

● DECEMBER 2024

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Working with Santa

SRS teams up for holiday giving



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Boiler certification • Tensile test • Women in Supply Chain Awards • STEM Like a Girl



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

Santa lends a helping hand to load up for a season of giving.

Welcome

to the December 2024 edition of

SRNS Today

December caps off a year of change and success, as SRNS employees continued to show unity, performance excellence and unwavering commitment to safety and to our missions.

SRS again showed incredible generosity during the successful employee-led 2024 Toys for Toys and Angel Tree campaigns. Teaming up with other Site contractors, we exceeded the Site's fundraising goal, raising \$42,084. The Site also adopted 785 angels and purchased 10,551 toys.

Nearly 60 eighth grade students from across the Central Savannah River Area participated in STEM Like a Girl at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, hosted by SRNS Education Outreach Programs. This inspiring event empowered young women through hands on STEM activities and mentorship, encouraging them to envision futures as engineers, scientists and leaders.

Additionally, SRNS recognized the extraordinary efforts of our first responders who helped take care of our Site and the community following the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Their dedication to recovery efforts exemplifies the resilience of our workforce.

We also launched a new hiring campaign aimed to assist disabled veterans through the Disabled Veteran Enhancement Opportunities initiative.

Thank you for your dedication and contributions to making these achievements possible. Together we continue to drive innovation, growth and community impact. Please enjoy this month's edition of SRNS today and have a wonderful holiday season.



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)

Certified for Site missions

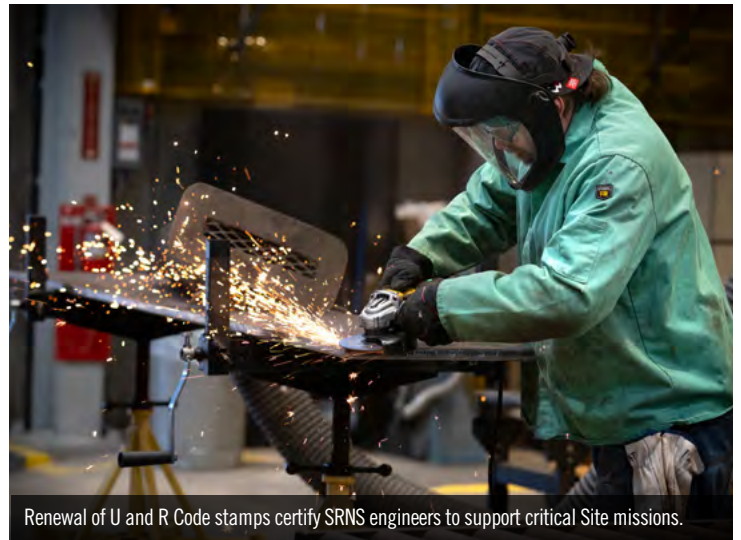


An SRNS welding engineer performs maintenance on boiler and pressure vessel.

Earlier this year, SRNS Project Management and Construction Services (PMCS) welders and welding engineers successfully underwent audits from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors to renew U and R Code stamps necessary to support critical missions at SRS.

These vessels, located across the Site, support numerous processes, including those at Tritium, the A Area Powerhouse and multiple boilers on-site. Any vessel carrying a pressure greater than 15 pounds per square inch must be manufactured and stamped in accordance with ASME code. The re-certification of U Code stamps ensures that newly manufactured boiler and pressure vessels have been designed, fabricated, inspected and tested in accordance with ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, while the R Code stamp allows Site personnel to make repairs or alterations to these vessels as needed and ensures modifications adhere to safety standards.

To obtain the ASME U and R Code recertification, personnel from Quality Assurance, PMCS, Design Engineering, Site Welding Subject Matter Experts and Procedure Owners gathered at N Area's Boilermaker Shop to review Site Welding procedures and perform inspections on a construction fabricated vessel. Based on this demonstration and non-destructive examinations, SRNS obtained recertification.



Renewal of U and R Code stamps certify SRNS engineers to support critical Site missions.

These welding certifications ensure that SRNS employees can act quickly to support critical missions at SRS. The code stamp certifications will remain valid for another three years, allowing the Site to fabricate, repair and alter ASME boilers and pressure vessels as needed.

"Most don't realize the skillset required by this group to successfully carry these code stamps," said SRNS Construction Engineering Manager Leeanna Biery. "This is one of those behind-the-scenes efforts that allow us to support the various missions and processes on-site."



SRPPF is integral to the pit production mission at SRS.

Defense Programs visit emphasizes mission urgency

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it rhymes”—parting words from Dave Hoagland, NNSA Executive Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, to wrap up a Town Hall meeting held Dec. 4 for members of the SRPPF Project Execution and Pit Production Operations and Programs teams.

