

● NOVEMBER 2015

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

# SRNS Today



## Honoring excellence

Savannah River National Laboratory  
honors Dr. Jim Marra with Orth Lifetime Achievement Award

## Also this month

Innovative cleanup method • Scholarship recipients • Golden Harvest • Community donations







**Carol Johnson**  
SRNS President and CEO

# Welcome

to the November 2015 edition of

# SRNS Today



## Video: SRNL

To see an overview of the Savannah River National Laboratory, please [click here](#) or visit [www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/annual/SRNL\\_Overview.mp4](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/annual/SRNL_Overview.mp4)

If you look up the word “excellence,” it’s defined as “the quality of being outstanding.”

You’ll find examples of excellence on every page of this month’s edition of “SRNS Today.”

You’ll meet Dr. Jim Marra, the latest recipient of the coveted Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement Award. The Orth award is the highest honor given by the Savannah River National Laboratory, and Dr. Marra’s exemplary career in waste treatment and immobilization has earned recognition nationally and internationally. Dr. Marra embodies “the quality of being outstanding.”

SRNL’s Dr. Elise Fox is the recipient of American Chemical Society’s Women Chemists Committee Rising Star Award, which recognizes outstanding women scientists approaching mid-level careers who have demonstrated outstanding promise for contributions to their respective fields. Dr. Fox is being recognized for her contributions toward the advancement of renewable energy by furthering the understanding of the chemical behavior of materials used in energy production and utilization. She embodies “the quality of being outstanding.”

SRNS is pleased to support local students with financial donations for their education. The new SRNL University Scholars programs assists five University of South Carolina Aiken students this year, and 10 students at Claflin University received SRNS Scholars scholarships. Both programs encourage students who demonstrate academic excellence in the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math. These students embody “the quality of being outstanding.”

I’m proud to lead a company that celebrates that “quality of being outstanding” — excellence in our operations, our behavior and our community support.

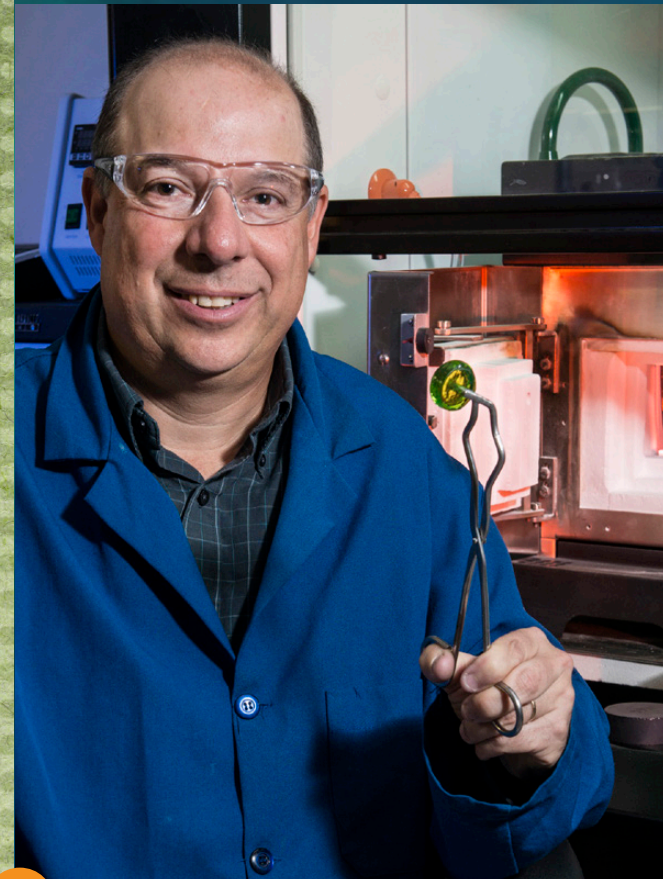
I hope you enjoy this edition of “SRNS Today.” As always, thank you for your interest in Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

*Carol*



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina, including the Savannah River National Laboratory. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 “Old Post Office” building in Aiken, S.C. 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 stakeholders of the company’s operational and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.9584 or visit our website.

