

● APRIL 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNSToday



Dedicating a Day of Caring

SRNS employees partner with Project VISION



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Knowledge Transfer Program • Florida International University partnership • United Way



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

SRNS employees took time to help their neighbors in the community during the United Way of Aiken County's 29th annual Day of Caring from Project VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods).

Welcome

to the April 2025 edition of

SRNS Today

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the continued dedication and excellence demonstrated across our organization. The progress we have made reflects not only our shared commitment to delivering on small projects and mission objectives but also our unwavering focus on safety, innovation and operational integrity.

The Pit Production Operations and Programs organization selected four new Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) participants to support critical positions at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The KTP involves a two-year assignment working to support the pit production mission at LANL, benefiting both sites in support of nuclear deterrence.

Our team also recently played a key role in the three-day Glovebox Working Group meeting hosted at SRS. This event brought together experts from across the Nuclear Security Enterprise to discuss strategies and best practices for glovebox design, integration and safety. Gloveboxes will be a key component of pit production operations within the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility.

SRNS Operations and Construction divisions were recently honored by the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance for outstanding workplace safety performance in 2024. This is the fourth consecutive year that SRNS has received this award. SRNS achieved stretches of over 4.6 million consecutive hours without a lost workday and over 1.7 million hours worked incident-free by the end of the calendar year.

Additionally, 140 SRNS employees participated in the United Way of Aiken County's 29th annual Day of Caring from Project VISION. Volunteers helped repair homes, build ramps and complete other essential projects across the area.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM

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.

savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

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)

SRNS expands Knowledge Transfer Program



New Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) participants Jon "Coach" Wiley, SRPPF Operations Instructor, Instructional Technologist; Miguel Vasquez, Senior PPOP Engineer; Richard Gottschau, SRPPF Final Product Design Authority Engineer; and Kevin Cross, PPOP Systems Engineer

SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) is growing its Knowledge Transfer Program (KTP) with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) by selecting four new employee participants.

Launched in August 2020, the KTP marked the first official joint training effort between SRS and LANL, the two sites designated by the NNSA to produce plutonium pits needed for modernization of the U.S. nuclear stockpile to achieve nuclear deterrence. To reach rate production of at least 80 pits per year between the two sites, both must manage process and facility-related equipment and systems to achieve a high level of reliability and availability.

In April, three SRNS employees began new KTP assignments to assist LANL in enhancing its Asset Management program, including activities such as establishing the technical baseline for equipment, conducting field walkdowns to verify equipment configurations and helping to develop reliability-centered maintenance equipment strategies. The task also involves helping to create and train the team that will ultimately execute and maintain the Asset Management program. A fourth staff member will support Weapon Mission Services Training.

The employees are Kevin Cross, Richard Gottschau, Miguel Vasquez and Jon "Coach" Wiley. They are joined by Lacey Brunson, who recently transitioned from a KTP assignment in LANL's Pit Assembly group to assist with an Asset Management role. Vince Shih, who started his Knowledge Transfer rotation at LANL in October 2024, is helping to coordinate the Asset Management team, in addition to providing other facility management support for LANL's Chief Operations Office.

Four other SRNS employees are currently completing KTP assignments at LANL. Robert Riede and Calvin Smith are working in LANL's Production Systems and Technology Group. Daniel Cirincione and Stephen Veldman have assignments related to foundry and pyrochemical operations in LANL's PF-4 pit production facility.

According to Darlene Murdoch, Senior Vice President – NNSA PPOP, the partnership with LANL plays a key role in supporting defense programs at both sites. "We select mission-minded participants to receive specialized training at LANL, leveraging LANL's pit production experience

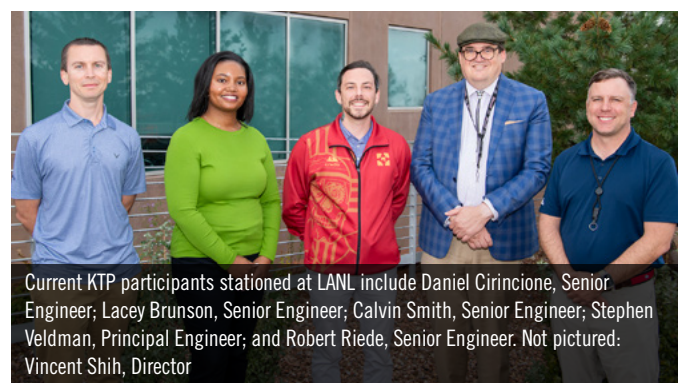
and bringing to the table our proven SRS track record of 24-hour operations and 75 years of service," she said. "This is a mutually-beneficial relationship for both SRS and LANL to achieve a common goal of national security."