During the Site visit, which focused on the timeline and strategic importance of the SRS defense program missions, Hoagland’s team toured K Area, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise, the Machining Training Center, and SRPPF.

“The real goal is to instill a sense of urgency,” said Ben Walker, Director, Savannah River Acquisition and Project Management Office, who introduced Hoagland at the Town Hall event. “We want employees to understand what’s really going on and why we need this mission. We want everyone to understand that it’s not your average project, that we have a true need to get it across the finish line.”

Recalling the Site’s Cold War-era origins, Hoagland commenced the briefing by providing historic perspective, while emphasizing to employees the value of a strong nuclear stockpile capable of deterring adversaries. Highlighting the end of World War II and events that followed, he described “the greatest period of peace and prosperity in human history,” while emphasizing the critical implications of meeting SRS project deadlines and milestones.

“That period of peace has held for 80 years, but it’s under challenge now,” he said. “We have never before faced two near-peer adversaries



Dave Hoagland, NNSA Executive Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, addresses members of the SRPPF Project Execution and Pit Production Operations and Programs teams during a Town Hall meeting held Dec. 4.

since World War II and the advent of nuclear weapons. We’re about to enter the most complex geopolitical landscape in three decades.”

Hoagland concluded the briefing by reminding employees of their key roles in the Site’s national security missions. “The work you’re doing is so important,” he said, while describing the pit production mission and its critical role in preserving the American way of life. “If we are producing more weapons than our adversaries, there is no incentive to start a war. That’s really what’s at stake. Whether we make or don’t make our milestones is factoring into our adversaries’ calculations.”

“Deterrence is going to play out based on how quickly we move on these projects, how many weapons we produce, the quality of those weapons, the president’s confidence in those weapons, and our ability to do more,” he said. “The United States has the highest reliability and highest quality weapons of any of the superpowers, and that’s the way we’re going to succeed. The challenge is for us to continue serving, holding true to the principles of safety and security, but doing so while moving quickly.”

First SRNS tensile test performed in MTC

The Material Characterization team recently completed a tensile test using metallurgical characterization equipment located in the Machining Training Center.

This test, also known as a procedure validation, represents a first for SRNS. Having this capability will now allow SRNS teams to perform future tensile tests in the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center and SRPPF to support the pit manufacturing process.

Associated with the Metallurgical (Met) Characterization Line, the equipment used for this procedure validation is designed to measure a material's mechanical properties. According to James Maner, Manager of Material Characterization Lab, an instrument, known as a Universal Test System, was used to apply force to an aluminum alloy specimen until the specimen deformed and/or failed by breaking.

"Following completion of the test, should the specimen fail, the fractured surface can be studied to better understand failure mechanisms," said Maner.

Pit Production Laboratory Senior Engineer Dan Foley performed the tensile test and is the first subject matter expert for this capability.

"The data obtained during this procedure validation will aid our team in studying and characterizing metal, which is critical to the pit production process," said Darlene Murdoch, Senior Vice President, NNSA Pit Production Operations and Programs. "This is another significant milestone on our path to developing the competencies required to fulfill our national defense missions."

The Material Characterization team is part of the Pit Production Laboratory organization within Pit Production Operations and Programs.



Results of the tensile test performed by the Material Characterization team on the Met Characterization Line



SRNS protégés met to share knowledge and experiences during the 2024 Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence event. US&S Facility Services, CRC Technologies Inc., and Strativia shared best practices with the newly enrolled small businesses.

SRNS expands DOE Mentor-Protégé Program

SRNS recently onboarded a record seven small businesses into the DOE Mentor-Protégé Program, further strengthening its commitment to fostering diverse and capable subcontractors across the complex.

Since its launch in 2015, the program has empowered small businesses to enhance their capabilities, with SRNS' investment in the initiative increasing from \$400,000 to \$41 million.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and this program helps enhance their capabilities, enabling them to successfully compete for contracts with DOE and other federal agencies," said Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services.

SRNS strategically aligns the skills of small businesses with current Site demands, particularly in sectors typically dominated by larger corporations. Of the newly recruited protégés, five will focus on construction, one on staffing and development, and one on supplies.

The DOE Mentor-Protégé Program features a Center of Excellence forum, where seasoned companies exchange best practices and valuable insights.

