

● OCTOBER 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today



**SRTE employees celebrated
as the backbone of deterrence**



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Annual Site Environmental Report • Defense Program Awards • Cyber Security Champion



Welcome

to the October 2021 edition of

SRNS Today

Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

Another fiscal year has come and gone, with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) continuing its tradition of excellence. We achieved high levels of production, mission delivery and contract transition success, while realizing substantial cost savings. Our operational performance was outstanding, but our site services and business service support were equally impressive. Even amongst all the potential distractions in fiscal year (FY) 2021, SRNS continued to do what it does best – make the world safer.

In collaboration with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Savannah River Field Office, we celebrated our employees for their commitment to excellence in FY 2021. The Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) team had a record-breaking year and overcame significant challenges to deliver this great mission.

Other accomplishments in the NNSA missions performed by SRNS include engineers saving \$18.8 million on a project to replace outdated X-ray systems in the SRTE's H Area New Manufacturing Tritium Facility. Additionally, 150 employees of SRNS and its partners were recognized by NNSA with Defense Programs Awards of Excellence, for their work supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent.

Also, this month, Site Services completed the overhaul of six chillers in an effort to maintain a "Green" status within the Site Services Infrastructure Systems Dashboard accountability and project tracking system; SRS released the 2020 Annual Site Environmental Report; and the SRNS Enterprise Cyber Security Operations organization was named a 2021 Cyber Champion by the Department of Homeland Security.

As we begin FY 2022, I look forward to SRNS continuing to be the benchmark DOE facility for safety and operational success.



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)



Photos in this issue include prior COVID-19 guidelines, regarding no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.

Engineering innovation in Tritium Facility results in \$18.8M saved

SRNS engineers saved \$18.8 million on a project to replace outdated X-ray systems with digital radiography equipment in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise's H Area New Manufacturing (HANM) Facility. They achieved this by creatively developing a new approach to the reservoir inspection process, while staying within NNSA requirements.

SRS is the only place that prepares and ships tritium-loaded containers, called reservoirs, to the Department of Defense, where they are installed in weapons. Before operators can pack a reservoir for shipping, the reservoir weld must pass an inspection that ensures it is operationally ready for use by the military. Operators typically use an X-ray system installed within a glovebox to capture images of a reservoir weld on film, but this outdated inspection method introduced unnecessary risks to carrying out the NNSA tritium mission that supports the nation's nuclear deterrent.

"Purchasing X-ray film for reservoir weld inspections is increasingly a risk to our success in carrying out this national security mission," said Russ Warfield, SRNS Project Coordinator. "In the U.S., there has been a significant transition away from X-ray film to digital radiography. This could lead to film supply issues for the work we do at SRS in the future, and secondly, continuing to purchase and store film is not cost effective."

Digital radiography produces an image on a computer, allowing operators to inspect the reservoir weld and save the image without needing to print and physically store it. In developing the transition plan, engineers identified several other benefits and cost savings associated with this approach.

"We determined digital radiography equipment could be installed outside gloveboxes," said Charles Bell, then-SRNS HANM Operations Manager. "This eliminates the need for open glovebox maintenance,

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"We determined digital radiography equipment could be installed outside gloveboxes. This eliminates the need for open glovebox maintenance, which: is expensive, can require planning years in advance, results in work stoppage and can introduce radiation contamination risk."

Charles Bell

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which: is expensive, can require planning years in advance, results in work stoppage and can introduce radiation contamination risk. It's possible to take this approach without worry of radiation contamination or tritium escaping by modifying the reservoir inspection process."

In the past, the reservoir weld was examined for operational purposes while the reservoir was still in the glovebox, and then it was decontaminated for removal. Now, engineers have determined that operators can first examine the reservoir for safety purposes, decontaminate it and then remove it for operational inspection.

"Installing digital radiography equipment outside gloveboxes led to further cost savings," said Warfield. "This approach requires only one digital radiography machine, as opposed to three. Initially, digital radiography equipment was going to be installed on three finishing lines in HANM, but because of the inspection process modification, reservoirs ready for weld inspection are transported to a common digital radiography machine."

This innovative approach resulted in cost savings of \$18.8 million spread over eight years, the original amount of time engineers thought the project would require when it began in October 2020. Engineers now project that they will complete the digital radiography equipment installation and inspection process modifications in November 2022, a significant time reduction.