KTP participants embark upon a two-year assignment at LANL. Once their rotation is complete, these employees bring their newly-acquired skills and knowledge back to SRS for an additional two-year assignment, supporting the SRNS pit production mission through active participation in various SRPPF and PPOP activities.

Since the program's inception, more than 30 SRS employees have signed up to participate in the KTP. Murdoch said the PPOP organization will continue to expand the program. "Our efforts to identify opportunities for placing staff at LANL are ongoing," she said. "It is critical that we continue growing our partnership with LANL and learning all we can about pit production and related operations."

For Wiley, an SRPPF Operations Instructor, Instructional Technologist who started his KTP assignment on April 1, the opportunity has been an exciting challenge. "KTP provides a great avenue to further develop the critical knowledge and skills needed to support SRPPF/PPOP missions," he said.

SRNS employees interested in learning more about KTP may contact Lisa Lee at lisa.lee@srs.gov.



Current KTP participants stationed at LANL include Daniel Cirincione, Senior Engineer; Lacey Brunson, Senior Engineer; Calvin Smith, Senior Engineer; Stephen Veldman, Principal Engineer; and Robert Riede, Senior Engineer. Not pictured: Vincent Shih, Director



Leonel "Leo" Lagos, DOE Fellows Program Director; Bryan Ortner, SRNS Acting Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management; Anthony Abrahao, FIU Research Scientist; Angela Martin, SRNS Talent Acquisition Manager; Ken Burrows, SRNS Director of Engineering Technical Services; Carla Wheeler, SRNS Engineering Staffing and Development Manager; and FIU Senior Research Scientists Yelena Katsenovich and Ravi Gudavalli

FIU partnership advances DOE missions

In an effort to strengthen academic and industry partnerships, representatives from SRS recently visited Florida International University (FIU), a leading public research university in Miami, Florida. The visit aimed to bolster the growing collaboration between DOE and FIU's Applied Research Center (ARC).

Since 2007, the DOE-FIU Science and Technology Workforce Development Initiative, also known as the DOE Fellows Program, has played a pivotal role in advancing the missions of DOE's Environmental Management (DOE-EM) and the Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM).

In fiscal year 2024, SRNS began to establish a partnership with FIU to increase the number of interns transitioning into full-service roles, strengthen technical capabilities, and elevate industry reputation and visibility with academic institutions.

"This partnership brings fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the complex challenges we face at DOE facilities," said Bryan Ortner, SRNS Acting Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management. "By collaborating with FIU, we hope to harness the capabilities of their students and faculty, yielding valuable research outcomes and providing students with hands-on experience in addressing real-world problems."

The program includes a two-to-four-year mentoring component, offering paid research experiences to address technical problems that benefit DOE missions. Research areas include: deactivation and decommissioning of contaminated facilities, soil and groundwater remediation, workforce development, robotics, intelligence applications, radioactive waste management, information technology, and environmental protection.

"SRS plans to hire 9,000 full-service resources over the next five years, so it is imperative to leverage this agreement to build a

robust talent pipeline," said Leonel "Leo" Lagos, DOE Fellows Program Director. "By integrating coursework, DOE fieldwork and applied research at FIU, we create a well-structured program that brings highly-skilled individuals into the workforce to fill those critical gaps."

During the visit, representatives from SRNS' Workforce Services and Talent Management, and Engineering departments: toured FIU's research facilities, reviewed student projects and revisited past research findings.

"The initiative marked a significant step towards rekindling and strengthening our ties with FIU," said Ken Burrows, SRNS Director of Engineering Technical Services. "The innovative work being conducted is directly applicable to solving the challenges we face in our aging nuclear facilities and supporting new projects for DOE-EM and NNSA missions. Interacting with the faculty and students has given me confidence that there is a bright, capable group ready to tackle our challenges at SRNS."

SRS plans to implement a high-level memorandum of understanding with FIU to ensure a steady stream of skilled specialists are available to tackle technical challenges through grant-funded research or the SRNS Internship Program. This summer, DOE Fellows Program intern Kevin Yulkowsky will join SRS to gain hands-on experience in H Canyon—the only operating, production-scale, radiologically shielded chemical separations facility in the United States. Additionally, FIU students and faculty are scheduled to visit the Site in May 2025 for a comprehensive tour, expanding their scope to include NNSA missions.