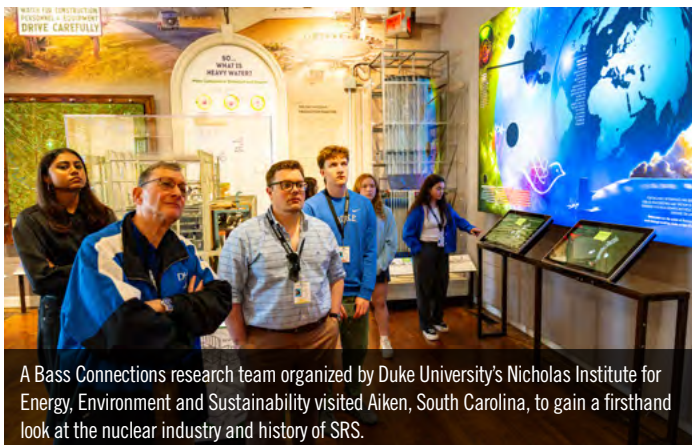
"The Center of Excellence forum allows protégés to collaborate with their peers and exchange ideas," said Jana Chavous, SRNS Lead Supply Chain Management Specialist. "Our seasoned protégés shared both their successes and lessons learned with newcomers to the program and how to do business with SRNS."

Three companies graduated from the program: US&S Facility Services, CRC Technologies, and Strativia LLC. Notably, CRC Technologies, a woman-owned small business, was awarded \$98 million in subcontracts during its five-year tenure in the program.

"Our company culture has evolved to reflect that of SRNS and NNSA, which allows us to ensure mission deliverables and desired outcomes are achieved safely and promptly," said Bob Conner, Founder and President of CRC Technologies. "This program has significantly benefited our business, leading to controlled growth and notable improvements in company size, stability, financial health and culture."

The DOE Mentor-Protégé Program lasts two years with an option for three additional one-year extensions. The nine current protégés aim to introduce innovative solutions to support Site missions in fiscal year 2025.

Duke University researchers visit



A Bass Connections research team organized by Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability visited Aiken, South Carolina, to gain a firsthand look at the nuclear industry and history of SRS.

On Oct. 24, a research team from Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability visited Aiken, South Carolina, to gain a look at the nuclear industry.

"Each October, SRS celebrates Nuclear Science Week, recognizing the vital role nuclear science plays in the United States and globally," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead. "By connecting Duke University visitors with the Site's history and current missions, this day-long event bridges the gap between academic research and real-world nuclear industry experience."

Part of Duke University's Bass Connections project, "Reexamining Nuclear Power in the Carolinas and Beyond," the group of three faculty members and eight student researchers are exploring the historical context of nuclear power. The team is compiling a grant proposal for a year-long project on the future of nuclear energy in the region and aims to launch an open access portal to bring together unpublished documents currently preserved at Duke.

"We're looking at the history of nuclear power in the Carolinas, but also thinking about the next 50 years of energy generation in the region," said Tom Cinq-Mars, faculty lead for the project. "Our goal is to understand how nuclear power fits into the future energy landscape."

The visit included a tour of the SRS, where researchers were able to see firsthand the scale of Site operations. Cinq-Mars emphasized the importance of the experience for students, noting that it allowed them

to move beyond textbooks and understand the real-world implications of their research.

"Our students could see that this isn't just a theoretical project," said Cinq-Mars. "It gave them a deeper understanding of the political and funding complexities that come with managing nuclear material."

The research team also visited the SRS Museum and Café Scientifique, where they learned about the evolution of the nuclear industry. The visit provided insight into environmental challenges of balancing nuclear weapons development with cleanup efforts from the Cold War era.

Sophomore Ananya Misra, one of the attending students, highlighted the value of her visit, where she was able to connect the dots between the Site's history and her studies. As a public policy major, Misra was particularly interested in the regulatory changes that have taken place over the years at SRS.

"This experience gave me a concrete understanding of how policies and regulations evolve over time," Misra said. "For our project, I have compiled an archive of historical documents and seeing the infrastructure changes firsthand really brought it all together. It's fascinating to see how much significant development occurred in such a short amount of time."

Misra also expressed an interest in the innovative waste glassification technology used to store high-level liquid nuclear waste into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal. "It was incredible to learn about the glassification process, especially knowing that it was modeled after volcanic glass. The longevity of the material is impressive," she said.

The day's activities also included a Citizens for Nuclear Technology Advancement (CNTA)-sponsored Edward Teller Lecture and a Nuclear Technology Expo dinner at the Columbia County Expo Center. The partnership between the SRNS Education Outreach team and the CNTA was key in organizing the visit.

"This tour provided an invaluable experience for our research group," Misra added. "SRS operations is applicable to so many different fields—science, public policy, national security—there's something to learn here for everyone."

Pit Production Summit with LANL

SRNS held a Pit Production Summit Dec. 3-4 with Matt Johnson, Division Leader of Pit Technologies, and David Gubernatis, Deputy Division Leader of Pit Technologies, from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Summit included production-related technical discussions between both Production Agencies (PAs). According to Josh Bodkin, Director of Operations & Programs Technical Support, "This was an excellent partnering session that provided guidance to the SRPPF PA regarding areas on which to focus attention."