"I continue to be inspired by the innovation coming from the team executing NNSA's tritium mission," said Jason Armstrong, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager. "SRS is delivering on our commitments to ensure a vital national security need continues to be met, and we are doing so safely, efficiently and cost effectively."

SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Operations and Programs Mark Davis said, "A key goal for SRS is to ensure we have the ability to safely and effectively provide components for the nation's nuclear stockpile. This project allows us to avoid significant outages to our production schedule, realize substantial cost savings and modernize equipment, all while maintaining a posture of readiness as the backbone of deterrence in support of peace."



SRNS Environmental Monitoring Specialist Jesse Baxley reads a rain gauge. Rainwater collection is used to ensure SRS operations pose no risk to the surrounding population.

2020 Annual Site Environmental Report released

Each year, SRS prepares an Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) in accordance with DOE requirements. The Site releases the report to give the public and SRS regulators detailed information regarding environmental conditions at SRS for the previous calendar year.

In 2020, SRS continued to safely operate, completing its missions while maintaining a record of environmental excellence and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As in previous years, the Site met federal and state standards designed to protect the public, environment and Site workers.

The report also summarizes SRS environmental data; environmental sustainability performance; compliance with applicable DOE, federal and state regulations; and remediation and surveillance monitoring programs.

SRS has monitored environmental conditions since the Site was built in the early 1950s and has published an ASER since 1959.

Each year, SRNS collects more than 10,000 monitoring samples found both on- and off-site including air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees. Samples are collected from neighboring cities, towns and counties located in Georgia and South Carolina. SRS has maintained a comprehensive environmental monitoring program for over 70 years.

“The SRS Environmental Report is one of the oldest continuous records of the Site’s environmental performance, documenting with intricate precision the effect our operations have on the public and the environment,” said Michael Budney, Manager of DOE Savannah River Operations Office. “This year, as in every year in our past, the commitment to inform the public and stakeholders is steadfast, and one SRS carries out transparently and with the spirit of service to the community.”

A companion document to the ASER, referred to as the Summary Report, is also available. This publication supports SRS educational and community outreach programs and serves to educate a broad cross section of the population on important programs at the Site. Both the ASER for 2020 and the Summary Report are online at: srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html.

Working toward ‘Green’ goal for mechanically maintained systems

Site Services (SS) achieved the overhaul of four chillers in A Area and two chillers in B Area, providing for continued reliable chilled water service at SRS. They strive to obtain a “Green” status for all areas within the SS Infrastructure Systems Dashboard accountability and project tracking system.

The first SS Dashboard was created in 2013 and showed the A Area Chilled Water System as “Red” (unsatisfactory condition) and trending downward. In fact, across the 12 infrastructure systems (Electrical, Domestic Water, Steam, Sanitary, etc.), Reds and Yellows (marginal condition) would dot the dashboard for several years to follow until necessary maintenance improvements were implemented.

“In order to maintain reliable service to our customers, major equipment repairs and overhauls must be strategically planned and coordinated while closely monitoring equipment and system performance,” said Site Infrastructure Director Randy Keenan. “I’m proud of our Site Services team and their successful overhaul of the chillers as well as meeting the long-term goal of bringing our infrastructure systems back to reliable operating condition and obtaining the long-awaited ‘Green’ status.”

Technical Services’ SS organization operates and maintains infrastructure systems critical to the successful operations for all Site tenants. Currently, nine systems are Green (satisfactory), and six systems are Yellow. The following systems are Green: Electrical Distribution; Domestic Water; Fire Water; Chilled Water; Sanitary Wastewater; Steam Generation and Distribution; Outfalls, Basins and Landfills; Railroad; Portable Equipment Commodity Management Center and Transportation. The remaining six systems are Yellow: Facilities; River Water; Process Water; Service Water; Dams, Lakes and Ponds; and Roads and Bridges. All systems must achieve pre-determined criteria on the path to Green.

Although some of these systems are Green, continued corrective and preventative maintenance will be needed to maintain that status. “While more reliable than in 2013, many of these systems are over 50 years old and will ultimately require major recapitalization efforts in the coming years, and our goal is to stay out of the red and ensure uninterrupted operations at SRS,” said Keenan.

SRNS strives to invest more than \$100 million annually in infrastructure upgrades and improvements.



Ideas America Global awards winners

During the 2021 Ideas America global competition, SRNS employees were presented 19 recognitions and awards.

The 79th Ideas America Global Training Summit was held virtually Tuesday, Sept. 22, and Wednesday, Sept. 23. Companies from Germany, the United Kingdom, India, Saudi Arabia, the United States and the United Arab Emirates participated in the conference, with SRNS being the only American company selected as a finalist to compete for awards this year.