"With our recent landlord transition from EM to NNSA, we hope to further enhance students' understanding and identify potential opportunities for involvement in NNSA-related projects," concluded Ortner.

Glovebox fabricators, industry experts collaborate at SRS

Glovebox experts from across the industry recently gathered to discuss future planning at sites across the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE). A mix of fabricators, NNSA personnel and representatives from other Labs, Plants and Sites within the NSE attended the three-day Glovebox Working Group (GBWG) meeting hosted at SRS.

Sponsored by the NNSA Plutonium Modernization Office (NA-191), NNSA Office of Infrastructure (NA-90) and Office of Infrastructure Savannah River Project Management Office (NA-94), the event was designed to foster open communication with managing and operating sites and industry representatives. Presenters provided timely updates to DOE- and NNSA- sponsored industry initiatives and addressed glovebox demand within DOE and NNSA.

“Sharing Lessons Learned across the DOE/NNSA Complex, as well as addressing fabricator issues and concerns on current efforts, was a key objective during these meetings,” said Brian Pool, SRPPF Glovebox Director. “Our goal is to focus on: collaboration; open, honest communication; and a solution-driven mindset to determine the best path forward to deliver this critical project for the nation.”



Brian Pool, SRPPF Glovebox Director, facilitates a question-and-answer session with participants during the Glovebox Working Group meeting, hosted at SRS.

Gloveboxes will be a key component of pit production operations within the SRPPF, as well as developing operator proficiency with high-fidelity surrogate material in the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center prior to SRPPF start-up operations.

Chartered in December 2022 by the NNSA Administrator, the GBWG's mission is to “establish a common operating picture of glovebox requirements, determine the priority of glovebox procurements, create common technical and contracting approaches where feasible, remove technical and contracting bottlenecks and work with industry.”

SRNS boosts talent pipeline with SCSU students

Over 30 South Carolina State University (SCSU) business students recently visited SRS to explore career opportunities, network with industry professionals, and learn about internship and full-time employment pathways.

The visit aims to strengthen the talent pipeline between SCSU, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), and SRNS by increasing student engagement and recruitment. Since 2020, SRNS and SCSU have upheld a memorandum of understanding to further support workforce development needs.

“By partnering with neighboring colleges and universities through a tailored approach, we offer opportunities to connect with students in an environment that allows for increased engagement, knowledge sharing of SRS career offerings and the building of talent pipelines,” said Brittany Alston, SRNS Business Services Human Capital Business Analyst.

During the visit, students: completed a Site tour; heard remarks from Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, and Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services; and participated in networking sessions with various business services leaders.

“The students were impressed by the mission and general construction strategy of SRPPF, and they were eager to learn more about our diverse career opportunities,” said Erick Mohr,



South Carolina State University students meet industry professionals at SRS.

SRNS Subcontractor Technical Representative. “These visits and partnerships with HBCUs are invaluable; they not only spark interest in our missions but also help attract new talent.”

Over the next five years, SRNS plans to hire 9,000 additional employees to support a variety of occupations and critical enduring missions at SRS. Efforts to recruit, train and retain knowledgeable employees to support these missions continue as SRS leadership establishes partnerships with additional educational institutions.

“We are constantly looking for ways to leverage the student pipeline within our region and state to support and accelerate mission requirements for the DOE and NNSA,” said Alford.



Personnel from SRNS and LANL pose with The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) students during the university's College of Engineering and Computer Science 2025 Engineers Week.

SRNS partners with LANL during UTRGV Engineering Week

SRNS and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) continue to reinforce university partnerships, cultivating the technology, skills and workforce pipelines required to support the NNSA's two-site pit production mission.

Through these university engagement initiatives, personnel from SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) and LANL's Associate Laboratory Directorship Weapons Production (ALDWP), Technical Applications and Opportunities team (PAT-2) visited The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) during their College of Engineering and Computer Science 2025 Engineers Week.

SRNS has partnered with LANL and TechSource, Inc.—through their collaboration with Weapons Production–Technology and Nuclear Training—to explore engagement opportunities within specialized programs at multiple academic institutions, including UTRGV, that are accelerating national security missions at both SRNS and LANL.

SRNS Director, Weapons Quality Assurance and Nuclear Enterprise Assurance for PPOP Greg White presented a tech talk to engineering students on the topic of “Advancing national security through science and engineering” at an Industry Insights event, while SRNS Director of Mission Development Matt Biasiny participated in an Industry and National Labs Panel during the Third Annual Broadening Participation in Engineering Summit.