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*“The list of winners of the Orth Award is remarkable, and includes many people who I have looked up to,” said Marra. “It’s humbling for me to be recognized among all the scientists and engineers at SRNL.”*

**Dr. Jim Marra**



Dr. Marra and Dr. Terry Michalske, SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director

# Honoring excellence

## Savannah River National Laboratory honors Marra with Orth Award

Dr. Jim Marra of SRNL has been named the 2015 winner of the Donald Orth Lifetime Achievement award, the highest distinction SRNL has to recognize the ideals of technical excellence and leadership.

Marra was recognized at a luncheon that included the award’s namesake, Dr. Donald Orth. Orth retired from SRNL in 1992, after a distinguished 41-year research career. The award was established in 1993 to periodically honor an individual “who by character and leadership best exemplifies Dr. Orth’s character and contributions.”

In presenting the award, SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske called Marra “a person who is really representative of the highest ideals of technical excellence and leadership in the Lab. Don Orth helped set the foundation that continues today. Like Dr. Orth, Jim Marra has done a lot to really make this Lab stand out as an internationally recognized and sought-after institution.”

Marra’s career at SRNL began in 1990. He has a B.S. in Ceramic Science and a B.A. in Mathematics from Alfred University; an M.S. in Materials Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and a PhD from Clemson in Ceramic and Materials Engineering. His SRNL career, he said, has spanned five different organizational sections in SRNL, both starting and ending in Materials Science and Technology.

“The list of winners of the Orth Award is remarkable, and includes many people who I have looked up to,” said Marra. “It’s humbling for me to be recognized among all the scientists and engineers at SRNL.”

While at SRNL, Marra has been noted for his work in waste treatment and immobilization. He’s been instrumental in SRNL’s work for external clients at Hanford and in Japan, and has served on multiple occasions as a consultant and instructor to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He is a fellow in both ASM International and the American Ceramic Society, with over 140 scientific publications to his credit. In addition to his responsibilities at SRNL, he’s served as a Board member for the both the American Ceramic Society and the Glass Manufacturers Industrial Council; he currently is chairman of the International Commission on Glass Technical Committee on Nuclear Waste Vitrification.



# NNSA Administrator thanks SRS employees for service

SRS and its employees are “key and essential” to the National Nuclear Security Administration’s missions, DOE’s Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz told employees during his recent visit to SRS. “Not just today, not just tomorrow, but for years and decades to come,” he said.

Gen. Klotz held an all-hands meeting with federal and contractor employees during his visit, taking advantage of the opportunity to thank SRS employees for their service to the nation, calling it “noble and worthy work.” He discussed a few examples of what he meant.

The work of the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise, he said, “is an important lifeline to rejuvenating and sustaining our stockpile, which enables us to meet our broader national security commitments.”

The Savannah River National Laboratory, he noted, enables NNSA “to do much more with less,” such as reducing the footprint of one process from a space the size of a room to something roughly the size of a speaker’s podium. He also took note of SRS’ role in disposing of excess nuclear materials or repurposing them for peaceful uses, such as the conversion of highly enriched uranium to produce electricity for American homes. “In the process,” he said, “we are making the world a safer place.”

He was also excited about the connection between SRS and the nation’s space program, with plutonium produced at SRS used in this year’s space probe fly-by of Pluto, and he drew a connection to the recent hit movie “The Martian.” Although SRS is not mentioned



DOE’s Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz addresses employees during an all-hands meeting during his recent SRS visit.

in the movie, Gen. Klotz pointed out that they used a radioisotope thermoelectric generator, like the one that powered the real space probe, to keep Matt Damon’s character alive. “And I kept thinking,” Gen. Klotz said, “Savannah River played a role.”

## Education ‘Within Reach’

SRNS is partnering with Aiken Technical College (ATC) and the Aiken County Public School District to help students meet financial challenges. SRNS recently presented ATC with a \$50,000 donation to enable 50 Aiken County residents to continue their education beyond high school through the “Within Reach Scholarships” program.