“We are proud to have been honored with these recognitions,” said Blake Leaphart, SRNS Senior Productivity Specialist. “Our Ideas program improves year after year as is shown by the recognition given to our program.”

Ideas America’s annual awards program specifically recognizes the creativity of employees and offers awards that honor outstanding ideas and continuous improvement projects as well as recognizing the role leadership plays in promoting employee involvement. SRNS employees were recognized in the following categories:

Advocate Award

This category recognizes individuals who are true advocates of their lean six sigma and employee suggestion programs within their respective companies.

- Shelby Cadden (Engineering) - Gold Winner (1st Place Globally)
- Deanna Goodlove (IT) - Bronze Winner (3rd Place Globally)
- Melody Bell (F Area Operations) - Honorable Mention

Best Program Administrator Award

This award category recognizes individuals who make the most impact to their lean six sigma and suggestion programs as administrators, and whose contributions are exceptional and represent best practices.

- Blake Leaphart (SRNS Focused Improvement Transformation (FIT) Continuous Improvement) - Gold Winner (1st Place Globally)

Communication Excellence Award

This award category recognizes individuals or lean six sigma programs that effectively communicate and engage with the employees of the company in order to solicit effective participation.

- SRNS IDEAS Program - Bronze Winner (3rd Place Globally)

Evaluator of the Year Award

This award category recognizes individuals who effectively evaluate and champion employee suggestions and lean six sigma projects.

- Antony Smith (IT) - Silver Winner (2nd Place Globally)
- Richard Baisley (NNSA Capital Projects) - Bronze Winner (3rd Place Globally)

Executive Leadership Award

This award category recognizes individuals who are senior leaders of their respective companies and who demonstrate exceptional leadership, dedication, assistance, and championing of lean six sigma projects and employee suggestions.

- PK Hightower (SRNS FIT Continuous Improvement and Interface Management Office) - Silver Winner (2nd Place Globally)

Champion Award

This award category recognizes individuals who take an active role in championing their respective lean six sigma and suggestion programs.

- Max Cavett (Site Services) - Silver Winner (2nd Place Globally)
- Jennifer Scott (ESS) - Bronze Winner (3rd Place Globally)

Team Idea of the Year

This award category recognizes an innovative lean six sigma project or suggestion that has been implemented by a team of employees within their respective companies. The idea is judged on a criteria of cost savings, impact to the organization and innovativeness.

- SRS River Water Air Release Valve Right Sizing Project (Site Services and Engineering) - Honorable Mention

Kudos Awards

This category recognizes individuals in companies who have gone above and beyond their normal job responsibilities to assist the continuous improvement program or employee suggestion program within their respective companies.

- Paula Croom (Environment, Safety, Health and Quality)
- Alan Braden (Site Training)
- Joe Legge (Site Services)
- Samantha Leonard (Site Services)
- Kirby Thompson (Project Controls)
- Kenda Rindt (Savannah River Tritium Enterprise)
- Raine Weimortz (Operational Excellence)
- Freddie Grimm (Business Planning and Integration)

Additionally, Freddie Grimm, SRNS Business Planning and Integration, was selected as one of the keynote speakers for this year’s conference. He spoke about a manager’s perspective in funding and implementing employee suggestions.

Workforce Appreciation

SRTE employees thanked for commitment to excellence

Employees in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) broke a record, overcame significant challenges and continued to successfully carry out their mission in support of the nation's nuclear deterrent during fiscal year 2021. SRNS and NNSA Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) senior leadership celebrated employees for those achievements and their commitment to excellence during SRTE Workforce Appreciation Day on Sept. 30.

Stuart MacVean observed that SRTE employees excelled in operations and small projects by working as a team. He praised the role of that teamwork as he recounted major efforts, including achieving a record number of tritium extractions in one year. "Being able to get to seven extractions is huge compared to where we used to be, and it really demonstrates what a tightknit group of people you are."

MacVean also recognized the supporting employees. "Think about all the business, finance and human resources aspects. Everybody's got a role to play in being able to deliver this great mission, and we've been doing really well."

NNSA SRFO Manger Jason Armstrong said, "Words can't say enough how proud I am of this team and all the things you've accomplished. I love the trust, the honesty, the partnership and the collaboration. You come to work with the utmost dedication. Congratulations on a fantastic year."