“SRNS is extremely appreciative of the opportunity to partner with LANL and the staff at UTRGV,” said Biasiny. “Connecting with students on campus is a key initiative in our workforce development activities. These visits are vital to building relationships, understanding aspirations and helping students see where their skills and passions can take them in the real world.”

Representatives from PPOP also participated in a joint UTRGV Career Day event with ALDWP PAT-2, where they spoke with



SRNS Director, Weapons Quality Assurance and Nuclear Enterprise Assurance for Pit Production Operations and Programs Greg White presents a tech talk to UTRGV engineering students.

students about mission areas at both sites and discussed potential employment opportunities.

According to Bob Putnam, Director of LANL's ALDWP Production Analysis and Transformation (PAT) division, “It is imperative that LANL and SRNS continue working together to foster a talent bank of qualified, well-trained graduates. Our relationships with institutions such as UTRGV allow us to fill critical positions with the best and brightest students who already possess the educational background, sense of mission and knowledge required for these specialized roles supporting national security.”

In addition to UTRGV, SRNS has been invited to join LANL in collaborations with Montana State University, Arizona State University and The University of Texas at El Paso on pit production-specific projects.



SRNS hosts Logical Framework training

SRNS employees from a variety of organizations recently honed their strategic project management skills during a two-day workshop with author and management consultant Terry Schmidt. The training was designed to help each group identify specific challenges within their work groups and develop simplified solutions.

Developed by a U.S. government agency, the Logical Framework (LogFrame) Assessment helps organizations to plan, implement and evaluate projects of all types. Deputy Vice President for Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Erika Baeza-Wisdom became familiar with the tool early in her career and worked to bring the training to SRNS.

Using if-then statements, the LogFrame helps individuals and organizations make clear connections between activities, goals, results and measures of success. While originally intended to assist the PPOP organization in developing a compelling workplace strategy, the workshop was expanded and made available to other organizations on-site, including Business Services and Workforce Services and Talent Management, due to its adaptable nature.

Baeza-Wisdom said she is excited to see how the team will implement the concepts learned during the workshop to advance the Site's various mission areas, including defense programs.

"The LogFrame tool is a system of thinking that recognizes risks in advance, allowing for a proactive approach to achieving goals," she said. "It will allow the PPOP organization to connect our pit production work to strategic goals in a logical fashion. With this tool, everyone can learn how to be strategic—not just leadership."

PPOP Business Services Program Manager Allison Plumblee participated in the workshop and said, "I am looking forward to utilizing this information in improving current processes and planning new projects that help support PPOP in meeting our mission to develop pits."

SRNS is part of NNSA's two-site strategy—along with Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico—to produce the plutonium pits needed for enhancing the nation's stockpile in support of nuclear deterrence.

Smoak named Woman of the Year



SRNS Deputy Director of Corporate Communications Barbara Smoak was recently recognized as the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Woman of the Year. This prestigious award is given annually to an Aiken resident who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and community impact while being a role model/mentor to others and demonstrating commitment to a higher level of ethics in business practices.

"Barbara was nominated because she has dedicated her life to strengthening the Aiken community through both her career and her decades of service, mentorship and advocacy," said SRNS Chief of Staff and Director of Corporate Communications Dawn Haygood. Other nominees called Smoak a "jewel of our Aiken community," "tirelessly dedicated" and "selfless."

SRNS employees
volunteer at
Project VISION
worksites across
the CSRA.



A VISION for the Community

SRNS EMPLOYEES took time to help their neighbors in the community during the United Way of Aiken County's 29th annual Day of Caring from Project VISION (Volunteers in Service in Our Neighborhoods).

On March 21, approximately 300 volunteers from SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River National Laboratory traveled across Aiken, South Carolina, to assist at 20 different worksites. Of those volunteers, 140 were SRNS employees. Fifteen worksites belonged to agencies partnered with the United Way of Aiken County, and five were residential houses whose owners partnered with Project VISION for needed repairs and/or handicap accommodations.

Work at partner agencies included landscaping, interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, moving an agency to a new location and much more. The repairs provided for the agencies assisted them in saving money and time, which they can then redistribute to their community missions.