“Savannah River Nuclear Solutions’ lead gift set the stage for the Foundation to raise \$50,000 this year and every year thereafter. Their gift sent a strong message to community corporations and individuals who chose to join in making an investment in Aiken Technical College and increase the educational attainment in Aiken County,” said Mary Commons, ATC Foundation Director.

“Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is pleased to support this important program at ATC. These scholarships will directly impact the lives and future careers of high school students who are uncertain about pursuing higher education,” said Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO.

Now, students like Aiken Technical College freshman Katelynn Johnson may receive an unexpected opportunity to graduate one day with a college degree. “I feel like this scholarship, and how they (SRNS) are donating so much for us, is going to help greatly in the future,” Katelynn said. “It’s nice to know that I can go to school and further my education.”



Attending the “Within Reach” scholarship donation ceremony were (front row, from left): Superintendent of Aiken County Public School District Dr. Sean Alford; ATC President Dr. Susan Winsor; SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson; ATC Foundation Director Mary Commons; and ATC Vice President of Enrollment Management Dr. Vinson Burdette. ATC freshmen (second row, from left) Bethany Lewis, Abby Camacho and Katelynn Johnson are 2015-16 Within Reach Scholarship recipients.

Students can apply through March 1, 2016, to participate in the Within Reach Program, but need to qualify for financial aid and have a minimum 2.5 grade point average.



SRNS operators Stanley Creech (left) and Paul Dobson monitor the injection of silver chloride into the aquifer beneath F Area at the Savannah River Site. Results of a recent test indicate a significant decrease in the hazard posed by radioactive contaminant iodine-129 where silver chloride was injected.

# Putting natural methods to good use

## Silver chloride treatment protects groundwater, reduces cleanup costs at SRS

You can’t fight Mother Nature and win, which is why less expensive, more natural measures are being used to clean up contaminated groundwater beneath SRS. SRNS personnel are using new, innovative methods to harness and enhance processes already found at work within the underground water system below the Site.

And, it’s working. To date, the remedial costs associated with groundwater contaminants near F Area have been reduced, resulting in a cost avoidance of approximately 90 percent—from about \$1 million a month to \$1 million a year.

This has been accomplished by moving from using highly mechanized pump and treat facilities to a simple, multi-phased approach over recent years in F Area. These phases tap into nature’s own methods to isolate and clean up hazardous waste. The improvements have reduced the migration of tritium, uranium, strontium-90 and iodine-129 away from the affected aquifer.

One of the more innovative phases involves injecting a non-traditional environmental cleanup material—silver chloride—into the contaminated groundwater beneath SRS to treat radioactive iodine-129. Silver chloride is typically used to create photographic paper and as an antidote for mercury poisoning.

“Finely milled silver chloride particles, reduced to about one-quarter-micron in size, are injected with water into the aquifer, and are

extremely effective at capturing the iodine-129,” said Gerald Blount, SRNS geologist. “In essence, working with Savannah River National Laboratory scientists, we’ve found that over a short time period the silver chloride can permanently bind the hazardous iodine-129 as silver iodide, because of its strong natural chemical affinity.”

Blount noted that the results of a recent test indicate a significant decrease in the hazard posed by iodine-129 where silver chloride was injected into the aquifer beneath F Area.

“This is the first time submicron silver chloride has been used for this purpose,” said Blount. “The results of this full-scale test created a 30 to 50 percent reduction in the iodine-129 contaminant normally found in water samples taken at the test site. Next, we’ll inject an equivalent amount and measure again the level of effectiveness. Our goal is to eventually inject enough silver chloride in the right locations to remove most of the iodine-129 from the groundwater.”

“These periodic injection campaigns into the aquifer require little power, have no significant operation or maintenance cost and generate no waste,” added Blount. “As a result, the overall cost savings are significant and continue to grow.”

From the 1950s well into the 1980s, SRS produced nuclear materials used for national defense. As a result, a portion of the groundwater beneath F Area in the past became more acidic. Small amounts of radioactive tritium, uranium, strontium-90 and iodine-129 were found as well.

“SRNS and SRNL are working together to find innovative remedial solutions at SRS that are protective, technically feasible, safe and cost effective,” said Philip Prater, Physical Scientist, DOE-Savannah River/Infrastructure and Area Completion Division.



