

● NOVEMBER 2023

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Moving on up

National Apprenticeship Week events show interested prospects the path forward at SRS



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Landlord Transition Summit • Machining Training Center • Veterans Day • United Way projects



Dennis Carr
SRNS President and CEO

On the cover

To learn about apprenticeships and full-time job opportunities available, 14 students and instructors from Augusta Technical College toured the Waste Solidification Building.

Welcome

to the November 2023 edition of

SRNS Today

“The future’s so bright, I have to wear shades,” is a saying that comes to mind when I stop to think about all the work going on at SRNS. We are currently seeing more growth and making more progress on our missions than at any other time in our recent history and, month-after-month, I continue to be amazed at how much we are accomplishing.

SRNS supported the Department of Energy-Savannah River in hosting a Landlord Transition Summit at the beginning of November. The summit allowed NNSA to receive detailed briefings on taking over the Landlord role at SRS and to provide an opportunity for open communication between DOE Environmental Management and NNSA personnel. The Landlord transition will take place Oct. 1, 2024, and planning will continue at full speed for the rest of the fiscal year.

In November, SRNS celebrated National Apprenticeship Week to recognize the profound impact our Apprenticeship programs have made on our hiring and staffing efforts. Staffing continues to be a priority as we ramp up our missions and our apprentices are highly valued.

Additionally, SRNS honored our employees who have served in our nation’s military with a Veterans Day celebration and recognition, with a second celebration being held in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise for their Veterans. These men and women bring invaluable expertise from their time on the nation’s front line of defense and we thank them all for their service.

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



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.

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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)

Preparing for the Future

EM to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit



DOE and NNSA personnel gather to discuss plans for the upcoming SRS Landlord Transition at the EM to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit.

The future of SRS was the topic of conversation at the recent Environmental Management (EM) to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit, held Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in the on-site Collaboration Center. Personnel from DOE and NNSA gathered to discuss plans for the upcoming SRS Landlord Transition, which will occur on Oct. 1, 2024, when primary authority, accountability and Site stewardship responsibility for SRS is transferred from DOE-Savannah River Operations Office (SROO) to the NNSA-Savannah River Field Office (SRFO).

Deemed necessary due to the steadily increasing NNSA mission requirements at SRS and the concurrent progression of the EM clean-up mission toward a defined end-state, the transition will include transfer of four major areas of responsibility from DOE-SROO to NNSA-SRFO: the SRNS Management

and Operating Contract, including Landlord Services and Essential Site Services; Pro-Force Contract; K Area Complex; and Environmental Permits/Agreements.

“We thought it was important to have everyone here so we could meet as many people as possible in person,” said Mike Budney, DOE-Savannah River (SR) Manager. “A lot of people have worked very hard on the original Transition Plan and to put this Summit together. They’ve done a tremendous job in getting us to this point, and now we’ve got to carry things through for the next 11 months.”

The Transition Summit was designed to provide detailed briefings to the NNSA organizations who will be assuming SRS Landlord function, responsibilities and interfaces, on both an internal and external level, and to continue optimizing communications flow between DOE and NNSA personnel to accomplish a seamless SRS transition.

“We wanted to ensure that we had as an outcome of this Summit some sense of where we are today and what we will end up looking like,” said Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR Transition Steering Committee Lead. “We have the ‘as is’ and the ‘to be.’ In order to get to the ‘to be,’ we had to start talking collaboratively as a unified group between EM and NNSA. This was the platform we chose to go with.”

At the conclusion of the two-day Summit, Robinson said she was pleased with the results. “I’m very happy with the way everything has turned out. This was a success,” she said. “As some of our SRNS and EM folks have said, they’re ready to launch and feel confident to launch on Oct. 1, 2024. I appreciate everyone’s support.”

Jeff Allison, NNSA-SRFO Deputy Manager, agreed. “This Summit was excellent. I think this has been a great forum,” he said. “There’s a lot of good work that’s happened so far. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I think we understand what that looks like. Let’s keep communicating and collaborating, and on Oct. 1, [2024], we’ll be ready to go.”



Sherri Robinson, DOE-SR Transition Steering Committee Lead, gives remarks at the EM to NNSA SRS Landlord Transition Summit.

Underwater vacuum ensures SNF processing

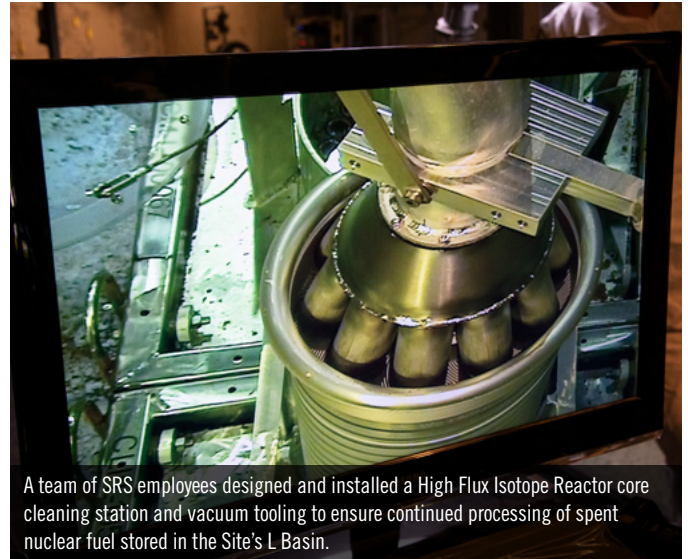
SRNS employees recently used innovative techniques to complete the vacuuming of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) stored in the L Area Disassembly Basin to ensure continued processing of the fuel, while working toward de-inventory of the basin.