Members of the SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs and LANL Pit Technologies organizations collaborated during a recent Pit Production Summit.

Hiring initiative helps veterans

SRNS recently launched an initiative to enhance employment opportunities for disabled veterans, ensuring that those who meet basic job qualifications are given priority consideration for interviews.

The new Disabled Veteran Enhancement Opportunities (DVEO) initiative, which was announced in October, aims to give disabled veterans a greater chance to secure positions at SRS.

“We are committed to providing more pathways for disabled veterans to contribute their skills and experiences within our workforce,” said J. Malik Lightbourne, SRNS Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity Manager. “While this initiative does not guarantee a job offer, it ensures that resumes from disabled veterans will be prioritized and reviewed by hiring managers for further consideration.”

SRNS’ current workforce is diverse, with 8.4% of employees identifying as individuals with disabilities and 11.7% as veterans. This new initiative aligns with the company’s broader commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace and ensuring no qualified disabled veteran candidate is overlooked during the hiring process.

The DVEO initiative introduces several key changes to SRNS’ hiring practices:

- Disabled veterans who meet the basic qualifications for a job will be directly forwarded to hiring managers for intentional review and interview selection.
- The company’s recruitment platform, BrassRing, has been modified to allow candidates to self-identify as disabled veteran and provide verification of their status.
- SRNS’ internal procedure, outlined in Manual 5B, Procedure 2.2 has been revised to reflect this change in process, which applies to both internal employees and external applicants.

In addition to the DVEO initiative, SRNS has long supported veterans through other programs. Since 2022, the company has participated in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce foundation’s “Hiring our Heroes” program, which helps connect transitioning active-duty service members with civilian employment opportunities.

“We’re proud to participate in ‘Hiring Our Heroes,’ a program that helps veterans transition to civilian life while filling critical gaps in our



“It’s clear that SRNS cares about its employees.”

Justen Brooks,
Metrologist at the Savannah River Standards Laboratory



workforce,” said Anna Gordon, SRNS Senior HR Specialist and program lead. “Each year, we welcome five fellows into the program, with about half of them transitioning into full-service roles at SRS after completing their fellowship.”

Justen Brooks, a metrologist at the Savannah River Standards Laboratory, expressed gratitude for the support he’s received in transitioning from the military to civilian work. Brooks, who served in the Marine Corps’ metrology field, was sponsored by SRNS to receive additional training at the lab.

“SRNS and the Standards Lab management team have been incredibly welcoming, and I’m truly grateful for this training opportunity, which has allowed me to dive deeper into the field of metrology,” said Brooks. “I’m also impressed with the community involvement and the programs available to employees here. It’s clear that SRNS cares about its employees.”

Since the DVEO program’s launch, nearly 80 veteran applicants have been reviewed under the new selection process. The SRNS EEO and Diversity team, in partnership with SRNS Talent Acquisition, will continue tracking data on applicants, interviews, and hires to measure the program’s success.

“SRNS has always understood the importance of hiring veterans and disabled veterans,” said Francine Burroughs, SRNS Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management. “As a veteran myself, I know the unique skills and leadership qualities that these individuals bring to the table. By creating intentional pathways for them, we are strengthening our workforce and supporting national defense missions across the Department of Energy complex.”



Over 500 employees attended the Business Services Employee Appreciation event which included boxed lunches, door prize giveaways and booths from various departments.

Business Services celebrates employees

The SRNS Business Services department recently celebrated its staff at an employee appreciation event, recognizing over 500 attendees for their dedication to SRS missions. Remarks by Sean Alford, SRNS Senior VP, commended the team’s Hurricane Helene efforts, while Lance Waddell announced his Fluor return, introducing successor Staci Peters. The event included informative booths, door prizes, a “Business Services Jeopardy” game, and a performance by Alexandria Sullivan.

Making spirits bright

SRS Toys for Tots/Angel Tree surpasses Site's goal

Multiple contractors worked together to meet and surpass the SRS goal.



DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, SRS employees came together for a successful employee-led campaign, engaging in acts of philanthropy and embracing the spirit of giving by making a difference in nearby communities through the Marine Toys for Tots and Salvation Army Angel Tree programs.

From loading trucks filled with toys and bikes to fulfilling holiday wishes for local children, employees demonstrated their commitment to spreading joy and fostering a sense of hope among those in need.

The campaign was a success, surpassing the Site's goal of \$25,000, donating a total of \$42,084. In addition to the Site's donation, Dennis Carr presented four checks for \$5,000 each to Salvation Army of Aiken, Aiken Marine Toys for Tots, Salvation Army of Augusta and Augusta Marine Toys for Tots. Additionally, Centerra General Manager Mark Bolton presented a check for \$6,000 to the Marine Toys for Tots foundation.