In his remarks to employees, SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Operations and Programs Mark Davis said, "You perform vital national security missions safely, securely and effectively. This year has been extraordinarily successful, and you even made history. Our strong nuclear safety culture has enabled us to achieve our goals while protecting ourselves, our community and the environment."

MacVean applauded employees' successful efforts to deliver high quality products to the military despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, Davis said, "At the end of the day, our nation's strategic deterrence is second to none because this team never missed a beat while operating in a pandemic. Thank you for all you do to make us the backbone of deterrence in support of peace."

In addition to hearing messages from senior leadership, employees interacted with SRTE management at various times throughout the day and had the opportunity to participate in a walk to raise funds for United Way.



SRTE and SRFO leadership welcome employees to work with doughnuts.



SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Operations and Programs Mark Davis, Stuart MacVean and NNSA SRFO Manager Jason Armstrong thank SRTE employees for their commitment to excellence.



Kelsey Cox is recognized for her work in the Behavior Based Safety (BBS) Program.

Stuart MacVean speaks to SRTE employees about their accomplishments during fiscal year 2021.

NNSA honors SRNS employee excellence

Approximately 150 employees of SRNS and its partners whose work supports the nation's nuclear deterrent were recently honored by NNSA. The employees, whose work relates to tritium, the hydrogen isotope required for modern nuclear defense, as well as plans for the facility that will produce necessary plutonium pits, were recognized with Defense Programs Awards of Excellence.

The awards are presented at NNSA labs, plants and sites across the country by NNSA's Office of Defense Programs to recognize significant achievements in support of the agency's mission to ensure the United States maintains a safe, secure and reliable nuclear deterrent and other important national security objectives. COVID-19 complications interfered with plans to present awards last year, so awards for accomplishments at SRS in both calendar years 2019 and 2020 were presented in a virtual ceremony.

Summer Jones, NNSA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Production Modernization, who addressed the honorees on behalf of the Office of Defense Programs, called their achievements "remarkable," especially in light of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed NNSA's thanks for their work supporting the nation's security.

"I could not be more proud of my team for their exemplary performance on tasks vital to our nation's strategic deterrence, made even more noteworthy considering the work was performed during a pandemic," said Mark Davis, SRNS Senior Vice President – NNSA Operations and Programs.

"These awards are one more confirmation of the importance of the work our employees carry out for the Nation," said Dave Olson, SRNS Executive Vice President – NNSA Capital Projects.

The awards recognized accomplishments of 10 teams from multiple SRS organizations, including personnel from the NNSA Savannah River Field Office, the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and SRNS, which operates both the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise



(SRTE) and the department responsible for design and construction of the planned Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF). Several of the award-winning teams included members from across organizational lines, and some involved collaboration between personnel at SRS and other NNSA sites.

The team that developed the documents outlining plans for the SRPPF earned an award for the achievement, a massive package of documents that resulted in NNSA's approval of the facility to move forward into the next phases of development. The team included personnel from SRNS and its subcontractors, along with personnel from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

An SRTE team was recognized for SRTE's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included taking extraordinary measures to ensure employees remained safe while mission deliverables necessary to the nation's nuclear deterrent were met, including fulfilling a request to advance a shipping schedule.

A team consisting of SRTE and SRNL personnel was recognized for quick response and diligent efforts that kept SRTE's shipments to the military on schedule after a water line break threatened a crucial step in the process.

Another team consisting of SRTE personnel and their partners at NNSA's Kansas City National Security Campus were honored for development of a process to enhance communication and cooperation between the two sites in support of Defense Programs' mission.

Other awards recognized the team that rebuilt a key component of the environmental protection measures in the Tritium Extraction Facility and several teams for significant contributions to the nation's Stockpile Stewardship Program.

\$25K donation to Dreams, Imagination & Gift Development



DIG Drive-In STEM Theatre

SRNS continues to annually demonstrate their support of the Dreams, Imagination & Gift Development Program (DIG), a local organization providing science, technology, education and math (STEM) opportunities to promote rural growth and development through education, community service, mentorship and recreation.

This year's \$25,000 sponsorship will aid in administering DIG's Annual Summer STEAM (STEM, plus art) Enrichment Camp, Scholar Enrichment Academy (after-school program) and Drive-In STEM Theatre. With SRNS continued support, DIG has strengthened its after-school programs and is now offering both a hybrid model of virtual and in-person after-school enrichment. In addition to math, English language arts and STEAM, DIG has also expanded its curriculum to include app development and financial literacy.