SNF from foreign and domestic research reactors is safely stored in an underwater basin inside of a former production reactor in the Site's L Area. The SNF is then dissolved in H Canyon at SRS and sent through the Site's liquid waste facilities to be vitrified, or made into glass, and safely stored on-site until a federal repository is identified.

"In the early '90s, resin was deposited on a number of High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) cores and the racks that held them during L Area Basin operations," said L Area Operations Specialist Steve Osteen. "The resin is made up of tiny beads that trap radionuclides and help to remove radioactive ions from the basin water. The H Canyon dissolver is not able to process the resin, and the HFIR racks will be needed for future SNF receipts, so, in 2020, SRS employees developed a plan to remove the resin from the cores and racks."

A team made up of SRNS engineering, operations and construction partnered with scientists and engineers from the Savannah River National Laboratory to develop a methodology for removing the resin. The team designed and installed a HFIR cleaning station and vacuum tooling to be used in conjunction with an existing basin vacuum system. HFIR cores were placed in the HFIR cleaning station vacuumed and relocated, which allowed operators to vacuum the HFIR racks. By using this new process and associated tools, SRNS was able to recover 30 racks and add an additional 60 clean storage positions.

"The ingenuity of this team in planning, designing and implementing new tools to allow for the vacuuming of the cores is commendable," said L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh. "The nearly two-year effort



A team of SRS employees designed and installed a High Flux Isotope Reactor core cleaning station and vacuum tooling to ensure continued processing of spent nuclear fuel stored in the Site's L Basin.

not only allows transfer to H Canyon of all HFIR cores currently stored in the basin but also allowed reclamation of all storage racks for future receipts. The ability of the SRNS team to always find a way to get the job done safely and efficiently is why they make a great workforce. Now, the HFIR cores can be scheduled for dissolution and the basin can receive more cores without causing any interruption to other operations."

HFIR is the highest flux reactor-based source of neutrons for research in the U.S. using highly enriched uranium. The fuel elements, an inner and an outer element, together form a reactor "core." The reactor is located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Progress in decommissioning the F Area Material Storage Building

Since the deactivation of the F Area Material Storage Building (235-F) earlier this year, SRNS has continued the demolition and removal (D&R) of several structures surrounding the 235-F facility as they work towards complete decommissioning.

Exterior structures including area pipe bridges, utility poles, office trailers, the 252-20F Electrical Substation, the 285-11F Cooling Tower and breathing air system equipment have all been removed.

Constructed in the 1950s, the building was used for a variety of missions, most notably producing fuel spheres and pellets out of Pu-238 to provide heat to electrically powered long-term, deep-space missions, such as Galileo, Ulysses and Cassini. The two-story, reinforced concrete building has been inactive for more than 25 years.

From July 2019 until February 2023, Savannah River Site deactivated the 235-F facility. The deactivation project included the reconfiguration/shutdown of the ventilation system; isolation of all utilities (water, steam, power, etc.); removing

contamination or using a permanent coating, called a fixative, that prevents contamination from spreading outside of the process enclosures and removing non-radiological hazardous material (i.e., lead, oils, process water, etc.). Deactivation leaves the facility in safe state with continued surveillance and maintenance until the decommissioning project can occur.

235-F Decommissioning Project Manager Pat O'Neill stated, "We are very pleased with the significant progress achieved during fiscal year (FY)23 with D&R of facilities surrounding the 235-F building. We will continue that field effort through FY24 as well as completing the development of technical documents to support decommissioning."

Decommissioning will be a multi-year project, similar to decommissioning of the former reactor facilities in P and R areas at SRS. Going forward, additional D&R work proposed for FY24 includes the removal of exterior asbestos abatement and all remaining out of service electrical and mechanical equipment attached to the 235-F building.

David Dietz, SRNS Senior Director of Supply Chain Procurement, leads a session outlining his division's best practices and strategies to exceed prime contract requirements.



Supply Chain leaders share solutions with Los Alamos

Representatives from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Supply Chain and Logistics (SCL) organization recently visited SRS to benchmark Supply Chain Management (SCM) best practices to meet the demands of the overall plutonium pit production mission and stand up SCL for the Associate Laboratory Directorate for Weapons Production (ALDWP).

"It is our goal to ensure all supply chains across the complex perform at their maximum potential," said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Contracts and SCM. "As we share our best practices with other contractors, together, we can accomplish critical missions across DOE and NNSA complexes. This benchmarking session was the first step in sparking an ongoing collaboration with Los Alamos."

The Los Alamos mission includes expanding from its weapons-related research and development to also encompass a more modern manufacturing scope within the next several years. The SRS mission includes the design and build of a modern manufacturing facility that will produce pits as close to 2030 as possible. The three-day benchmarking visit is one tactic used to solidify in-person relationships between both complexes and build a critical and sustainable partnership.