"Through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots initiative, SRNS is helping to bring smiles to children and families in need," said Carr. "I would like to thank everyone involved who joined together to make the campaign successful."

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation provides hope to economically disadvantaged children during Christmas. "This year's campaign slogan is "If you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return," said Megan Corbin, Toys for Tots Chair for SRNS. "By donating, you're not just giving toys or money; you're giving hope, happiness and the power of a shared community."

In addition to the money donated, the number of angel adoptions for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program exceeded expectations with a total of 785 angels, from all Site contractors. A total of 10,551 toys were purchased, which includes toys from donation funds and toys collected via box collections.



Dennis Carr helps load toys at the drop off event.

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“This wouldn’t be possible without SRNS. Represented today are children from across Aiken County who endure poverty daily. This is so much more than a Christmas gift.”

**Michael Good,
Commanding Officer
of the Salvation Army of Aiken**

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Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality, assists with loading items.

Michael Good, Commanding Officer of the Salvation Army of Aiken, said, “This wouldn’t be possible without SRNS. Represented today are children from across Aiken County who endure poverty daily. This is so much more than a Christmas gift. This is a possibility of hope for a better tomorrow. I believe that the collective generosity of our community possesses the power to profoundly impact our future.”

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program in Augusta, Georgia, services the following areas: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes and Wrens.

The Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program in Aiken, South Carolina, services the following communities: Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, North Augusta, Beech Island, Belvedere, Williston, Salley and Couchton.



Site employees spread holiday chair during the toy pickup.

Women in Supply Chain Awards



Tammy Rimes, SRNS Senior Director, Supply Chain Operations and Programs; Lisa Tanner, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer and Senior Manager of Supply Chain Excellence; and Elizabeth Wooten, SRNS Contracts and Supply Chain Management Business Manager.

Three professionals from the SRNS Supply Chain team were honored with 2024 Women in Supply Chain Awards by Food Logistics and Supply & Demand Chain Executive on Nov. 12. The third annual forum held in Atlanta, Georgia, recognized female leaders who excel in mentorship, self-advocacy, collaboration, and advancing gender equality in logistics.

The 2024 Women in Supply Chain winners are:

- Lisa Tanner, SRNS Small Business Liaison Officer and Senior Manager of Supply Chain Excellence
- Tammy Rimes, SRNS Senior Director, Supply Chain Operations and Programs
- Elizabeth Wooten, SRNS Contracts and Supply Chain Management Business Manager

Tanner, Rimes and Wooten were recognized for their efforts supporting NNSA and DOE missions at SRS.

“I’m thrilled to see these talented leaders recognized for their exceptional work,” said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services. “Their contributions have made a lasting impact on our operations and continue to inspire the next generation of women in supply chain.”

Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services, said, “I have witnessed amazing efforts made by these women to transform how we do business, whether through warehouse innovation, streamlining business processes or finding innovative ways to expand the work we do with small businesses. They are not only steering the course but also redefining the future of supply chain at SRNS.”

Tanner was named “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pioneer” for her work in small business contracting and diversity in supply chain. Responsible for over \$2 billion in acquisitions, she plays a key role in increasing SRNS’ spend with diverse suppliers by

\$125 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024—with more than 60% of that spend directed toward underrepresented businesses.

When asked about her goals for FY25, Tanner said, “I hope to further diversify supply chain pipelines, address biases in supplier selection, and support career advancement for women in supply chain.”

Rimes was recognized as a “Workforce Innovator” for her leadership in materials management, inventory control, and government asset disposition. She leads an organization of over 150 employees, manages an annual budget of \$20 million, and has overseen multi-million-dollar projects, including a successful inventory transition and property disposition effort to support SRNS’ future missions with NNSA.

“Success in supply chain goes beyond moving goods from point A to point B; it’s about connecting people, processes and possibilities,” said Rimes. “This achievement also serves as a reminder that success is not only built on our strengths, but also on the wisdom and support of the mentors who have guided us to new heights.”

Rimes pioneered SRNS’ first cloud-based chemical inventory management system and launched the Supply Chain Management Apprenticeship Program to develop the next generation of supply chain professionals.

Wooten was named a “Rising Star” for her work in procurement policy, subcontractor management, and sustainable acquisition programs. In FY25, she will work with NNSA to establish a library of NNSA and DOE contractor procurement policies to expedite benchmarking and improve efficiencies across the complex. She will also explore the use of artificial intelligence in procurement for change management.

“Having strong female role models has been invaluable to my career and personal life,” said Wooten. “It’s a privilege to embody and demonstrate the values and leadership qualities that they have instilled in me. I hope this recognition inspires more women to pursue leadership roles within their respective fields.”