These partner agencies included:

- Girl Scout Camp of South Carolina: Mountains to the Midlands
- ACTS of Aiken and Graniteville
- North Augusta Family YMCA
- Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County
- Tri-Development Center (multiple locations)
- Helping Hands
- The Salvation Army (multiple locations)

At Project VISION residential houses, volunteers participated in yard work, demolition, building wheelchair ramps and repairing gutters. This work took place across Aiken County in the Monetta, Wagener,

Trenton, Beech Island and North Augusta areas.

Executive Vice President and Environmental Management (EM) Chief Operations Officer Mike Swain visited EM Operations employees building a 41-foot-long wheelchair ramp for a neighbor in need.

"Our employees have big hearts," said Swain. "Project Vision is such a great program to participate in, because not only do volunteers get the benefit of helping others and their community, they get a chance to bond with their teams. There is plenty of laughter, teamwork and community building on display at these sites."

Jim Dawkins, Executive Vice President of NNSA Missions and Chief Operations Officer, visited the Helping Hands facility and local Girl Scout Hut, where he greeted and thanked each employee for coming out to volunteer. Information Technology (IT) Tim Arnold and Tammy Pruitt led a group at the Girl Scout Hut. The volunteers focused on beautifying the property by staining ramps, installing exterior lights and planting flowers.

"It's important to give back to the community," said Arnold. "We're very blessed at the Site, and we should help our community out. Working for SRNS is great; we have so many outreach opportunities."

Since 1996, Project VISION has assisted United Way of Aiken County's partners with facility upkeep. This year, Director of Project VISION Lizzie Abshire noticed multiple first-time leaders at various worksites. Many new volunteers stepped forward to dedicate their skills to the project.

"The Day of Caring is only possible through the support from employees at SRS," said Abshire. "These employees see the need to help those in our community and see the value in extending a helping hand. These repairs help save agencies hundreds and give hope to elderly and disabled homeowners."

300

Site volunteers

140

SRNS volunteers

20

locations

”

"We are very blessed at the Site, and we should help our community out."

Tim Arnold,
Associate Chief
Information Officer, IT
Financial Management

“





SCMA recognizes SRNS with safety award

SRNS Operations and Construction divisions were recently honored by the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance (SCMA) for outstanding workplace safety accomplishments during 2024. This is the fourth consecutive year that SRNS has received this award.

To qualify for nomination, companies must achieve a low incident rate resulting in lost workdays, job transfers or restrictions. Plants that had an incident rate below the statewide average for their North American Industry Classification System code earned the award, with 105 industrial facilities across the United States recognized in total.

In 2024, SRNS achieved stretches of over one million hours without a lost workday on seven occasions, culminating in 4.6 million consecutive hours without a lost workday by the end of the calendar year. In addition, SRNS Construction completed the entire calendar year without a single lost workday, totaling an average of over 1.7 million hours worked incident-free.

“Taking pride in our workforce—and taking care of our hardworking employees who put their own personal mark on South Carolina-made products—means taking pride in the safety of the facilities where they work,” said Sara Hazzard, SCMA President and CEO. “As we once again recognize the very best in our companies—which ensure safety is a top priority—it is always important to acknowledge that our SCMA Safety Award Winners are among our most innovative and creative stars on the manufacturing landscape.”

“This award is a testament to the dedication of our workforce who make safety a priority in everything they do,” said SRNS Safety and Health Director Diana Bowers. “By embedding safety into our everyday practices, we not only ensure the well-being of our team but that all our operations are carried out efficiently, and risk is minimized. SRNS is honored to be recognized yet again for our commitment to workplace safety, which we look forward to maintaining and strengthening in the years to come.”

2025 Eddy Award winner

SRNS recently earned its second consecutive Pensions & Investments (P&I) Eddy Award. The 2025 award ceremony was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in conjunction with P&I's annual Defined Contribution East conference on March 11.

For 25 years, the P&I Eddy Awards have recognized excellence in offering investment and financial education to defined contribution plan participants. This year, SRNS, in partnership with Transamerica, secured third place for investment education.

“Helping our employees achieve a brighter retirement is our priority. We continually seek innovative ways to motivate participants to take action toward improving their financial futures,” said Chris Horton, SRNS Retirement Services and Disability Manager. “We’re thrilled by the impactful results, and meeting our goal of inspiring employees to save more is a significant achievement.”

The Defined Contribution Plan is a multi-employer retirement plan qualified by the Internal Revenue Service. Since 2017, Transamerica has provided record-keeping services for the plan. The plan's oversight is managed by the Savings and Pension Administrative Committee, which consists of eight representatives: five from SRNS, one from Battelle Savannah River Alliance and two from Savannah River Mission Completion.