# Making science connections



SRNL engineer Dr. Aaron Washington (left) discusses several products created at SRNL with students from the greater Aiken-Augusta area who recently participated in an interactive forum for high school students considering a career pathway that involves science, technology, engineering and math skills in Augusta.

## High school students soak up information on STEM careers

SRNS recently reached out to hundreds of high school students from throughout the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) during this year's "STEM Career Connections Day." The event was held at the Kroc Center in Augusta, Ga.

The interactive forum is designed to encourage students to explore career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (or STEM) through interaction with professionals from local high-tech industries, including nuclear technology, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

SRNS personnel provided several popular information booths and numerous volunteers. In addition, SRNS was a major sponsor of the annual event.

According to Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach, the demand for jobs requiring skilled workers in STEM fields is rapidly growing in our community and across the nation.

"We have multiple STEM-based programs at SRNS," she continued. "These programs emphasize the importance of STEM-based curriculum and vocations, such as the Future City Competition, Introduce a Girl to Engineering, Teaching in Excellence Mini-Grant Program, the Science Bowl and the Traveling Science Demonstration Program," Mitchell said.

Joseph Martin, a high school teacher with the Academy of Richmond County, expressed his appreciation for the event. "The students get to move around and ask questions, receiving a diverse range of information at their own pace," Martin said. "You try to get these kids to think about the next step, and this is an incredible opportunity for that. I firmly believe it's about what you expose the students to that can captivate them. Then you can just see them take off."

For SRNL Principal Scientist Dr. Aaron L. Washington, II, this day presents an opportunity to impact the next generation of scientists

*"You try to get these kids to think about the next step, and this is an incredible opportunity for that. I firmly believe it's about what you expose the students to that can captivate them."*

**Joseph Martin**

and engineers. "It is an important obligation for us as researchers working for SRNL," said Washington. "This event is giving us access to students from throughout the CSRA to have a one-on-one conversation to present our ideas, projects and products while giving them opportunities to obtain information. My colleagues Dr. Brenda Garcia-Diaz, Holly Watson and I are delighted to meet these future researchers and engineers."

At the STEM Career Connections Day event, SRNL presented newly invented radiological containment bags, a hydrogen fuel cell set-up, and a device to demonstrate how photovoltaics can harness solar energy.

Mindy Metts, Nuclear Workforce Initiative Program Manager, SRS Community Reuse Organization, noted that across the nation today, there's a tremendous need for new workers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. "The typical job fair in the gym experience is not always fruitful. Whereas STEM Career Connection Day is a way to creatively connect employers in the greater Aiken-Augusta region with students interested in STEM areas of study," said Metts.

STEM Career Connections Day is a part of Nuclear Science Week, which is a national celebration that focuses on all aspects of nuclear science. Events during this week provide many learning opportunities that can be found by discovering the world of nuclear science.

# Retirees remember...

## H Canyon veterans recall the beginnings of unique national asset

Everything changes, including government nuclear facilities. Just ask Bill Whitlock and George Blackburn, Jr., two retirees from the H Canyon facility at SRS. Both men recently attended a celebration for H Canyon, which has provided 60 years of service to our nation, and both had some fond memories to share.

Whitlock began work at SRS in February of 1955, while the Canyon was still under construction, and is one of the few people who can say that they have been in the hot side of the Canyon before it began operation. He helped calibrate the tanks and later was trained on the First Uranium Cycle process, which separates a uranium solution into an individual stream for further processing in H Canyon, helping with its initial startup.

"We had a lot of good times working in the Canyon," Whitlock said. "We used to go into other facilities, like in P Area, and joke that we didn't know what a coffee machine was, because we never had time to drink it! We worked hard, but we really enjoyed it."

"It looks so different now. Everything is computerized and there are so many buildings around the Canyon. When I was an operator, I ran the crane sitting inside of a box suspended over the Canyon. It got to where I could tell where the crane was because of how it sounded on the track. You don't get that kind of experience there anymore."