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

The Site recently joined in the nationwide celebration of the Department of Labor's (DOL) 10th Annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), spotlighting the remarkable progress and rich diversity of its apprenticeship program that spans 27 occupations.

With over 600 apprentices enrolled since its inception, the SRS Apprenticeship Program demonstrates a strong representation of minorities (24%), veterans (11%), women (26%), and young adults (12%). Contributing to this success, over 91% of enrolled apprentices transition into full-service careers at the Site.

"Diversity and skill development are the cornerstones of our workforce strategy, critical for meeting our growing industry needs and national priorities," said Dorian Newton, SRS Director of Site Training.

"NAW allows us to reflect on and celebrate the transformative role that apprenticeships play in empowering individuals for lasting and fulfilling careers at SRS."

On Nov. 18, a recognition event was held to showcase the dedicated efforts and milestone achievements of SRS apprentices while celebrating partnerships between SRNS, Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Mission Completion and Aiken Technical College, Augusta Technical College, and Denmark Technical College.

"This team has provided you with the tools for success; now, it's up to you to apply yourself in the classroom and the field," said Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, during the event. "It's more than a personal milestone; it's an initiative with national resonance, setting a precedent that could shape apprenticeship programs across the country."

Lawrence Winburn, Office of Apprenticeship at the Department of Labor, said, "Since its inception in 1937, Registered Apprenticeship has opened doors, providing innovative pathways for those without the opportunity to attend college. This cohort, one of the largest I've seen, is setting the bar high and illuminating the possibilities that exist within our workforce."

The week-long celebration also included the SRS Youth Apprenticeship "Career Signing Day" event at the Aiken County Career and Technology Center, which honored high school youth apprentices as they committed to career paths that offer paid, work-based learning credit.

"This experience has been amazing," said Alejandro Aguirre-Hernandez, Information Technology Youth Apprentice from North Augusta High School. "Being able to gain hands on experience at SRS while earning my high school diploma gives me a unique advantage. I am so grateful for this opportunity."

On Nov. 20, the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) hosted a breakfast focused on the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers grant funds and the many partner organizations that help the region's employee pipeline.

Guests heard from Steven Simmons, Aiken Technical College; Hadi Hamid, Denmark Technical College; Mindy Mets, SRS Community Reuse Organization; Mylinthia Kelly, Augusta Technical College; and SRNS Apprenticeship School's Booboo Roberts and Abigail Bowman.

"Our apprenticeship programs are not just about filling jobs—they are about building long-term careers for people from all walks of life," Bowman said. "By investing in each apprentice, we're investing in the future of SRS and our surrounding community."





'STEM Like a Girl' empowers next generation

Nearly 60 eighth graders from schools across the CSRA recently gathered at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC) for the SRS “STEM Like a Girl—Introduce a Girl to Engineering and IT” event. This unique initiative is designed to inspire the next generation of female engineers and STEM leaders.

The all-day event, hosted by the SRNS Education Outreach Programs, gave participants an opportunity to explore career paths in STEM through a series of engaging, female-led activities.

“SRNS remains committed to breaking down gender barriers and providing young women with the tools and inspiration needed to pursue careers in STEM,” said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “At SRNS, women make up approximately 20% of our engineering workforce and 27% of our information technology professionals. This event creates fresh perspectives, fosters innovation and opens doors for students who show an interest in those fields.”

Over 50 volunteers from all Site contractors helped guide students through interactive stations focused on robotics, coding, and electrical, mechanical, design and civil engineering. Students also watched engineering come alive on the big screen of the center’s DuPont Planetarium.

“After participating in the ‘Cracking the Code’ activity, I’m inspired to take more coding classes and possibly pursue a degree in software engineering,” said Olivia Praymous, a student at Greenbrier Middle School in Evans, Georgia. “It was an amazing experience working with new people and seeing firsthand how cybersecurity experts identify vulnerabilities.”

Annamarie MacMurray, an engineer at Savannah River National Laboratory with over two decades of volunteer experience with the event, said, “It’s incredible to see the full circle moment. Over the years, I’ve watched students who once participated in this program return to the Site as engineers themselves.”

MacMurray led a robotics demonstration, where students explored wearable robotics with lift assist, Rubik’s cube solvers, remote

control crawlers, and sensory wireless technology.

“It’s amazing to watch the girls’ faces light up when they realize they can do this too. We’re not just teaching them about STEM—we’re inspiring the next generation of innovators and experts,” continued MacMurray.

Olivia Cavero, a student at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School in Aiken, said, “My favorite part of today was interacting with different types of robotics—from sensory devices to satellite tech. I’ve always been passionate about forensic science and criminology, and this event not only confirmed that interest but also introduced me to a whole new side of STEM.”