SRNS Supply Chain Operations leader, Scott Brown, coordinated presentations and breakout sessions focused on various functions such as supplier management, inventory management, field procurement best practices, tool crib, chemical management and associated SCM information systems — all of which are relevant and pertinent scope areas at Los Alamos.

"A resilient, agile supply chain is crucial to delivering the plutonium pit missions at SRS and Los Alamos, so we must work together," said Johnson. "This engagement was a fantastic start in sharing best practices that have enabled our success at SRS."

In fiscal year (FY) 2023, SRNS Supply Chain increased awards to \$1.2 billion (92% increase from FY22); awarded over \$732 million with small businesses (70% increase from FY22); achieved its best supplier on-time delivery performance contract to date at 90%; received and delivered material to customers with an average cycle time of two days; and sustained 99.9% accountable inventory accuracy.

"Our team is delivering well beyond DOE contractual goals because we challenge our talented workforce to exceed stretch targets in Key Performance Indicators and challenge the way we do business to deliver best-in-class performance," Johnson continued.

Robin Garduno, Los Alamos Group Leader for Procurement Engineering and Acquisition Management believed the team gained great insight into SRS operations during the benchmarking session.

"Our team wanted to see how SRS manages all aspects of the supply chain process from procurement to material storage," said Garduno. "We certainly gained a better understanding of their organizational approach in meeting supply chain and logistics needs, which helped us find potential efficiency improvements."

"This benchmarking session promoted open communication regarding the pit project and our procurements systems," said Lance Waddell, SRNS Senior Vice President, Business Services. "Both complexes could benefit from taking a deep dive into the best practices of each site and implementing those changes to better serve the pit mission."

SRNS SCM and the Los Alamos SCL will continue to build their partnership success through collaboratively addressing supply chain and logistics challenges and identifying continuous improvement opportunities through regularly scheduled meetings, DOE/NNSA sponsored risk management summits, and future benchmarking sessions supporting the overall pit production mission.

Machining Training Center: The Future of SRS Training

Personnel at SRS will soon have access to a newly-created Machining Training Center (MTC), located in Building 766-H. Construction modifications recently began within 766-H High Bay area, while equipment, such as high-precision lathes, mills and automated welding machines are being placed in each of the two designated high bays.

According to Richard Nash, MTC Operations, the MTC will be used for training hundreds of personnel in an unclassified setting to support future missions in all areas of the Site, including NNSA missions.

“The Site will need personnel who will be trained from the ground up,” said Nash. “We will be teaching competencies needed across the Site, and we will be able to provide the training to our specific requirements using cutting-edge technology.”

Construction is underway on a climate-controlled enclosure in one of the bays, with other modifications scheduled to be complete by the end of 2024. The initial group of specialists will be trained at the MTC as subject matter experts for the machines and related technology, creating a pipeline foundation for training specialists.



Sheet metal crews install ductwork for a new climate-controlled enclosure in the MTC.

“The MTC is a critical component of developing competencies and equipment to support a variety of programs and missions on a Site-wide level,” said Nash. “The upgrades and progress happening today at the MTC point to a bright future for the Savannah River Site.”

No longer under pressure: SRS employees devise new way to ensure safe storage of radioactive material storage containers

Contractor employees at SRS recently used an innovative method to ensure the integrity of radioactive material storage containers currently in long-term dry storage in the SRS L Disassembly Basin.

“Two 30-gallon drums currently stored in the Dry Fuel Storage Area in L Basin contain radioactive materials that were shipped from the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant in 2007 and 2008 respectively,” said SRNS Operations Specialist Steve Osteen. “The material inside the drums is stored in plastic bags/plastic bottles and placed in sealed cans, which is a typical storage configuration for this type of material. It is also typical for hydrogen gasses, which are flammable, to be generated by decomposition of plastics inside the sealed cans, which is why drums of this nature are assigned a year to be dispositioned before the Lower Flammability Limit is met. One of the drums was due to reach its limit in 2025, so we started working on a way to ensure both drums would remain safe for longer.”

The original disposition path involved sending the material through the Site’s HB Line facility, however changes in mission prevented it from being processed before HB Line went into safe shutdown status in 2020. The drums are now awaiting a final on-site disposition path.

A team consisting of Engineering, Criticality Engineering, Operations, Radiological Control and Savannah River National Laboratory evaluated the issue. The team concluded that venting the cans by piercing the top would relieve the pressure caused by the buildup of gasses.

To accomplish venting, the team designed and fabricated a can



Operators in plastic suits prepare for the drum venting operations.

piercer and a safe process to perform the task, including the use of a containment hut and protective plastic suits for operators.

“The container piercing was executed safely and then the containers were returned to storage,” SRNS L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh said. “The safe execution of this process was a result of extensive planning, dry runs and mockups conducted by the team. The team used clean conditions to practice venting dummy containers, while simulating the confines of the containment hut and donning of plastic suits. The evolution was practiced until proficiency was achieved and the team was ready to safely execute the work.”

The drums can now continue to be safely stored in the Dry Fuel Storage Area for an estimated additional 100 years, if needed.