Since 2013, DIG has been committed to providing educational and inspirational opportunities for area youth to excel. During this time, SRNS has committed more than \$90,000 to help this grassroots organization make dreams a reality.

"We appreciate the DIG organization and the tremendous impact it has had on communities throughout the region," said Stuart MacVean.

MacVean noted that DIG personnel have had a unique and extremely effective impact on school-aged children through a variety of creative and dynamic activities and programs.

"Due to the success of DIG's programs and SRNS monetary support, DIG has continued its after-school programs in the Barnwell and Williston School Districts and was able to serve students both virtually and in person during the recent pandemic," said Steven Brown, DIG President. "DIG has still been able to serve 325 students during its out-of-school programs and workshops during the 2020-2021 school year while observing CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommendations and social distancing requirements."

Brown stated that he believes SRNS is the benchmark DOE contractor for environmental management, and national security, including their day-to-day emphasis on safe and secure operations. Just as important is the SRNS management team's desire to give back to nearby communities.

SRNS named Cyber Security Champion

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded a 2021 "Champion" distinction to SRNS Enterprise Cyber Security Operations.

The National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champion program highlights companies that are dedicated to promoting a safer, more secure and trusted internet. Other notable winners include Allstate, City of Boston, Eli Lilly, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Motorola, Rockwell, Wells Fargo, United States Steel, United Airlines and DOE.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Do Your Part, #BeCyberSmart." It highlights the growing importance of cybersecurity and encourages individuals and organizations to take necessary measures to stay safe and secure in an increasingly interconnected world.

"SRNS is dedicated to providing cyber training for all new employees, as well as an annual refresher," said Cheryl Hardy, Manager, SRNS Cyber Security Policy. "We also provide on-site and off-site cyber education and awareness activities through monthly safety meetings, teach-ins, pop-ups messages on our intranet site, quarterly phishing

exercises with follow-up training and security roadshows. Additionally, employee 'lunch and learns' are available throughout the year."

The Cyber Security Champion distinction is presented each October during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure safety and security online. The National Cyber Security Alliance partners with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to determine winners of the annual competition.



Danny Wylds, SRNS Cyber Security Engineer, monitors the SRS computer network for suspicious activity.

Education Outreach initiatives go national

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, educators and students across the United States have been restrained from their normal use of academic resources, field trips and extracurricular programs. SRNS is striving to help provide alternatives, not just locally, but nationally, through their education outreach organization.

In July, SRNS shared online virtual field trips and a mass spectrometer video with 40,000 science educators and professionals, using the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) – a free resource. NSTA provides news, information and teaching tools related to science education.

“This opportunity to work through NSTA to reach a national and – as of late – an international group of students and educators occurred when a teacher from New Jersey suggested the idea,” said Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach. “We’ve had teachers across the country begin to contact us and express their interest in the virtual learning tools we’re providing. We’ve even received a request from a school in Australia.”

For Mitchell and her co-workers, it quickly became evident that the pandemic would require a new approach to overcome the challenges they faced.

“Out of necessity, we had to find new ways to connect with the education community,” said Mitchell. “When COVID-19 hit, we were managing 12 different education outreach programs – all of which required face-to-face communication within a small to large group environment. That all came to a temporary stop in March of 2020.”

After extensive research, SRNS Education Outreach determined that the most promising solution was to develop a platform using available, highly effective and affordable technology offered through web-based applications.

One of the primary reasons SRNS Education Outreach has become so frequently accessed throughout the U.S. was due to being



EDUCATORS INTERESTED IN ACCESSING SRNS ONLINE

virtual field trips or the mass spectrometer video can use the following links to receive each video and a student activity sheet with answer key:

Wet Wonders – surveyMonkey.com/r/VirtualTripWetWondersSRS

Feathers in the Forest – surveyMonkey.com/r/RCWvirtualfieldtrip2

Mass Spectrometer – surveyMonkey.com/r/INTHEBEAM

mentioned in a column, “Freebies for Science Teachers, July 20, 2021” by Debra Shapiro, Associate Editor, NSTA Reports.

“They (SRNS Education Outreach) cover relevant topics such as habitats, conservation, freshwater ecosystems, sampling to determine pond health through virtual field trips and a video explaining mass spectrometry. These resources also can expose students to potential careers in fields related to science, technology, engineering and math. In addition, our teachers have said they appreciate the high quality of free resources from federal agencies, so we’re always on the lookout for them,” said Shapiro.

