

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Area High School Student Job Shadows at National Laboratory

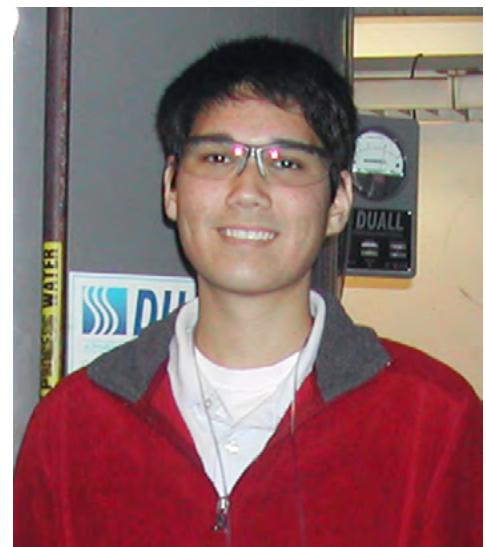
AIKEN, S.C. (February 3, 2014) – It's not every day a high school student experiences life at the Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL).

Security is high, radioactive materials are studied, innovative approaches to worldwide challenges are developed along with many other unusual activities and experiments at one the nation's most renowned science research centers. And Lakeside High School student Robbie Kazen recently reveled in the opportunity to spend two nine-hour days following and learning from SRNL scientists and engineers.

Kazen's time at the Savannah River Site (SRS) was part of a Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) educational outreach program known as job shadowing. Job shadowing is a common practice for newly hired employees at many U.S. companies, however, a rare opportunity for high school students.

Kazen, who has enrolled at Georgia Southern University with plans to later graduate from Georgia Tech with a degree in Chemical Engineering, had a full agenda of information exchange with some of the nation's top engineers and scientists. He also toured several types of labs, the SRNL design engineering group and used a hand-operated manipulator at a mockup of a high radiation shielded cell.

"We were very impressed with Robbie's intelligence, enthusiasm and mature approach to the entire experience," said Lindsay Ledbetter, an SRNL Chemical Engineer and one of Kazen's mentors while at SRS. "At times, it was hard to believe that Robbie is an area high school student. We're confident he'll do well in college and life in general. We hope he considers employment at SRNL upon graduation."



*Lakeside High School senior Robbie Kazen recently spent two days job shadowing at SRS, learning from some of the nation's leading scientists and engineers.*

According to Kazen, his time at SRS was highly rewarding and very helpful. “I really enjoyed my job shadowing at SRNL,” said Kazen. “I really learned a lot about the job of a chemical engineer and the business world.”

“It is one of our objectives to offer eleventh and twelfth grade students within the CSRA, like Robbie, the opportunity to gain enhanced learning by observation from our professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields through the Job Shadow Program,” said Candice Dermody, Manager, Talent Management and Education Outreach. “We hope this initiative will also greatly assist them regarding their choice of which career to pursue.”

In addition to providing an extensive job shadowing experience for Kazen, Ledbetter also conducts tours for job candidates considering a career at SRNS in the area of engineering.

“I love working with the young adults we see here at SRNL,” said Ledbetter. “I want to give back and offer the same great experience provided to me by my initial co-workers when I was a new, fresh out of college engineer. In fact, those fellow employees who continue to mentor me are my inspiration.”

SRNL is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation’s environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. For more information, visit <http://srnl.doe.gov>.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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SRNS- 2014 – 191