SRNS honors veterans with recognition celebration

During a Veterans Day recognition event, SRNS honored its employees who have served and are currently serving in the U.S. military. The celebration paid tribute to the men and women who continue their service of keeping our nation safe, by working at SRS.

During the event, retired Marine and Medal of Honor Recipient Kyle Carpenter shared his inspiring story of courage and bravery. He recounted his journey of recovery following injuries sustained when he fearlessly threw himself on a hand grenade to save the life of a fellow marine during a Taliban initiated attack. His words resonated deeply with employees, reminding them of the immense sacrifices made by our veterans.

“With Veterans Day coming up, I want to thank the veterans who are in this room. I want to remind you of what you did when no one made you,” said Carpenter. “When you could have done anything else in the world or with your life, you chose to walk into that recruiting station, to raise your right hand, and to give up your life for this nation. That is extremely powerful and profound.”

Kristy Moore, an SRNS employee and U.S. Army retired Major who served 22 years in the military, attended the celebration. Moore, who helped liberate a concentration camp during her service, was inspired by Carpenter’s story of perseverance. She said his message reminds us that through our hardships we find the truest, most resilient versions of ourselves.

“Whether you have served or not, we all forge a connection through life’s difficult moments,” said Moore. “His story reminds us that no matter our circumstance, we all have the ability to get back up and start again.”

During his speech, Carpenter expressed deep admiration for SRNS and the significant impact the company is making to ensure the future security of the nation.



Retired Marine and Medal of Honor Recipient Kyle Carpenter spoke to nearly 200 veteran employees during the SRNS Veterans Day Celebration.

“SRNS promotes global deterrence, and helps protect the environment for future generations,” said Carpenter. “What incredible, powerful and purposeful missions. The jobs you do are vitally important and uniquely complex, but they are all jobs that support one central theme, and that is impact.”

SRNS places tremendous value on recruiting and hiring veterans and actively supports veteran-related program. In 2022, SRNS gave \$15,000 to support the Center for the Veteran and Military Student Success Center at the University of South Carolina Aiken. In 2021, SRNS donated \$5,000 as a Campaign Sponsor of Empowering Healthy Veterans Campaign Run.

“We take great pride in actively contributing to a safer world, by hiring Veterans who have embraced a spirit of service to our nation,” said Dennis Carr. “It’s our honor to recognize them for their commitment and sacrifice.”

SRTE salutes their veterans

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) honored its many employees who are veterans of the U.S. military in a special ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 9, in recognition of Veterans Day.

NNSA Operations and Programs Senior Vice President J.C. Epting welcomed attendees while expressing his gratitude to SRTE veterans.

“We have a lot of veterans doing jobs all across the Tritium complex,” Epting said. “There are 150 veterans in SRTE, and I couldn’t be prouder of everything you have done and continue to do for our great nation. It is you who keep America safe and free. Thank you for your service and God bless.”

The ceremony included a video slideshow that recognized each employee by name who has served within the Tritium team.

Following the slideshow, a representative from each branch of the military spoke on what their time in the armed forces meant to them, and what it means to continue to serve SRTE’s mission.

Advancing Conduct of Operations Excellence Specialist Bobby Ray Williams Sr. was one of the speakers at the event. He served in the Army for over two decades as a Communications Maintenance Chief and an



J.C. Epting (Air Force), Andrew Cottingham (Navy), Bobby Ray Williams Sr. (Army), Adam Beranek (Marines), Wendy Lark (Coast Guard) and Brian Martin (Air Force)

Airborne soldier. During his tenure, he was assigned to support the Green Berets at First Special Forces Group and saw three tours of duty in Iraq.

“I wanted to travel the world and learn new things,” said Williams. “I wanted more in my life, so I joined up in 11th grade on the Delayed Entry Program. I got all of that and more in my time in the Army, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Serving gave me confidence in my abilities and afforded me the opportunity to relocate my family away from an extremely impoverished neighborhood and lifestyle. It truly was an honor to serve.”

CELEBRATING

National Apprenticeship Week



The Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Training team provides SRS Apprenticeship Program information to Site employees.

SRS contractors recently celebrated the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Ninth Annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) with site-wide and community events to bring awareness to 22 different registered apprenticeship occupations.

"Since 2020, our Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program has grown from 10 students to over 100 per cohort and proves to be a valuable pipeline to secure high-paying careers across the Site," said Dorian Newton, SRNS Deputy Director of Site Training. "Through various events and tours, SRNS has successfully supported National Apprenticeship Week while showcasing our most valuable occupations."

Established by the DOL in 2015, NAW promotes high-quality, inclusive, in-demand career pathway opportunities through registered apprenticeships. SRNS aimed to connect career seekers to the apprenticeships and careers available in science, technology, engineering and math.

"We kicked off the week-long celebration by recognizing 45 active apprentices from Aiken Technical College (ATC) and Denmark Technical College (DTC) with an appreciation luncheon," said BooBoo Roberts, SRNS Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Training Manager. "With 91% of our apprentices transitioning into full-time positions at the Site, the Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Training (APT) team continues to encourage apprentices to strive for excellence until the completion of the program."

To bring more awareness and access to apprenticeship programs for students and educators, the APT team led other events that included online community webinars, program discussions and career fairs held at Estill Middle School and Silver Bluff High School.