Erin McCormick, an SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects engineer, described ‘STEM Like a Girl’ as a “safe space” for girls to connect, learn and form new friendships.

“It’s incredibly powerful for attending students to see strong female representation in STEM. They see themselves reflected in TV shows, movies and on social media. Bringing that representation to this event helps them envision a future in a field where women can be underrepresented,” said McCormick. “Watching volunteers from the Site come together to provide that vision was truly inspiring.”

The event also featured several high school students from the M’Aiken Magic Robotics team, who helped bridge the gap between middle and high school, demonstrating the progression from early interest in STEM to real-world application.

“This experience is so successful because of the volunteers that take time out of their busy schedules to make a difference,” continued Rice. “Through initiatives like ‘STEM Like a Girl,’ SRS continues to invest in the future of young women in STEM, fostering innovation, diversity, and inclusion in the workforce.”



WATCH THE VIDEO:

Go to vimeo.com and search for “SRS STEM Like a Girl.”

SRNS honors Hurricane Helene recovery teams

SRNS recently recognized first responders who led recovery efforts at SRS during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The special appreciation event was attended by over 150 employees from Site Services, Business Services, Emergency Management, the SRS Fire Department (SRSFD) and the SRS Operations Center.

In his keynote address, Dennis Carr commended the team's heroic efforts.

"You mobilized swiftly to address extensive damage and repairs. In just two days, nearly all major roadways and railways had been cleared of downed trees and powerlines—a feat that would have been unattainable without your efforts."

"Each of you stepped up to the challenge and did so safely, without injury," said Donny Barfield, SRNS Director of Site Services in a video message. Barfield played a pivotal role in leading the Site's emergency response and established the first "war room" that responded to on-site requests for the first eight days.

Matt Williams, SRSFD Battalion Chief, said, "SRSFD deployed multiple crews to clear trees, rescued trapped employees, and responded to numerous fire alarms and vehicle accidents. The dedication, skill, and bravery displayed by our personnel during this stressful event was second to none and I am honored to be a member of this department."

Carter Hopkins, SRNS Chief Financial Officer, highlighted the finance department's efforts, noting that despite the storm's disruption, the team met critical payroll deadlines and fiscal year deliverables.



Dennis Carr provides beverages to first responders.

"The team put their issues at home on hold to join together and get this job done despite the lack of running water and resources," said Hopkins. "People helping people is what it's all about. In the middle of the madness, our employees remained focused and delivered."

Amber Rodriguez of SRNS Emergency Management discussed the importance of preparation, referencing a tabletop drill conducted in August with local and state agencies. "Although Helene was more severe than anticipated, our preparation and training paid off. Our response is a true testament to the drills and exercises we practice on our blue-sky days," said Rodriguez.

The Hurricane Helene Recovery Team Appreciation event served as a powerful reminder of the resilience and teamwork that helped SRNS recover from one of its most challenging storms.



Over 150 first responders were recognized during the Hurricane Helene Recovery Team Appreciation event at SRS.

Employee benefits package offers oncology support

Since 2023, SRNS has offered the Companion Care Solutions Oncology Concierge Program, as part of the employee benefits package. This program aims to assist employees navigating the complexities of cancer diagnosis and treatment, marking a significant step in the company's commitment to employee health and wellness.

Each year, nearly two million people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer, as reported by Companion Care Solutions. Recognizing the emotional and logistical challenges of cancer diagnosis, this no-cost program aims to help employees coordinate their care effectively.

"Discovering you have cancer can lead to a flood of overwhelming emotions," said Cheryl Cummings, SRNS Employee Wellness Services Manager. "Oncology Concierge is designed to provide the necessary support and minimize medical costs during treatment. By conducting thorough research and finding in-network care options, this benefit alleviates the stress of finding appropriate treatment facilities."

Once enrolled in the SRNS primary health plan, employees are automatically linked to Companion Care Solutions. Members who are diagnosed with cancer will have access to a personal case manager and a registered nurse specializing in cancer treatment. These professionals will help define the patient's health goals, coordinate care across providers, navigate the healthcare system, offer counseling resources, and optimize insurance benefits.

The Companion Care Solutions team also provides the option for a virtual expert medical opinion—at no cost to the member—through 2nd MD. 2nd MD connects members with a board-certified, elite specialist for a virtual expert medical consultation via phone or video from the comfort of home.

"Ultimately, Companion Care Solutions helps employers provide the most beneficial and comprehensive coverage more affordably, while also providing employees optimized and individualized care to ensure the best health outcomes," continued Cummings.

SRNS offers additional services to help screen for specific cancers. One of these services is free on-site mammogram clinics by Piedmont Augusta for female employees over the age of 40. In addition, SRNS partners with Leal Health to assist members in locating applicable cancer trials anywhere in the world. SRNS also established a structured survivorship plan in which the benefits team creates a document that details the members treatment, follow-up procedures, a list of post-treatment specialists, and end of life care.

