

MARCH 2022

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today



## Go for the Gold

Employees surpass fundraising goals during SRNS AHA Heart Walk Campaign



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### This month

Award for lifesaving action • Heavy rescue fire truck added to fleet • One-on-one mentorship



# Welcome

to the March 2022 edition of

# SRNS Today

**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**

At SRP Park in North Augusta, SRNS employees gathered to celebrate the recent AHA Heart Walk.

The Savannah River Site is one of the largest and well-known employers in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). Most citizens know that we handle nuclear materials and environmental cleanup, but what many don't realize is how much it takes to support those operations. From asbestos inspectors to nurses and construction personnel to continuous improvement professionals, our workforce is vast, diverse and proud of what we do.

SRNS support services accomplished a lot in recent months. The SRNS Asbestos Team continued to make progress on an asbestos inventory for more than 3,000 buildings and structures at SRS, with 1,281 buildings fully inspected to date. The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise maintenance team achieved a major reduction in its corrective maintenance backlog – meeting their goal a year early, then exceeding that goal the next year. The SRS Fire Department also purchased a new heavy rescue truck as part of their fleet modernization project.

Our employees also continue to make an impact in our community. SRNS surpassed their original \$130,000 fundraising goal for the American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk, raising \$134,000. SRNS again supported the CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair in 2022. Additionally, we partnered with the Aiken County Public School District to increase the number of students participating in STEM-related Advanced Placement classes.

Everything we do – whether in supporting roles or directly – is focused on making the world safer.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina. 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.

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**COMMON ACRONYMS**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)  
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)



## SRNS Asbestos Team tackles inspection task

SRNS Asbestos Inspectors Carlos Stantos (left), and Autrey Mikell, thoroughly and safely inspect a utility room within an administrative building at SRS.

The SRNS Asbestos Team continues work to ensure an asbestos inventory is complete for more than 3,000 SRS buildings and structures.

Six highly qualified SRNS inspectors and a lead professional under the guidance of the SRNS Asbestos Triad are steadily accomplishing this mammoth task.

The Asbestos Triad, a team of three SRNS asbestos experts, evaluate any SRS asbestos-related issues, questions or events per Federal and State Regulations. Members include the SRS Asbestos Program Administrator, the Asbestos Project Designer and the Industrial Hygiene Asbestos Subject Matter Expert. This group's most important duty is making the final decision on all things asbestos.

To date, 1,281 buildings and structures have been fully inspected according to the 4Q-211 Asbestos Compliance Program Procedure. “We're working closely with each facility to implement a strategic approach to this challenge,” said Melissa Hanshew, SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Operations Support Manager.

Asbestos, a known carcinogen, is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is found throughout the world. Because of its strength and heat resistance, asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant. Asbestos has also been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, including automobile clutch, brake and transmission parts, heat-resistant fabrics, packaging, gaskets and coatings.

“Asbestos has a bad reputation, but in fact, played an important historical role at the Site beginning in the 1950s during the Cold War,”

said Hanshew. “Properly controlled and managed, it is still used today within many products, materials and structures throughout the U.S., even in newer buildings.”

Working with the Asbestos Triad, personnel within all SRNS facilities have three actions to complete:

- Develop a facility asbestos inventory,
- Ensure existing asbestos signs and labels are legible and not deteriorated, replacing each as needed, and
- Verify the facility workgroups have completed Asbestos Awareness Training.

“I'm proud of our asbestos team,” said Hanshew. “Each member of the team continually demonstrates a high level of knowledge and experience related to this field and are dedicated to safely and promptly reducing the number of facilities requiring an asbestos inventory to zero.”

“We're working closely with each facility to implement a strategic approach to this challenge.”

**Melissa Hanshew,**  
SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects Operations Support Manager

## Business is booming in SRS' K Area Complex

Recent infrastructure modernization and upgrades prepare complex for upcoming missions

The K Area Complex (KAC) nuclear material management facility is undergoing a large number of infrastructure projects at an unprecedented pace to improve the capabilities and flexibility of KAC and its employees and prepare for upcoming missions. Major infrastructure work is ongoing to support expanded plutonium downblending operations and prepare for the installation of three new Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) project gloveboxes, and the additional personnel who will operate them.