George Blackburn Jr.'s career at SRS started in 1953, the day after he left the Army. He was originally assigned to do administrative work, but asked to work as a security guard instead. After a few months, he was evaluated by his captain, who advised him to go into production. He joined the staff at H Canyon and was one of the first two operators to produce a plutonium button in HB Line.

As Blackburn's career progressed, he was given more responsibility. He served on an international committee to determine what to do with the leftover plutonium after the Cold War and was chosen to go to Princeton Management School for



Bill Whitlock



George Blackburn Jr.

Engineering Excellence by E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company that built SRS and operated it for 40 years.

"I enjoyed every minute of it. I was blessed to work with some good people. One of my supervisors stressed that we treat each other like family, and I believe that," Blackburn said.

Blackburn attributes his success to his supervisors, his personal motivation and his passion for learning. "I wanted to learn all the procedures for the jobs, and was the first person to do that. Once I learned a process, I looked for ways to improve it," he said.

H Canyon is the only large scale, remotely operated chemical separations plant operating in the U.S. For nearly 40 years, the facility separated plutonium and also recovered uranium-235 and neptunium-237 from irradiated, aluminum-clad, enriched-uranium fuel tubes from site weapons production reactors. H Canyon has completed stabilization of many nuclear materials, supporting both environmental cleanup and the disposition of weapons-grade nuclear material, which help make our nation and the world safer.





# A harvest of donations



## SRNS employee contributions to purchase more than \$100,000 worth of food for Golden Harvest

**E**mployees of SRNS have donated \$11,750 in cash and more than 2,800 pounds of food during its annual food drive for the Golden Harvest Food Bank. The SRNS food drive is one of the food bank's largest local fund-raisers.

For every \$1 dollar donated, Golden Harvest can purchase \$9 dollars' worth of food. The total SRNS monetary contribution will enable Golden Harvest employees to buy more than \$100,000 of food for their clients and partner agencies.

"SRNS appreciates Golden Harvest and the profound impact it has in this region," said Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO. "Our employees are always pleased to do our part to support this important cause."

More than 14.2 million pounds of food pass through Golden Harvest Food Bank's warehouses each year to more than 530 partner agencies, including: soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters for abused women and children, and other nonprofit charities such as day care centers, senior citizens programs and group homes for the disabled.

Travis McNeal, Executive Director, Golden Harvest Food Bank, was pleased to receive the exceptional amount of funding and food from SRS employees. "We appreciate the generosity of our friends at SRNS. Their contributions always exceed our expectations," said McNeal. "In fact, the total value of their donations to our organization over the years has been impressive."

Founded in 1982, Golden Harvest Food Bank is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to fight hunger by feeding hungry adults and children. The food bank has local warehouses in Aiken and Augusta.

Johnson added that a significant percentage of the company's workforce of approximately 5,000 employees often volunteer time and effort to support United Way member agencies throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area.



SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Eyler (left) presents the SRNS campaign check to Golden Harvest Food Bank Special Events Manager Carrie Jones, along with SRNS GHFB management sponsor Tim Bolen, Julie Kirby (right) of SRNS Project Management and Construction Services and Elaine Maldonado of SRNS Site Services.

## SRNL's Dr. Fox named WCC 'Rising Star'

SRNL's Dr. Elise Fox has been named a recipient of the American Chemical Society's Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Rising Star Award, which recognizes up to 10 outstanding women scientists approaching mid-level careers who have demonstrated outstanding promise for contributions to their respective fields.



Dr. Elise Fox

Dr. Fox will present at a WCC-sponsored symposium at the spring American Chemical Society national meeting in San Diego. The symposium highlights the accomplishments of the award winners by providing a venue to inform researchers and other professionals of the status of current work, ideas and thought; to enable networking with other practitioners; and to acquaint scientists with other active members of the research community.

The award includes a \$1,000 stipend to cover spring national meeting travel expenses. Dr. Fox is being recognized for her "contributions toward the advancement of renewable energy by furthering the understanding of the chemical behavior of materials used in energy production and utilization."

