

Russell continued, “Most SRNS employees involved in WORCshop that I’ve spoken with are not currently doing what they started out doing at the Site. It is a benefit to our students to see how a career is not always a straight path and to appreciate the importance of flexibility within a company that allows their employees to find the work they are passionate about.”



*SRNS Mentor Scot Beck looks at a project on noise pollution with a group of A.R. Johnson students.*

*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.*

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