Meaghan Offerman, P&I Magazine Senior Editor; Danielle Harris, SRNS Retirement Services Analyst; Cherie Nelson, Transamerica Participant Communications Manager; and Julie Tatge, P&I Magazine Executive Editor

To better educate employees, SRNS launched the “Sweeten Your Retirement Savings” campaign, which aimed to enhance retirement planning engagement using Transamerica's OnTrack® retirement forecast tool. This campaign encouraged participants who were saving below the match to increase their contributions to meet or exceed the match.

“The campaign was straightforward, relatable and clearly demonstrated the potential long-term impact associated with increasing savings contributions based on an employee's average salary,” said Danielle Harris, SRNS Retirement Services Analyst. “By targeting employees at various stages of their retirement journey, we saw significant improvements in their retirement outlooks.”

As a testament to its success, 95% of participants who took action during the campaign increased their contribution rate between 1% and 5%. Furthermore, 58% of those participants now have contribution rates that meet or exceed the amount needed to receive the company match.

In addition, SRNS recently announced an enhanced company match in the Defined Contributions Plan that will take effect starting June 1, for eligible employees with five or more years of service.

“Our data showed that employees who reach the five-year mark tend to stay much longer, and we want to encourage that longevity,” added Horton. “With the enhanced company match, eligible employees will receive up to 11% in company contributions, positioning them strongly for a healthy retirement account balance.”

United in purpose: SRNS ignites hope through record-breaking giving

SRNS was recently honored for its outstanding contributions to the 2024 United Way campaign at two events held in the Aiken-Augusta Area.

Together, SRNS employees collectively raised \$782,987 for local United Way agencies, showing what's possible when a team unites for a great cause. Their efforts—in partnership with Savannah River Mission Completion, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Centerra—contributed a total of \$1,421,311, surpassing this year's goal of \$1.4 million, despite challenges such as the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

This year's campaign benefits:

- United Way of Aiken County
-
- United Way of the CSRA
-
- United Way of Edgefield County
-
- United Way of McDuffie County
-
- United Way of the Midlands
-
- United Way of Screven County
-
- United Way of South Carolina, including Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton Counties and United Way of the Lowcountry
-
- United Way of Anderson County
-
- United Way of Barnwell County, including Allendale

Aiken

During the United Way of Aiken County's annual meeting and award ceremony at Newberry Hall in Aiken, South Carolina, SRNS was recognized as one of the top companies for its exceptional efforts in supporting Aiken's campaign, receiving the following accolades:



- Recognition for SRNS' support of the Campaign Professionals Program
- Highest Employee Achievement award
- Second Highest Corporate Contribution
- The "Aiken Cup" for highest overall campaign

In addition, two SRNS employees were individually recognized for their extraordinary campaign efforts: Danielle Elliott, for serving on the United Way Aiken County's 2024 board of directors as the Campaign Committee Chair; and Corbin Seigler, who received the Project VISION "Rookie of the Year" Award.

The event also celebrated a remarkable milestone, raising a total of \$2,415,081 during the 2024 United Way of Aiken County's campaign.

CSRA

Along with being recognized by the United Way of Aiken County, SRNS joined local businesses and volunteers at the Augusta Marriott Convention Center for the United Way of the CSRA's 88th Annual Campaign Celebration. At this event, SRNS was honored with the Top Fundraiser award, having raised



more than \$246,000—a powerful demonstration of leadership in community philanthropy and positive impact on local lives.

Two SRNS employees were honored at the event: Morgan Welch and Ethan Guidry. Both received the Employee Campaign Manager of the Year award for leading the Site's highly successful campaign efforts.

"The United Way Annual Celebration represents a commitment to community and collaboration," said Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services. "For SRNS, supporting United Way aligns with our core values through the commitment to drive positive social impact and enhance the quality of life in our surrounding communities. By partnering with United Way, we can strengthen our dedication to these communities and contribute meaningfully to the well-being of our neighbors."

The full impact of the CSRA campaign was nothing short of extraordinary. At the United Way event, participants celebrated raising a total of \$5,052,029 during the 2024 campaign.

Celebrating 75 years of green thinking

SRNS employees Michele Horton and Amy Meyer interact with attendees at Aiken's Earth Day celebration.

For decades, SRS has served as a leader in the DOE Complex for environmental stewardship, including the research and development of cutting-edge technologies that are achieving environmental restoration at the Site, across the United States and abroad.