To date, the NSTA Reports column has resulted in contacts from 5,300 students and educators in 62 schools and academic organizations across the country including distant locations in Anchorage, Alaska; Honolulu, Hawaii; and the west coast states of California, Washington and Oregon.

Pittwater High School, in Mona Vale, New South Wales, Australia, was recently added to the growing list of schools world-wide, participating in SRNS online programs.

The demand for SRNS Education Outreach videos is still growing. To date, more than 30,800 students have seen the videos (educators received corresponding guides).

Mitchell is quick to credit the value of this new approach to members of the video production, computer graphics, engineering and Information Technology groups within SRNS. “Each made valuable contributions towards the success of this initiative,” said Mitchell.

“It’s a new era for all facets of education. It will require new ways to meet the needs of those who, year after year, find value in our outreach programs. There’s no doubt in my mind; we’ll get there. It’s too important,” said Francine Burroughs, SRNS Director, Human Resources Operations and Education Outreach.



Kim Mitchell

AT SRNS: Education Outreach Specialist Lead

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

SRNS Education Outreach Specialist Lead Kim Mitchell enjoys sharing STEM-related career opportunities with students and teachers, and the pandemic hasn’t dampened her enthusiasm for her work with educational partners in South Carolina and Georgia.

“Our group has found new virtual opportunities to reach students, even with teachers and students returning to classrooms this fall. Our programs are reaching more students than ever before,” said Mitchell. “More than 35,000 students have viewed our virtual field trips since March 2020, and long-standing SRS events like CSRA College Night, Future City, Science Bowl and the CSRA Science and Engineering Fair have continued in virtual formats.”

Mitchell credits employee volunteers as key to the success of SRNS Education Outreach efforts, along with video services, graphics, engineering and Information Technology organizations.

Mitchell earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Biology from Georgia Southern and came to SRS in 1992 as a lab tech in F and H labs, moving into lab supervision and specialist roles before joining Education Outreach. “As a grad student I enjoyed teaching lab classes, so now I put my science background and lab experience to work with schools,” she explained. “I also brought my SRS lab background and our emphasis on Conduct of Operations into this role, so I make sure we’re incorporating operational safety into all aspects of our learning opportunities.”

She and her husband, Michael, who works in Savannah River Tritium Enterprise, live in North Augusta and have two children.

Heroes helping heroes



Tony Smiley and Dustin LaBarge of the SRS Fire Department



SRS Fire Department member Rocky Blessing

SRNS was a presenting sponsor of this year’s annual FireK FiveK run in Evans, Georgia. The FireK FiveK raises awareness and funds for firefighters and their immediate family members who are battling cancer, which is the leading cause of death for firefighters. This family-friendly event included a 5K run and one mile fun run, a fun zone with bouncy houses, a fire safety house, face painting, food and more. SRNS firefighters brought home a Fire Team Champion trophy.

2021 CSRA COLLEGE NIGHT
 Thursday, November 4 • 5-8:30 p.m.
 You are invited to this free event! Explore, chat, connect virtually with:
 Colleges and universities • Technical schools • Professional societies
 Military organizations • Georgia and South Carolina Financial Aid and Counseling Center
 Who should attend?
 High school students, parents or anyone interested in college
 For more information, visit www.srs.gov/branches/education-outreach-programs/csra-college-night

SPONSORS: ENERGY, SRNS, SRP, SRS

SCROLL OR CLICK TO VIEW THE FULL POSTER

*SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING RULES: 120 grand students must attend a portion of the live event, read their names and receive a scholarship award on-site at the event on the day of the event.

Register for College Night online event

High school students and parents will have a special opportunity to virtually engage with representatives from colleges, universities and technical schools, helping them make informed decisions at this year’s College Night. Registered students will be able to log in on Nov. 4, 5-8:30 p.m., from the comfort of their homes and at no cost. Seniors will be eligible for \$15,000 in scholarships.

Additionally, guidance counselors, military recruiters, and financial experts from Georgia and South Carolina will be available to provide valuable information via online conversations.

Attending College Night will be easy to do! To register, using a computer or mobile device such as a cell phone or tablet, look for a link on the SRS web page: Click on Education Outreach, then CSRA Virtual College Night: srs.gov/general/outreach/edoutrch/coll_night.htm

Once registered, you may browse through the existing virtual exhibits and information booths available at that time; however, check back frequently as other exhibitors will be added prior to the live event.

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

SRNS



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

We make the world **safer.**