“SRS is committed to helping the Department of Energy advance its mission of removing plutonium from the state of South Carolina,” said Lee Sims, SRNS K Area Facility Manager. “Most of our facilities are approximately 70 years old, including the decommissioned K Reactor facility where most nuclear material storage and processing activities occur. We are working to modernize and upgrade our facilities to increase efficiencies, ensure safety, and maximize productivity. A little investment in infrastructure now will go a long way to ensure a successful future.”

### Making Room

In the next several years, KAC will increase its number of employees from approximately 330 to near 660 to keep up with changing missions.

“Our team recognized early on that increased plutonium downblend processing would mean significantly more employees showing up at the Entry Control Facilities (ECFs) during shift changes,” said K Area Deputy Facility Manager Amanda Barnes. “The lines to get through would start backing up and waste a lot of worker time.” To improve this, NNSA has funded projects to build an additional ECF into the Protected Area and build a larger more efficient ECF into the Material Access Area (MAA) to facilitate personnel flow.

“We have also completed installation and hook-up of nine new trailers to add additional office spaces and restroom facilities for the current employees and the influx of employees to come.”



Recent infrastructure modernization and upgrades are helping to prepare the K Area Complex at SRS for upcoming missions.

### Facility Modifications

To improve downblended plutonium storage and processing safety and efficiency, KAC is making modifications to the K Reactor Facility to make room for the new MAA ECF and support facilities. These modifications include cutting concrete walls and slabs that were once part of reactor fuel storage racks. It will involve many different SRS departments and careful planning to achieve.

“K Area is where Department of Energy-Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration missions meet, and we stand ready to work as a team with our customers to fulfill the mission objectives,” Sims said. “With all of this activity going on in the area, it will take the focus and commitment of all of our employees to ensure the highest standards of safety and security. But I truly believe we are up to the task.”

Virginia Kay, NNSA Office of Material Disposition, is pleased with all of the infrastructure work going on in the area and is excited to see the future of the KAC. “K Area is an integral part of the Department’s nonproliferation and environmental cleanup missions,” she said. “The K Reactor was initially built for national security missions during the Cold War. Although it is no longer an operating reactor, the facility continues to support national security missions today.”

## SRTE corrective maintenance reduction

The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) achieved a major reduction in its corrective maintenance (CM) backlog, meeting the goal set for maintenance organizations across SRS nearly a year early and exceeding the goal a year later. This is significant because CM backlog is an indicator of the general health of facilities.

Corrective maintenance is repairing broken equipment. In October 2019, SRNS maintenance organizations set a goal to achieve a 25% reduction in CM backlog by the end of October 2021. SRTE achieved this 25% CM backlog reduction in December 2020, nearly a year in advance. Reduction efforts continued, and in October 2021, SRTE achieved a 44% reduction, besting the 25% goal.

“Our Work Window Managers (WWMs) have been diligently working to dig into the backlog and lock in more tasks each week,” said

Jill O'Donnell, SRNS SRTE Maintenance Manager. “When we began this initiative, we found a number of items in our backlog were either ready or nearly ready with no schedule date. Our WWMs and discipline schedulers have been working with the facilities to get those activities pulled into the schedule and completed or canceled if no longer needed.”

A higher CM backlog means a higher number of out-of-service systems, equipment or components. This limits facility capabilities and can impede meeting customer requirements. The more corrective maintenance is deferred, the costlier it becomes to repair broken equipment. A lower CM backlog is an indication of healthier facilities, which are safest and run most efficiently when equipment is in good condition. Additionally, operators do less workarounds, decreasing the potential for accidents and error.

## Site Medical nurse receives award for lifesaving action

SRNS nurse Bre Morris was recently bestowed a Fluor Silver Medallion Award at an SRNS President’s Safety Council meeting for taking lifesaving action to save the life of a fellow Site employee.

Morris, who is a nurse with the Site Medical organization, was conducting routine medical surveillance testing on an SRS employee. The appointment started out as any normal surveillance testing appointment would, until the employee made a comment to Morris that caught her attention. The employee said to her that they felt discomfort in their neck and felt the discomfort was just a pinched nerve that they had felt in the past. Morris persisted in asking if the employee was okay when they stated they were now having chest pain as well.

Quickly identifying the symptoms of a potential heart attack, Morris transitioned the employee from surveillance testing to an EKG where she noticed an abnormality. She immediately contacted the Site Medical Nurse Practitioner to report the situation and called the SRS Fire Department to transport the employee to a local hospital by ambulance.

“As soon as the EKG started, the monitor immediately showed an unusual pattern. I knew that we could very well be in a dangerous situation and that the patient needed to be under EMS care and on the road to a hospital,” said Morris.

She continued, “As a nurse, I can’t stress enough how important it is for symptoms of a heart attack to be taken seriously. The signs that we feel or may observe in others could give us just enough time to act to make sure the people we care about survive. I am just relieved that the patient didn’t ignore what they were feeling and spoke up so I could help. It takes courage sometimes to say out loud that something feels off. I am so thankful the employee was here in medical that day and the events unfolded like they did so they could receive the help they needed to be able to go home safely to their family.”



Bre Morris was bestowed the Fluor Silver Medallion for demonstrating the core values of SRNS safety culture by having a questioning attitude, assessing the situation and taking decisive action to save the life of a fellow employee.

A few days later, the employee called Site Medical to arrange a Site Medical Physician teleconference to discuss their health situation. During the call, the employee expressed their gratitude for Morris’ quick response to their comment, noting that she saved their life. The employee went on to explain that once at the hospital, they quickly learned that there was a 90% blockage in the left main artery of the heart, a condition that is commonly referred to as a “widow maker.” The employee was so thankful for Morris’ actions that they stated that they wanted to return to Site Medical to personally thank her, when they were physically able to make the visit.

Morris may be a trained medical professional, but her actions demonstrated a level of careful attention and swift action when minutes mattered most. “Bre’s quick response during what she thought would be a routine test is an excellent example of just how quickly conditions can change and even become life threatening,” said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President Environment, Safety, Health and Quality. “Her response to changing conditions demonstrates the level of careful attention we all should strive to achieve in our day-to-day lives, at work and at home.”

The Fluor Silver Medallion is a distinguished award given to employees who act in a lifesaving manner and assist others in distress, either on or off the job.

## AHA recognition for Workplace Health Achievement



SRNS has achieved national Silver Level recognition by the American Heart Association (AHA) 2021 Workplace Health Achievement Index. The national Silver Level recognition is awarded to companies who have taken significant steps to build a culture of health and well-being for their workforce.

SRNS is one of more than 450 nationwide organizations that completed the 2021 Index assessment.

SRNS has a strong history of supporting the local CSRA AHA Heart Walk and helping raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and stroke during the annual Heart Walk campaigns. After a widely

successful campaign in 2021 – and for the first year ever – SRNS was the number one contributing company out of the 59 in the CSRA.

“We are proud to achieve this recognition from the American Heart Association for prioritizing the health and well-being of our employees,” said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. “We are committed to supporting the physical and mental well-being of our workforce and promoting professional and personal growth.”

SRNS employees hosted events and fundraisers for the 2022 SRNS AHA Heart Walk Campaign, striving to reach their \$130,000 goal. This year’s CSRA Heart Walk was held on March 12 at SRP Park in North Augusta.

# SRNS AHA Heart Walk surpasses \$130K goal

**SRNS employees once again** raised the bar during the annual SRNS American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk Campaign, raising over \$134,000, surpassing the original \$130,000 goal.

SRNS employees recently came together in support of the CSRA AHA during the annual Heart Walk, which was held at SRP Park in North Augusta.

The 2022 SRNS Heart Walk Campaign Chair Candice Gordon was blown away by the efforts from employees this year. "It is so humbling to see employees come together for such a great cause," said Gordon. "We have a deep history of giving back to our communities, and I am so thankful for all the hard work of our employees, coaches and Heart Walk Committee for going for the gold and helping us achieve such a successful campaign."

For the second consecutive year, SRNS was the number one contributing company in the CSRA.

CSRA AHA Executive Director Ansley Howze has been humbled by the support from SRNS employees each year. "CSRA Heart Walk has always been about coming together, getting hearts pumping, honoring survivors, raising lifesaving funds and having fun along the way. SRNS' efforts each year truly make a difference in the relentless fight against heart disease and stroke," said Howze. "We cannot say thank you enough for your hard work and dedication to making a great impact in our community and saving lives."

SRNS had nine walkers raise more than \$1,000, and 26 walkers raise \$2,000 or more.

The AHA is a non-profit organization in the United States that funds cardiovascular medical research, educates consumers on healthy living and fosters appropriate cardiac care in an effort to reduce disability and deaths caused by cardiovascular disease and stroke.



## Top Five walkers

**JANICE LAWSON**

Senior Vice President, Environmental Management Operations

**\$13,000+**  
raised

**MARK DAVIS**

Senior Vice President NNSA Operations and Programs

**\$8,600+**  
raised

**RICH ZAHAREK**

SRNS Engineering

**\$4,800+**  
raised

**CANDICE GORDON**

Principal Business Analyst for the Solid Waste Management Facility

**\$3,700+**  
raised

**CHRIS HARKINS**

Senior Vice President, Chief Engineer and Nuclear Safety Officer

**\$2,900+**  
raised



SRNS employees recently rallied together at the 2022 CSRA Heart Walk on March 12, at SRP Park in North Augusta.



SRS fire fighters welcomed a customized 2022 Pierce Velocity heavy rescue truck to the SRS fleet in February..

## Welcoming an addition to the fire fleet

The SRS Fire Department (SRSFD) recently purchased a new 2022 Pierce Velocity heavy rescue truck, as a part of their fleet modernization project. The new truck is replacing a 1995 rescue truck and boasts many impressive features, thanks to the feedback from the SRNS employees who regularly use and service the Site's emergency vehicles.

staircase rather than a ladder, which allows SRS fire fighters safer access to the top of the truck.

Not only does the new truck support the Site, but it will also be used to respond to emergencies in the six mutual-aid communities surrounding SRS, providing additional resources that may not be afforded to local fire departments.

"In the event of an emergency the SRS fire fighters and their equipment must be ready to respond to a variety of unique facilities and environments quickly and effectively. With this delivery, SRS has now upgraded its entire fleet of six fire trucks and four ambulances. These upgrades give our emergency responders improved resources when seconds count most," said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality.

Since the SRSFD fleet modernization effort began in 2010, SRS has replaced five fire engines, one ladder truck, one rescue truck and four ambulances. SRS has also been able to support local fire departments through the donation of some excess emergency vehicles that were not needed by outside federal entities.

Considering the Site's unique facilities, environments and potential hazards, SRS fire fighters and Fire Department mechanics were actively involved in the design of the new truck. "It was essential that we had a rescue truck that provided us ample space for specialized tools and protective equipment. It also gives us the ability to store heavy items on the ground level instead of on the top of the truck, which is the typical design of trucks available in the market," said SRSFD Captain Joseph Dunkle.

"It was custom designed specifically for SRS needs and with a focus on improved safety, ergonomics and an ability to adapt the truck as needed over its projected lifespan of 20-25 years," continued Dunkle.

Additional safety features include roll-over protection, airbags, better emergency lighting and, most importantly, the inclusion of a



SRS Fire Department Captain Joseph Dunkle



Custom-designed panels on the fire truck.

## Mentoring program receives praise

SRNS takes the professional development of employees to heart and strives to offer everyone the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Recently, the SRNS Talent Management team developed a One-on-One Mentorship Program. The program allowed one senior leader, or a mentor, to meet with an SRNS employee, or mentee, once a month to foster and promote knowledge transfer; increase competency development; and to overall enhance the talent pool.

The One-on-One Mentoring Program helps employees establish a mentoring relationship by matching mentors and mentees and providing tools for success. The program focuses on developing leadership competencies and soft skills to prepare mentees for career growth and progression, all while reinforcing safety and security across the Site. During the formal six-month program, mentees developed action plans and met monthly with their mentors.

SRNS Talent Management recently hosted a graduation event to commemorate the close of the six-month program.

"SRNS is always looking for opportunities to offer employees a chance to better themselves personally and professionally," said Talent Management Specialist and One-on-One Mentoring Program Lead Anitra McManus. "This unique One-on-One Mentoring Program fostered an opportunity for career professionals to get mentorship directly from an SRNS senior leader."



Environmental Compliance Authority's Kimberly Price accepts her Certification of Completion from Manager, Talent Management J. Malik Lightbourne.

Security Awareness Program Manager A.D. Bollig had nothing but praise to give the program. "As a mentor, the biggest reward from this experience was the connection I made with my mentee, Kimberly Price. I have learned so much during this experience as a mentor from her and from her experiences and challenges here on-site."

For Environmental Compliance Authority Kimberly Price, this program was a highlight of her SRNS career. "The opportunities that this program and my mentor provided me with to meet and participate in honest, genuine and meaningful conversations with leadership across the Site has had the greatest impact on me," said Price. "Through those conversations and learning experiences, I've gained a much clearer understanding of who we are and who we strive to be as a company."

## Supporting the CSRA Regional Science Fair

High school students participating in this year's CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair used scientific methods to test their hypothesis and present the results for volunteer judges to assess in the form of an electronic project.

Managed by SRNS, in partnership with the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, the CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair is an affiliate of the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), a research-based high school competition managed by the Society for Science. These competitions exist in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and more than 75 countries and territories.

South Carolina and Georgia students from counties located within the greater Aiken and Augusta area, competed for this year's "Best in Show" title and a spot at the prestigious ISEF competition.

Projects were judged for scientific reasoning, creative ability, thoroughness, technical skill and clarity.

"The CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair gives young people from the area the opportunity to explore the world of science and technology and develop their scientific investigation skills by planning and developing their own 'hands-on' science projects," said Taylor Rice, Science Fair Coordinator and SRNS Education Outreach employee. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenge typically faced by participating students has increased significantly."

This year's winners of the high school "Best of Show" category were:

- First Place, Nidhi Shenoy – Lakeside High School, Evans
- Second Place, Judah Breland – Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Augusta
- Third Place, Kiara Gray – A.R. Johnson Health, Science and Engineering School, Augusta, and
- Honorable Mention, Samiyah Morris – A.R. Johnson Health, Science and Engineering School, Augusta.

Each year, approximately 7 million high school students from around the globe develop original research projects and present their work at local science and engineering fair competitions.



This year's CSRA Regional Science and Engineering Fair winner (High School, Best of Show) Nidhi Shenoy, Lakeside High School, Evans

# Investment in STEM-related AP classes

In hopes of strengthening local workforce job pipelines, SRNS partnered with the Aiken County Public School District (ACPSD) to increase the number of students participating in STEM-related Advanced Placement (AP) classes. A three-year agreement ended in 2019 with outstanding results; moreover, AP enrollment in targeted schools remains substantially high despite overall enrollment challenges.

The partnership, which included the National Math and Science Initiative, encouraged and provided incentives to students at South Aiken and North Augusta high schools participating in STEM-related AP coursework. This would better prepare local students for post-secondary STEM performance and, over time, significantly increase the number of qualified candidates for positions at SRS.

"The successful completion of AP courses leading to college credit is a recognized benchmark of success throughout public school systems in the U.S. Unfortunately, only a low percentage of students have been encouraged to participate," said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead. "An SRNS donation of \$364,000 helped fund this program at South Aiken and North Augusta high schools on the premise that students who traditionally would not have been considered strong candidates for an AP program would benefit in several ways by participating."

Mitchell explained research studies show that students who had previously been restricted from Advanced Placement coursework experienced a positive change in academic aptitude, attitude and self-image after participating in one or more AP classes.

To earn subsequent college credit, students must earn a score of 3, 4 or 5 on an AP exam. Scores of 1 and 2 are not considered eligible for college credit, although research has determined that scores of 1 and 2 still have distinct value.

"A new analysis of AP students who score a 2 on the exam shows that they are more likely than similar students to enroll in college and more likely to perform well in their introductory classes. And despite fears that a score of 1 or 2 will discourage students from taking further

advanced courses, the opposite is true: most students scoring a 1 or a 2 in their sophomore or junior years proceed to take additional AP classes in following years, and the majority obtain improved scores on their subsequent AP Exams," The Elective wrote in *A Broader View of College Readiness*.

"It's a new paradigm that's leading to highly constructive change within Aiken County high schools. The focus of this three-year effort was to radically increase the number of students electing to pursue an academic challenge," said Mitchell. "The results of this program have been excellent. Teachers were provided the resources they needed, including valuable training. After completing an AP class, hard-working students received \$100 rewards during large, festive celebrations."

Mitchell also said there has been a ripple effect, in that much of the success obtained during the first three years of the program continues today, long after external funding ceased. "We value the opportunity to support local schools and influence our future workforce. It is rewarding to see the long-term impact of the collaboration," she added.

"The partnership with SRNS has been of great value to South Aiken students, faculty and the community at large," said Samuel Fuller, Principal at South Aiken High School. "Because of the investment in education made by SRNS, access to Advanced Placement STEM coursework has been made available to all students. This access has resulted in tangible outcomes with more students being prepared for – and experiencing – success in college."

According to Fuller, the most valuable result of this partnership has been a shift in culture throughout participating schools. "Even during a pandemic, we have seen continued high levels of participation in Advanced Placement courses that far exceed what we experienced prior to our partnership with SRNS. This is evidence that we are truly an Advanced Placement Academy breaking down barriers and providing access and opportunity for all our students," he added.



Kacee Poppy (left), a teacher for South Aiken High School's Chemistry Honors Class, provides assistance to Da'Taviah Mickens (center) and Hannah Stroman, as they work as a team on an experiment.



Lee Sims

AT SRNS: Facilities Manager for K Area Complex

IN THE COMMUNITY: Board member of United Way of Aiken County and Chair of Young Philanthropist Society, Board member of Area Churches Together Serving

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Lee Sims serves as the Facility Manager (FM) for the K Area Complex (KAC) and is responsible for the safe storage and processing of the DOE-EM/NNSA surplus plutonium inventory. This includes oversight of continued plutonium consolidation efforts from both domestic and international sources.

Prior to his current role as FM, Sims worked as the Deputy Facility Manager and the Program/Project Integration Manager roles within the KAC. Before coming to KAC, he spent over 10 years in H Canyon and HB Line in progressive management roles.

In addition to leading critical missions in K Area facilities, Sims has been an important asset to local organizations making an impact for those in need in Aiken County. He spent three years serving on the United Way of Aiken County Board of Directors as the Chair of the Young Philanthropists Society and has recently begun supporting Area Churches Together Serving (ACTS), who served in the trenches with those needing assistance during the pandemic. "It has been a pleasure to work with Lee Sims who recently joined the ACTS board of directors in January 2022," said Suzanne Jackson, ACTS Executive Director. "He has stepped into his role with enthusiasm for our mission and the work we perform in the community. [Sims] embraces his position as board member and has willingly taken on additional leadership responsibilities. I couldn't be more thrilled to have Lee join our leadership team where he can share his vision as a dedicated volunteer."

Sims is a 2002 graduate in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He enjoys spending time with his wife Mandy and children Barrett and Baylee; they volunteer in the community together and cheer for the South Carolina Gamecocks.

## Presenting IDEAS to Aiken Chamber of Commerce

SRNS employees recently presented their award winning IDEAS employee suggestion program to a group attending "Caffeinated Conversations" at the Aiken Chamber of Commerce.

SRNS presenters demonstrated the benefits of the company's IDEAS Program, including improved morale and increased productivity, as well as process and safety-related improvements. They also outlined several tips on how chamber members could implement a similar program.

"We believe it's one of many ways we can share our best practices within the community," said P.K. Hightower, Director of Interface Management & Manager, Continuous Improvement. "And the Chamber likes the concept, because it's something applicable to small-and medium-sized companies, as well."

Blake Leaphart and Lisa Steed, both with the SRNS IDEAS Program, provided guidance and shared their personal experiences related to this and other employee suggestion programs.

"What I saw today is a program that has been in place for seven decades and has evolved to keep up with the times," said David Jameson, Aiken Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. "It was



SRNS IDEAS Program representatives Blake Leaphart (left), Lisa Steed and P.K. Hightower (right) speak at the Aiken Chamber of Commerce.

designed for a very large company, but the elements of it can be applied to a company of any size, down to three or four employees. I think today's participants walked away with thought provoking ideas for implementation within their own businesses."

Jameson said that after experiencing the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, today's attendees welcomed and valued employee ideas more than ever. "It's this type of program that will help them move from simply surviving to growing and thriving," he added.

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NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

# SRNS



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We make the world **safer.**