For more information about the Oncology Concierge Program, contact Cummings at cheryl.cummings@srs.gov.



Jade Harkness engages LEAP members in discussion about exploring their passions.

LEAPing ahead

Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) recently held its annual Professional Development Conference, at the University of South Carolina Aiken Student Activities Center. This year's conference revolved around self-advocacy and setting young professionals up for successful careers.

LEAP is a peer-led organization that serves as the voice for early-career professionals working for SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance.

The day consisted of networking opportunities, presentations and learning activities, with guest speakers including SRNS Senior Risk Analyst, Jade Harkness; SRNS Talent Management Specialist, Nate Diakun; and Augusta University Lecturer, Corporate Trainer and Leadership Development Expert, Dr. Stacy Roberts.

"The LEAP Professional Development Conference has become a staple of the fall schedule," said SRNS Senior Engineer and LEAP member, Eric Martin. "Each year, attending the conference provides new insights into self, others and leadership. This year's conference didn't disappoint with insightful presentations that were not only fun and engaging but also provided helpful information to young professionals seeking to grow personally and as a leader."

"When you stay authentic and lead transparently, success surely follows," said Harkness. "I found my passion by amplifying my voice in lupus advocacy, which in turn helped me to be bolder professionally and achieve the success I've reached thus far. Achieving success looks different for every person, but when you don't allow society to define what your success looks like, you will be pleasantly surprised."

Career development conferences equip emerging leaders with tools to nurture individual growth and foster a culture of innovation within the workplace to propel organizations towards success and progressive change.

According to LEAP President and Solid Waste Processing Facility Process Engineer Arizona Garza, "As always, the LEAP Professional Development Conference was a fantastic event! Our speakers were amazing, and I believe they helped attendees learn how to take the initiative to advocate for themselves. We truly appreciate their support and the dedication of the LEAP Steering Committee in putting on such a great event."

LEAP believes that young professionals are the company's future; and the association offers opportunities for them to cultivate their careers.



Amanda Schuyler

AT SRNS: Manager for Capital, Assets, and Inventory under the Accounting Controller

IN THE COMMUNITY: Toys for Tots Treasurer

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Amanda Schuyler serves as Manager for Capital, Assets, and Inventory in the Accounting Controller in the Chief Financial Officer organization. Her duties include leading her team in handling inventory and nuclear materials accounting, capital asset acquisition review and assessment within PeopleSoft, and maintaining the accounting for accountable equipment. She also conducts general accounting functions such as work breakdown structure and speed chart maintenance forms.

Schuyler is an accomplished, certified public accountant with 20 years of experience. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a focus in accounting and a master’s in business administration from Augusta University where she graduated with honors and the highest business exam score for her graduating class.

She has worked at SRNS for over four years, starting as a Principal Business Analyst before her later promotion to a Principal Business Lead. Prior to working at the Site, Schuyler worked as a partner for a public accounting firm. She enjoys the variety of opportunities that the Site has brought to her—both professionally and by allowing her to give back to the community. She is also an advocate for United Way, giving back through the Sheppard Community Blood Center, and participates in Aspiring Mid-Career Professional at the Site.

“Find something that you’re passionate about and it’s unbelievable what you can achieve and do at the Site,” Schuyler said. Schuyler is married with three kids and enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and learning more about history by visiting historical landmarks across the country. She resides in Augusta, Georgia, and in her free time enjoys playing darts, reading and writing. Her hope is to be a published author one day.



AMP award winners

Aspiring Mid-career Professionals (AMP) presented SRNS employees Carla Wheeler and Stephanie Craig with awards, during the recent AMP ReCharge event at the Columbia County Exhibition Center. Wheeler received the 2024 AMP “Be the Change” Leadership Award, in recognition of her caring attitude, empathy and commitment to being a leader in the community. Craig won the 2024 AMP “GEM” Volunteer of the Year Award! The “GEM” (Going the Extra Mile) award recognizes an AMP member who has gone the extra mile to effect positive change in the community through AMP outreach initiatives.

During the Aspiring Mid-career Professional (AMP) ReCharge event, AMP Vice President James Rowell, AMP President Nick Weaver and AMP Outreach’s Jesse Rowell (far right) present the GEM award to Stephanie Craig (center) and the Be the Change award to Carla Wheeler.

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



Allison Plumblee
PPOP Business Services
Program Manager



Brandon Beckner
TEF Work
Integration Manager



Mary Epps
Quality Assurance
Receiving Inspector



James Rowell
EC&ACP Field and Programs
Support Manager

SRNS

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

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

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms



Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONSSM