

## Mackenzie McNabb

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For Immediate Release

## Kathryn McGee: Student Volunteer to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Employee

**AIKEN, S.C.**, (September 7, 2023) – In 2019, North Augusta High School student Kathryn McGee volunteered for the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) *Introduce a Girl to Engineering* outreach program. Today, she's a newly hired SRNS Engineer and has recently volunteered to serve yet again, at the next *Introduce a Girl to Engineering*.

Held at the Ruth Patrick Science Center on the University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) campus, McGee and her two friends represented the 2019 North Augusta Robotics Club and demonstrated how to build and operate robots.

"I really enjoyed it," said McGee. "And it was probably where I realized that explaining the importance of engineering as a career, particularly for women, was rewarding. In fact, during my last years at Clemson, I gave tours to prospective students around the campus that promoted engineering."



North Augusta High School student Kathryn McGee (second from right) operates a robot used during robotic competitions to demonstrate how pursuing engineering can be intriguing and fun during the 2019 Savannah River Nuclear Solutions *Introduce a Girl to Engineering* event held in Aiken.

The North Augusta, South Carolina, native confirmed her lifelong desire to be an engineer through an internship and then an apprenticeship at the SRNS Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

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During fall 2021, McGee began working with SRTE Engineering as an apprentice. Shortly thereafter, she accepted an offer with SRTE's Reservoir Systems Engineering group as a full-time employee.

"During my time as an intern and then as an apprentice, I learned so much about the Site, tritium and the missions at SRS," said McGee. "It's been a great experience, and I have enjoyed working with the members of that group. The Site is a totally different world than most companies. It's unlike anything else in the U.S. I'm grateful I had this opportunity as a student to get my foot in the door. I understand so much more than if I had just hired on. It made that transition from student to employee easier."

McGee said she always knew that one day she would join the workforce at SRS. "I don't see myself working anywhere else."



*Kathryn McGee working in SRTE's Reservoir Systems Engineering group as a full-time employee.*

Introduce a Girl to Engineering encourages eighth grade girls to consider careers in engineering, science and technology. In celebration of Nuclear Science Week, SRNS Education Outreach is coordinating this year's event on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, USC Aiken.

"Statistically, females are highly underrepresented in engineering and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. This event provides an opportunity for local eighth grade girls to be mentored by female engineers, scientists and IT professionals from the Savannah River Site through a

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variety of hands-on activities to showcase all the exciting career paths that STEM fields have to offer,” said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist.

*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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