This year, SRNS encourages all to show their environmental commitment through the theme: "Our Power. Our Planet. Cultivate It."

SRNS employees connected with the community of Aiken, South Carolina, during their annual Earth Day celebration, providing attendees with information promoting environmental preservation. "It was our goal to host a booth with something fun and engaging for all ages," said Caroline Czarnecki, Associate Environmental Engineer. "We had an interactive sandbox game where kids could dig and uncover questions teaching them creative ways to recycle and care for the planet, a nature-themed photo wall with playful props, and giveaways like: reusable insulated lunch bags, Swedish dishcloths and wildflower seed packets to inspire eco-friendly habits at home."

"For 75 years, SRS has been a member of the Aiken community," said Amy Meyer, SRNS Environmental Compliance Manager. "We are proud to have a strong environmental stewardship program for cleanup and waste management efforts at our Site, and grateful for the chance to share some of our efforts and milestones with the community, while showing them some ways they can be a steward for their environment."



Families explore downtown Aiken learning from various vendors how they can protect their environment.

Employees had an opportunity to celebrate Earth Day at this year's SRS Safety Expo from April 22-24. At the Earth Day booth, they learned more about how to "Cultivate It."

In addition to in-person celebrations, Earth Day Chair Pamela Vaughn and Co-chair Michele Horton stated, "This year, we are excited to roll out the SRNS Earth Day photo challenge, where SRNS employees can share how they "Cultivate It." Thank you in advance for your participation and for helping us harness our power to protect our planet. Every action—big or small—helps ensure a better future for our community."

SCSU tour of nonproliferation efforts

A group of students and faculty from South Carolina State University (SCSU) and Claflin University recently toured SRS, gaining an in-depth understanding of L Area, a facility that is critical to nuclear materials management and nonproliferation missions. Coordinated by SRS Education Outreach Programs, the visit offered students practical insights into nuclear fuel processing and the diverse operations at SRS.

“The visit centered around the safe management and handling of spent nuclear fuel,” said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead. “The significance of these educational tours goes beyond just explaining what we do—it emphasizes why we do it. These discussions help raise awareness among attendees and increase the likelihood of future engagement with SRS, as informed citizens, or part of the future workforce.”

Led by SRNS Operations Manager Tristan Downey, the tour offered visitors a detailed view of the repurposed reactor facility in L Area. Highlights included the storage of moderator used in nuclear reactors, the safe storage and processing of spent nuclear fuel, and the importance of underwater basin operations.

“Each facility has a unique function. L Area processes spent nuclear fuel shipped from foreign and domestic research reactors,” said Downey. “Since 1964, an estimated 47,000 fuel assemblies have been received and safely stored in L Basin. The students explored the operational side of the facility, learning about off-site fuel receipt, the disassembly basin, and the transfer of fuel to the H Canyon chemical separations facility at SRS for processing.”

One mission in L Area is to unload aluminum-clad uranium fuel into an underwater storage facility called the L Disassembly Basin. Assemblies are loaded underwater into specialized aluminum



Visitors view a legacy reactor process room in L Area.

bundles. When ready for processing, the L Basin team removes the bundles and safely transports them by on-site rail to H Canyon.

Jayden Briggs, a junior civil engineering student from Florence, South Carolina, was particularly struck by the duality of the control room in L Area, where legacy equipment stands alongside operational panels. “I knew we were getting into serious business when I saw that SRS operated under DOE. The cautiousness required in the control room was eye-opening. The tour educated me on what SRS truly does and provided a strong sense of national security,” he commented.

Douglas Barnes, a career counselor from Claflin University, said, “I plan to share the insights gained from the tour with Claflin students, informing them about internships and entry-level positions at SRS. I’m interested in future collaborations and ongoing visits to the Site to help students understand the diverse career opportunities available right here in our backyard.”



South Carolina State University students are particularly interested in the legacy control panels found in L Area.

SRNS to launch LEAN initiative for efficiency and project execution



Dalton Lawless, SRNS Electrical and Instrumentation Mechanic, tidies up the A Area Breaker Shop during the 5S pilot program.

The SRNS Continuous Improvement (CI) team recently piloted a 5S program to boost workplace efficiency, eliminate waste, streamline operations and improve overall productivity. The program is scheduled for a site-wide launch in June.

An evaluation of LEAN implementation progress in 2023 led to the identification of improvement opportunities. The evaluation resulted in the initiation of a site-wide 5S program, recognized as a valuable LEAN tool for enhancing daily operations and mission execution. Additionally, the CI team benchmarked 5S initiatives at the Kansas City National Security Campus, known for its robust 5S culture.

“By focusing on our 5S LEAN Workplace initiative, SRNS can ensure its successful implementation and effectively communicate its benefits to employees and federal customers,” said P.K. Hightower, SRNS Director of Interface Management and CI Manager. “The 5S program will help boost productivity, efficiency and timeliness—critical factors for delivering high-quality services and products. This commitment can solidify our reputation as a productive, efficient and reliable partner for future federal projects.”

The 5S system comprises five essential steps designed to create an organized and efficient workplace: sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain. Implementing these steps results in better time management, lower injury rates, reduced equipment downtime, enhanced consistency and quality. It also increased employee morale.

“We’ve all experienced organizing a closet—sorting through old and new items and keeping it clean. That’s essentially what the 5S principles are about,” explained Blake Leaphart, SRNS Lead Continuous Improvement Specialist. “Our goal is to implement 5S as

a standard business practice at SRNS, applicable to production manufacturing, procurement, information technology and more.”

The first formal 5S pilot programs were conducted in the A Area Breaker Shop and SRRPF Machining Training Center (MTC), which trains operators in critical machining skills in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting.

In the A Area Breaker Shop, the pilot led to the disposal of 50-60 items, creating significant floor space. Toolboxes and common areas were reorganized for optimal efficiency, and records were consolidated, freeing up space previously occupied by filing cabinets. At the MTC, the pilot fine-tuned existing 5S concepts. Equipment was organized, and a draft standard of work was developed, detailing daily to quarterly tasks. As the MTC ramps up training, early implementation of 5S systems will ensure smooth future operations.

The 5S program is a crucial component of SRNS’ overarching CI strategy. By implementing 5S, each facility should operate at a higher level with early detection of issues or inefficiencies.

“In the long run, these improvements could lead to cost savings,” noted Lisa Steed, SRNS CI Specialist. “While cost savings are an added benefit, our main goal is task efficiency and effectiveness to meet critical mission milestones at the Savannah River Site. Any improvement, big or small, is a win. As this program advances, SRNS should see tangible benefits in efficiency, safety and employee morale. This program fosters a culture of excellence and continuous improvement, supporting the Site for decades to come.”



Philip Kestin

AT SRNS: Manager of Nuclear Nonproliferation Program

IN THE COMMUNITY: Project VISION volunteer, former board member for the First Tee of Aiken

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Philip (Phil) Kestin is the Manager of Nuclear Nonproliferation Program (NNP), a role he has held for the past three years following his promotion within the NNP group, where he has worked since 2018. Prior to joining NNP, he served as a Design Authority Engineer in the HB-Line Facility. His current leadership role marks a full-circle moment in a career that, after a significant shift into public safety, returned to its roots at the Site.

Kestin initially worked at Westinghouse Savannah River from 1990 to 1993 in what was then the Savannah River Technology Center. In 1993, driven by a deep-rooted calling inspired by his father—a 30-year veteran of the Fire Department of the City of New York—Kestin transitioned into public safety. He spent 22 years with the City of Aiken as a Public Safety Officer, ultimately retiring as Captain over administrative services. His public service extended to a role as Safety, Security and Emergency Manager at University Health Care System in Augusta, Georgia, before returning to SRS in 2015.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and a Master of Science in materials science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute—credentials that have complemented both his technical and leadership roles throughout his career.

Outside of work, Kestin is deeply engaged in family life and community service. As part of the “sandwich generation,” he has supported his aging mother, mourned the passing of his father, and celebrated major milestones with his daughter, who recently graduated from pharmacy school and married. He participates in initiatives like Project VISION and supports fundraising through a local car club. He was a board member during the early years of First Tee of Aiken; and he spent several years coaching youth golf.



SRPPF construction

Site preparation activities were ongoing in April at the SRPPF project at SRS. Once constructed, the SRPPF complex will support the plutonium pit production mission at SRS. Recent site prep work for the pit production facility included excavation activities to install underground utilities and infrastructure.



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



Jeremy Rosier

Operations Manager
for Solid Waste and
Deactivation Management



Latoya Williams

Senior Administrative
Assistant with the
Calibrations/Standards Lab



Robert Proctor

HB-Line First Line
Manager



Philip Kestin

Manager, Nuclear
Nonproliferation Program

SRNS

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

Securing nuclear materials to prevent
unwanted proliferation

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

Transforming nuclear materials into assets
and stable wasteforms



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