"The APT team connected with over 25 seniors, career specialists and guidance counselors at Silver Bluff High School and 50 students from Estill Middle School to promote our four non-exempt career paths," said Adam Smith, SRNS Apprenticeship Program Lead. "It is so important to share a game plan for these occupations to middle and high school students to help prepare them for a fulfilling career at the Savannah River Site."

Fourteen students and instructors from Augusta Technical College visited SRS to learn more about apprenticeships and career opportunities in: engineering, welding, chemical tech, industrial systems and mechatronics. Students also toured the Waste Solidification Building and Savannah River National Laboratory.

Augusta Tech Architectural and Engineering student Cam McConnell says he jumped at the opportunity to tour the Site and learn more about available full-time employment options.

"I've tried to get my foot in the door for a couple of years now," said McConnell. "I knew working at the Site was a tremendous opportunity, but the tour focused on the engineering opportunities, convenient work schedules and the ability to grow within the company — which was very exciting to me. I plan to use this degree, and my prior military experience, to land an engineering job at SRS, in the future."

The week concluded with an educator tour of H Canyon that included career-focused discussions with nearly 30 career specialists, guidance counselors, regional workforce advisors and adult educators from surrounding counties.

Aiken High School Counselor Jacquetta Hammonds and Langley-Bath-Clearwater Middle School Counselor Aretha Tarver participated in the educator tour, to bring new opportunities to their students.

"A four-year degree is not always the perfect path for some students," said Hammonds. "The apprenticeship program is a great option that connects students with a well-paying job and two-year degree that can support their families."

22

Apprenticeship programs

>100

Nuclear Operator Apprentices per cohort

>300

Apprentices hired full-time since 2020



To learn about apprenticeships and full-time job opportunities available, 14 students and instructors toured the WSB facility, led by Abigail Bowman, SRNS College Partnerships and Pipeline Development Lead and Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead.



Cam McConnell, Augusta Technical College Architectural and Engineering student, tests out a glovebox, during the Waste Solidification Building (WSB) student tour.



Daniel Ball, Aiken County Career and Technology Center Welding Instructor, participated in the educators' tour of the WSB facility.

"Many of our eighth graders want to broaden their scope and learn about potential careers close to home," said Tarver. "With this information, I can help shed some light on potential careers in the nuclear industry and connect them to on-the-job experiences and training at SRS."

SRNS has 22 apprenticeship programs that are key to recruitment and are built around four career paths: Nuclear Facility/ Production Operators, Maintenance Mechanics, Quality Assurance Inspectors and Electrical & Instrumentation Mechanics. Successful partnerships with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments,

Apprenticeship Carolina, ATC, DTC, Augusta Tech and Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College have allowed apprentices to gain paid on-the-job training and networking opportunities.

"We are so grateful to our partners who have helped transition over 300 apprentices into full-time occupations since 2020," said Newton. "We will continue to highlight and celebrate these partnerships and the 22 apprenticeship programs that help maintain a sustainable workforce, minimize the duration of required training and ensure our contractors are supplied with qualified personnel to support SRS missions."



LEARN MORE ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS:

https://www.srs.gov/general/outreach/apprenticeship/apprenticeship_school.htm

Apprenticeship Program ignites opportunity

Over 15 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) students from the Aiken County Career and Technology Center (ACCTC) visited SRS for a career tour hosted by SRNS Education Outreach and the SRS Apprenticeship Program in celebration of Nuclear Science Week.

EMS students began the career tour at the Waste Solidification Building, where the SRS Fire Department (SRSFD) conducted a simulated drill, involving an “injured worker” that had fallen from the second level of the building. Students were able to get a firsthand look at the preparation and training that goes into Site drills and the different vehicles and equipment SRSFD utilizes in emergency situations. Once the drill was complete, students headed to Fire Station One to learn more about what a career at SRS looks like from active Site personnel.

“Our fire department is one of the groups I am most proud of within the organization; they are the best of the best, and our hope is to inspire these students to rise up to the standards our team has set,” said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality. “We aim to employ professionals with strong character and confidence; our advice to these students is to look for opportunities to get involved, learn and gain social skills.”

SRSFD Chief Travis Scott stated, “Many of us at the SRSFD began preparing for our careers at a high school age, which is why we take the opportunity to show these students what we do so personally, because we know the importance of training as early as possible. It is an honor to come to work every day and know that we are keeping the Site safe that is contributing to keeping our country safe.”

When asked about their experience on the tour, Juniors from the ACCTC, Andrew Hill and Joshua Kobacs, noted, “A lot of people don’t get to come out here; it was a really great experience to be able to see SRS,” said Hill. “This tour provided a lot of transparency into what is done at the Site. I enjoyed getting to see the different pieces of equipment the Site’s fire department has and almost get a glimpse



Aiken County Career and Technology Center students make their way to Fire Station One to learn about working at SRS.

into what a day in the life looks like,” said Kobacs.

The SRS Apprenticeship Program aims to create workforce development opportunities for students interested in the SRSFD and bring awareness to the EMS/Firefighter Youth Apprenticeship Program set to begin in Spring of 2024.

“This program provides an opportunity to connect our fire department to the youth in our community and allow students to apply their studies in a real-world setting at the Savannah River Site,” said Abigail Bowman, Apprenticeship Program College Partner and Pipeline Development Lead. “Our hope is to peak their interest to explore available job opportunities early on and cultivate our future workforce.”

“Our Site is like a small city; just about anything you want to do in life can be done here,” continued Sprague. “We contribute to both international and national security and are critical to ensuring the country’s nuclear deterrence is maintained. If you want to be a part of something bigger than yourselves, there’s no better place than the Savannah River Site.”

SRNS Earns DOE-VPP Legacy of Stars Safety Award

SRNS received a Legacy of Stars award at the annual Voluntary Protection Program Participants’ Association (VPPPA) Symposium held in Orlando, Florida.

The DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Legacy of Stars award distinguishes a company that has excelled in outreach and mentoring and has demonstrated sustained excellence in worker safety and health. The award is given to sites that have earned the VPP Star of Excellence for four consecutive years. SRNS has met this criteria each year by demonstrating the five elements of VPP: Management Leadership, Employee Involvement, Worksite Analysis, Hazard Prevention and Control, and Safety and Health Training.

Established in 1994, the DOE-VPP encourages

and recognizes organizations who display excellence in occupational safety and health protection. This year marks the fourth Legacy of Stars award SRNS has received since becoming the SRS Management and Operations contractor in 2008 and the sixth award received historically.



“SRNS employees recognize the importance of a strong safety culture. It is also important to them that our company remain an industry leader in nuclear-and-workplace safety,” said Dennis Carr. “Achieving this award is a meaningful validation from the DOE that SRNS’ safety systems are robust and most importantly, that our workforce embodies a solid commitment and belief in the importance of safety at work, home and in the community.”

SRS hosts 'STEM Like a Girl' event

On Oct. 21, more than 60 eighth grade students from schools across the CSRA participated in the SRNS-sponsored "Introduce a Girl to Engineering-STEM Like a Girl" event in celebration of Nuclear Science Week.

Held at the University of South Carolina Aiken's Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, the all-girl event connected students with 50 volunteers from across SRS. Participants explored science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career paths through industry-specific activities.

"At SRNS, females make up around 20% of our engineering workforce and 31% of our IT professionals," said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "This event is one way SRNS aims to create new perspectives and innovative ideas at our Site, break gender barriers and introduce new opportunities to female students who've shown interest in these fields."

Split into three groups, the girls participated in female-led activities that included coding practice, design, electrical, civil and mechanical engineering, building techniques, and robotics. Participants also watched engineering come alive during the DuPont Planetarium show.

Savannah River National Laboratory Analytical Chemist Katy Broadwater volunteered to lead activities you can't always find in a traditional classroom setting.

"My job does not stop when I clock out of work," said Broadwater. "Volunteering gives me the opportunity to get out in the community and advocate for the Savannah River Site—an organization that supports safety, creativity, innovative ideas and job growth for all. I will always encourage girls to take the leap into a very attainable STEM career and I hope to have inspired at least one student today."

Braelin Elmore, an eighth-grade student at Schofield Middle School was surprised to see what the event was all about.

"I felt very special and seen to be one of the two girls invited from my school," said Elmore. "I am considering a career in STEM after the building activity, which allowed our group to become engineers tasked with creating the strongest structure. It felt like art; bringing together our creative ideas into one."



Sixty-four eighth grade girls from across the CSRA sparked new interests in science, technology, engineering and math careers.



USCA Nursing student, Diavian Johnson, practices taking a patient's blood pressure.

USCA Nursing students gain clinical experience shadowing SRS Medical

SRNS is a proud supporter of educational development within the surrounding CSRA. For several years, SRNS has partnered with the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) to bring nursing students on-site to participate in the SRS Medical job shadowing program.

The program aims to give nursing students an opportunity to experience an occupational medical environment and gain insight into the practice of occupational nursing in an industrial setting. This fall, 12 students visited the Site and received credit towards their Community Health Nursing Course, and more are scheduled to come in the Spring.

Over the course of eight weeks, students were rotated through SRS Medical. Each week, two different nursing students were given opportunities to learn more about occupational health and safety.

"I never knew that SRS offered nursing services for their particular community," said Persepolis Hemingway, USCA Nursing student. "This was an enjoyable experience; it was beneficial to witness the role of an occupational nurse and the services they provide. I was able to apply my skills in real-life scenarios while gaining new knowledge to help in my future career."

During the program, students were able to observe nurses as they interacted with employees, reviewed employee health history forms, and performed audiometry testing, pulmonary function tests, vision testing, electrocardiograms, and treated occupational illnesses and injuries.

Site Medical Nurse Manager, Amber Collins, stated, "The nurses in Medical have greatly appreciated the opportunity to share hands-on application and insight of what it is like to be a Savannah River Site occupational nurse with these USCA nursing students. This job shadowing experience allows them to see nursing from a whole different perspective in more of a specialty field that emphasizes the importance of health and safety in the workplace. We are privileged to host these students on-site and help broaden their outlook to the opportunities of occupational nursing."

SRS organizations support United Way



A team of volunteers spent the morning trimming limbs at one of the seven sites that needed facility improvements.

MORE THAN 50 SRS EMPLOYEES from SRNS, Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River Mission Completion recently volunteered their time to support the annual United Way of Aiken County Project Unite event.

“By volunteering our time and energy for Project Unite, we help the agencies maintain and improve their facilities. In turn, the agencies can save crucial funds for providing services to those in need in our community,” said SRNS Loaned Professional for United Way of Aiken County Lisa Mead.

Members from the SRS professional organizations Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP), Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) and Leaders Investing for Tomorrow (LIFT) partnered together to support facility projects at seven different locations including: United Way of Aiken County, Cumbee Center,

Child Advocacy Center, Aiken County Family YMCA, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, and two locations for the Tri-Development Center.

At each location, volunteers performed services and repairs that included landscaping, pressure washing, painting and more.

As the Project Unite Event Coordinator, Mead supported the project leads and their teams through project preparation and execution.

“My favorite part of volunteering for this event is working with others who share the same passion for their community and seeing the needs of the agencies become fulfilled,” said Mead.

SRNS continues to be a strong supporter of the United Way, participating in several campaigns across the CSRA, including Project Serve, Project Vision and Project Care.



KARAOKE

Jerry Dowdy, SRNS Information Technology, wows the crowd with a winning performance during the 2023 SRS United Way Karaoke event.

SRNS HELD ITS THIRD ANNUAL UNITED WAY KARAOKE NIGHT: BATTLE OF THE ORGS to benefit the 2023 SRS United Way Campaign. The event raised over \$3,000 and showcased various performers with their own unique style and passion to the stage.

Attendees were not only treated to an evening of entertainment, but they also had the opportunity to vote. By purchasing votes, audience members showed support for their favorite performers and contributed to the fundraising efforts.

The winners were determined by the highest number of combined votes from the judges and audience members. Jerry Dowdy with SRNS Information Technology took home first place, making it his second consecutive win of this event.

SOFTBALL



SRNS Executive Vice President and Environmental Management Chief Operations Officer Mike Swain throws the ceremonial first pitch.

SRS TEAMS KNOCKED IT OUT OF THE PARK during the 19th annual SRS United Way Softball Tournament raising more than \$22,000 for the 2023 SRS United Way campaign.

SRNS Executive Vice President and Environmental Management Chief Operations Officer Mike Swain and United Way of Aiken County Director Ellen Luton threw ceremonial first pitches to kick off the two-day event that took place at Citizens Park in Aiken, South Carolina.

Twenty-three teams from SRNS, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Centerra and Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) went head-to-head for the championship title. In the end, the SRNL Research Operations #2 team came out on top, defeating the SRNS Fire Department team 23-10.

SRNS employee and tournament organizer Eric Schiefer has been involved with the event for the past 19 years and was one of the organizing committee members who helped establish the tournament in 2005. Schiefer mentioned that since the first SRS United Way Softball tournament, more than \$325,000 has been raised to help those in need around the CSRA.

"This event brings together hundreds of volunteers, spectators and players and has raised a tremendous amount of money over the years," said Schiefer. "This year, over 300 participants from across SRS took the field to support a great cause that will benefit the local community."

SRNS United Way Chair Lewis Arthur and Vice Chair Morgan Welch were thankful for the strong support and dedication from SRS employees. "The annual SRS United Way Softball Tournament is always a fun way to engage in a healthy competition while supporting a great cause. It's an awesome opportunity to see everyone rally together, have some fun and donate over \$20,000 to the local United Way Agencies," said Arthur.

This year's campaign benefits United Way of Aiken County; United Way of the CSRA; United Way of Edgefield County; United Way McDuffie County; United Way of Midlands; United Way of Screven County; United Way of South Carolina, including Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton counties; United Way of the Lowcountry; United Way of Anderson County; and United Way of Barnwell County, including Allendale.

SAVANNAH RIVER TRITIUM ENTERPRISE (SRTE) recently held their annual golf tournament for United Way of Aiken County at the Mount Vintage Golf Club in North Augusta, South Carolina. The tournament featured 126 golfers who were organized into 32 teams of four players.

"I couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome of the tournament," said Senior Vice President of NNSA Operations J.C. Epting. "The amount we raised at this year's event is the most ever raised. We came together as a community of golfers to support the noble cause of strengthening the communities we live in."

SRTE doubled the amount raised from last year's event to \$13,000 through a combination of entry fees and donations from sponsors.

Teams played a full 18 holes of golf at the par-72 course. The format for the tournament followed 'scramble' rules, with all four golfers hitting from the tee, then playing the ball they determine to be in the best position on the fairway with each successive shot.

After 18 holes of golf, four teams remained tied for the lead at -20 under par (52 strokes), forcing a three-round playoff to determine the victor. The team of Patrick Ferguson and David Moldovan of SRTE came out on top, with assistance from a pair of external teammates Jordan Salley and Kyle Watson.

"It was neck and neck the whole way," said Ferguson. "It took three tiebreakers to come out with the win, showing just how competitive the field was." Ferguson's squad almost had the match wrapped up in the first tiebreaker, a 19th hole of golf, but just narrowly missed a putt for eagle, keeping the score deadlocked. In the second tiebreaker the teams squared off from the bunker (sand trap), again with the teams finishing dead-even.

The third and final tiebreak was a sudden death round of 'closest to the pin.' The squads took a chip shot from just outside the green. Whichever team landed their shot closest to the hole would come out on top. The quartet wouldn't be denied as they landed their ball closest to the mark, coming away with the victory. The winners received a box of Titleist ProV1 golf balls as well as a round of golf for four at The Reserve Club at Woodside.

"It was the perfect day," said Chandler Swain, one of the event's organizers. "The weather couldn't have been better for a day of golf, and we had an incredible turnout of, not just golfers, but volunteers to help make the event run as smooth as possible. We cannot even begin to thank them enough for their support. The event really brought everyone from Tritium together."

SRTE GOLF



The winners of the 2023 SRTE United Way Golf Tournament: Kyle Watson, Jordan Salley, David Moldovan and Patrick Ferguson

Gen. Anthony Cotton visits the Site

SRS officials were honored to host Gen. Anthony Cotton, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), on Nov. 15. During the all-day visit, Cotton, along with NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Marvin Adams, toured the Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and Savannah River Tritium Enterprise. Adams and members of the Site leadership team provided updates on new and enduring SRS NNSA missions, which are providing support for modernizing nuclear deterrence to enhance security for the United States and our allies and partners.



SRNS Executive Vice President and Environmental Management Chief Operations Officer Mike Swain (second from right) presents a check to the Golden Harvest Food Bank at their headquarters located in Augusta, Georgia.

\$40,000 donation to Golden Harvest Food Bank

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, SRNS Executive Vice President and Environmental Management Chief Operations Officer Mike Swain presented the Golden Harvest Food Bank of Augusta a \$40,000 check.

The non-profit serves 25 counties across Georgia and South Carolina by providing nutritious meals directly in the hands of those in need through 300 local agencies.

Swain, who also serves on the Golden Harvest Board of Directors, was honored that SRNS could provide support to an organization devoted to supplying quality meals to hungry individuals across the region.

“One in nine people in our area suffers from hunger,” said Swain. “Golden Harvest is dedicated to ensuring that those who experience food insecurity in our area can receive help. We are proud to do our part in supporting such an important cause.”

The non-profit has a reputation for being efficient in their operations. Only 5% of donations received go towards overhead cost — leaving 95% to support a wide variety of programs such as Master’s Table, Mobile Market, Student BackPack programs, Senior Food Box and more.

Committed to achieving their mission, Golden Harvest is working to bridge an 8.8 million meal gap across the counties it serves by 2030. To do this, the organization will lean on donors, volunteers and supporters like SRNS.

“Having partners like Savannah River Nuclear Solutions helps us sustain our model of giving,” said Golden Harvest Corporate Development Officer Amy Graci. “Each year, we can count on the support of SRNS in helping us fight hunger in the local community. When we partner together, we make great things happen.”

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



Lewis Arthur

AT SRNS: SRTE Facilities Laboratory Manager

IN THE COMMUNITY: 2023 LEAP President,
United Way Campaign Chair

Lewis Arthur currently serves as the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) Facilities Laboratory Manager. In his role, Arthur oversees a talented team of individuals who operate the facilities' wet chemistry, calorimetry, and mass spectrometry equipment.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at SRS, Arthur stated, "With such a large and diverse workforce, SRS offers the opportunity to meet and work with different people across the complex. It's great to be a part of a team that's all working towards one mission."

He currently serves as the 2023 SRS United Way Campaign Chair leading the committee and many dedicated employees in raising funds for the campaign. "I was introduced to United Way when I first started working on Site," said Arthur. "Since then, I have had the privilege to volunteer for various service projects, as part of the United Way Campaign. Through those opportunities, I have learned so much about the needs of the local communities surrounding Savannah River Site."

In addition to supporting United Way, he currently serves as the Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) President. He also volunteers at Gloverville First Baptist Church, helping with their music program and other groups throughout the church.

Arthur was born, raised and still resides in Graniteville, South Carolina. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and hiking.



Morgan Welch

AT SRNS: SRTE Discipline Scheduler

IN THE COMMUNITY: United Way Vice Chair

Morgan Welch is the Discipline Scheduler supporting Savannah River Tritium Enterprise. In her role, Welch executes short and mid-range planning and functions to support the Tritium Extraction Facility, as well as analyzes schedules, predicts trends and provides feedback for maintaining schedule control throughout the life cycle of various projects.

Welch served as the Vice Chair for the 2023 SRS United Way Campaign. "I began my support of United Way when I was first hired by SRNS in 2020. I remember a fellow employee organizing a fundraiser that I participated in, and I knew that was something I wanted to do. Since then, I have volunteered for United Way and several other campaigns at SRS," said Welch. "I received a great amount of support during this campaign and have truly enjoyed being a part of the SRNS United Way Committee."

Welch is also heavily involved in the community. In addition to supporting United Way, Welch volunteered for Salvation Army's Toys for Tots and Angel Tree Programs and the American Heart Association's Heart Walk Campaign. She received the "Lead of the Year" award at the 2022 United Way Campaign Celebration.

She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of South Carolina Aiken. She currently resides in New Ellenton, South Carolina, with her husband Austin and their dog. Outside of work, she enjoys teaching dance, organizing events and spending time with family and friends.

We make the world **safer.**

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 wastefoms



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