## SRNL's Calloway named to AiChE post

Bond Calloway, Associate Laboratory Director for Clean Energy at SRNL, has been elected as the 2016 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) president elect, succeeding to president in 2017 and past-president in 2018.



Bond Calloway

The election took place in November at AIChE's annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

As president, he will serve as chair of the AIChE Board of Directors and the AIChE Board of Directors Executive Committee, which have oversight over AIChE's operating budget, pension/medical plans and investments. AIChE is a professional society of more than 50,000 chemical engineers in 104 countries with six office locations worldwide. Its members work in corporations, universities and government using their knowledge of chemical processes to develop safe and useful products for the benefit of society.

"I'm pleased not just that this is an honor for me, but because this helps put a national spotlight on SRNL in the chemical engineering community," Calloway said. "I have a professional interest in working to bring advanced manufacturing techniques into the chemical industry, and that was the fundamental part of my campaign for the office of president. I'm deeply honored to have the opportunity to engage further with all of the different parts of the organization."

Calloway is an AIChE Fellow, and served on the Institute's Board of Directors from 2011-13. He's been the co-chair of the Annual Meeting, and the 2014 Natural Gas Utilization workshop. During his career, he has received awards of excellence from AIChE for technical programming and for contributions to the Institute's Nuclear Engineering division. He's also been recognized with a Department of Energy Sustainability award, and an R&D 100 award.



## Barnwell Chamber honors SRNS

SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Eyler (right) accepts the Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce's "Large Business of the Year Award" from Rhonda McElveen, Vice Chair, Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce, during the Chamber's annual meeting on Nov. 5 at the Southern Carolina Business Center in Barnwell, S.C.

Since taking over the management and operations of SRS in 2008, SRNS has been a strong supporter of the Barnwell County Chamber of Commerce, as well as a major contributor to the Barnwell County United Way. In FY2014, SRNS made an economic impact of \$45.9 million on Barnwell County, including payroll, medical, dental, procurements, community contributions and DOE payment in lieu of taxes.

## Turner awarded Fluor Silver Medal

SRNS' William "Andy" Turner recently received the Fluor Silver Medallion Award for Safety for life-saving actions that potentially prevented a coworker from serious injury or death.



Andy Turner

Turner was walking across an SRS parking lot when he noticed a fellow employee having difficulty exiting a car. He watched as his coworker twice became unsteady while standing, then quickly sitting back down. Turner called for emergency help while making the individual as comfortable as possible in the vehicle by turning on the air conditioning, and staying in constant communication with emergency personnel until they arrived.

Fluor selected Turner as a Silver Medallion recipient for his actions that day.





The first group of SRNL University Scholars are (front row, from left) Chitravati Choony, Jeremy Weeks, Spencer Tinkey and Joshua King. (Not shown is scholarship recipient Cody Clester.) USC Aiken faculty members include (back row, from left) Chad Leverette, Mohammad Haillet, Bill Jackson, Michelle Harmon, and SRNS Executive Vice President and SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske.

## First group of SRNL University Scholars named at USC Aiken

The first group of SRNL University Scholars, a pilot program between SRNL and USC Aiken, has been named by the university for the current academic year. The program, funded by the SRNS Board of Directors, provides \$4,000 scholarships per school year per student, plus research collaboration and engagement opportunities with SRNL researchers. Plans are to expand the program to four other regional universities in South Carolina and Georgia.



SRNS and Claflin University executives recently attended a reception to honor students who have received SRNS scholarships. Pictured are (back row, from left) President of Claflin University Dr. Henry Tisdale; SRNS Director of Government and Community Relations Teresa Haas; SRNS President and CEO Carol Johnson; students Jibril Burleigh, Amari Battiste, Steilan Sumpter, Essie Campbell, and Austin Moss; and SRNS Senior Vice President, Workforce Services Carol Barry. Also pictured are (front row, from left) SRNS Senior Vice President and SRNL Deputy Director Sharon Marra; students Simone Allen, Jabreia Dorton and Courtney Jefferson; and SRNL Program Manager for University Relations/Postdoctoral Research Natalie Ferguson. Students Ludy Martinez and Danierian Williams are not pictured.

## Claflin University, SRNS executives honor scholarship recipients

SRNS executives recently joined the students, faculty and staff of Claflin University for a reception honoring the 10 recipients of SRNS scholarships.

In 2014, SRNS and Claflin signed a Memorandum of Understanding that included a \$25,000 investment from SRNS for 10 student scholarships. The students who received these scholarships were chosen by Claflin for their academic excellence in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math).

“Our economy is growing increasingly more dependent upon college educated professionals in STEM specific areas,” said Carol Johnson, SRNS President and CEO. “SRNS is dedicated to creating a diverse, innovative and integrated workforce that fosters mission

success, company and industry growth. We are proud to support Claflin University and welcome its graduates into our industry.”

“According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, STEM occupations are projected to grow over seven percent faster than non-STEM occupations. It is crucial to make investments in improving recruitment and education in these fields. As a community of universities, students and professionals, we all need to find new solutions that will lead to a stronger economy, and a stronger nation,” she said. “It is the duty and privilege of SRNS, as a local business leader, to ensure that the next generation of STEM career candidates has the support and encouragement needed to become future leaders in our industry.”



Tom D'Agostino, Senior Vice President for Business Development and Strategy in Fluor's Government Group, presented the LEAP conference keynote address.

## Early-career professionals hear Fluor executive at LEAP conference

Everyone faces moments of uncertainty in their careers. What should be the next step? What are the strategies for staying on track? The 2015 SRNS LEAP (Leaders Emerging Among Professionals) Conference, themed “Taking the Next Leap Forward,” tackled these questions and addressed other challenges faced by early-career professionals at SRS.

On Nov. 4, more than 120 LEAP members and managers from SRNS gathered for the conference in Aiken, S.C. The event kicked off with an introduction by Dave Eyler, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, who reflected on LEAP's accomplishments since it was established in October 2010.

“It's impressive to see employees actively engaged in LEAP's lunch and learn events on Site, as well as the networking and community outreach activities outside of work,” said Eyler.

He continued, “The LEAP organization is a valuable asset to the Savannah River Site, as it provides opportunities for our future leaders to expand their network and learn about our company's culture. LEAP impacts retention and affects who stays in this area, and I'm pleased to see how it has kept the momentum going over the past five years.”

After the introduction, conference attendees participated in a networking activity and a panel discussion. The five panelists included Carol Barry, Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management; Kevin Gallahue, Chief Engineer, SRNL; Mike Swain, Director of Environmental Management Programs; Jay Johnson, Manager, Programs Integration; and Jeannette Hyatt, Deputy Director, Hanford Mission Support, Environmental Stewardship Directorate, SRNL.

After gaining an in-depth look into the careers of panelists, Tom D'Agostino, Senior Vice President for Business Development and Strategy in Fluor's Government Group, presented the keynote address. D'Agostino discussed his career experience, including positions appointed by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama as the Undersecretary for Nuclear Security for DOE, as well as NNSA Administrator and the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.



## ● SRS public tour registration to open in late December

Registration for the SRS 2016 public tour program will open in late December this year. More than 1,000 seats are available during 22 tours to be held throughout the year. The program is managed by SRNS for DOE.

The bus tours provide members of the public with an opportunity to see many of the historic and operational facilities at SRS that were responsible for the production of plutonium and tritium during the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Tour participants also learn about the Site's current activities and future missions, as well as visiting the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

The free tours start at the Aiken County Applied Research Center located off S.C. 278, near New Ellenton. Each tour begins at 12:30 p.m. and typically ends at 4:30 p.m., accommodating up to 50 people. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and U.S. citizens.

Seats are limited to two individuals per reservation and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Larger groups can be accommodated by calling (803) 952-8994.

To register, visit [www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm](http://www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm). If you experience difficulty registering online, call the number above.

### 2016 Dates for SRS Public Tours

- January 14, 21
- February 11, 17
- March 10, 31
- April 7, 27
- May 12, 26
- June 16, 23
- July 14, 28
- August 11, 25
- September 15, 29
- October 13, 27
- November 9
- December 8



We make the world **safer.**

# SRNS



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