

Mackenzie McNabb

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
(803) 952-8179, mackenzie.mcnabb@srs.gov

For Immediate Release

SRNS highlights IT Youth Apprenticeship Program at Chamber event

AIKEN, S.C. – (March 17, 2025) Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) recently highlighted its Information Technology (IT) [Youth Apprenticeship Program](#) at the “Good Morning North Augusta” event, hosted by the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Two IT youth apprentices, Jacob Lott and Alejandro Aguirre-Hernandez shared their experiences and the benefits of the program with 60 attendees.



IT Youth Apprentices Alejandro Aguirre-Hernandez and Jacob Lott share their experiences during the “Good Morning North Augusta” panel discussion. SRNS Apprenticeship Program Lead Abigail Bowman, left, facilitates the Q&A session.

“The discussion highlighted the program’s effectiveness in building a workforce pipeline— starting in high school and leading to a rewarding career at the Savannah River Site,” said Abigail Bowman, SRNS Apprenticeship Program and Pipeline Development Lead. “Not only are these students gaining hands-on and paid experience, but SRNS is introducing high-potential talent to our safety culture and operational standards.”

During the event, Lott and Aguirre-Hernandez demonstrated how to repair a computer. Other panelists included SRNS Enterprise End User Services Manager Tim Arnold, North Augusta High School teacher Michelle O’Rourke, and SRNS Customer Response Center Manager Jacqueline Starlings.

In 2024, [SRNS partnered with the Aiken County Public School District](#) to provide high-performing tech students with valuable hands-on experience. Both Lott and Aguirre-Hernandez are part of North Augusta High School’s Dell Student TechCrew—performing advanced computer repair and diagnostics. The TechCrew has repaired nearly 2,000 devices for the district.

“This is a win-win opportunity that provides value to not only SRS, but local schools, students, and the broader community,” said Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. “More importantly, it demonstrates that businesses can adopt a similar strategy, leveraging apprenticeships to develop their workforce. Fostering these partnerships allow us to invest in individuals and strengthen the future of the industry.”

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SRS anticipates significant growth in its workforce, requiring the addition of 9,000 new hires over the next five years. The SRS Apprenticeship Program offers three pathways: Youth, Key Skilled Technician, and Professional/Degree-Based, to create a pipeline of experts to support critical missions for the Department of Energy.

In fiscal year 2024, [SRS welcomed six high school students](#) to participate in a Youth Apprenticeship Program. The 24-month program enables rising juniors or seniors to complete paid on-the-job training, culminating in a certificate from the Department of Labor.

“The ultimate goal for our youth apprentices is to learn the ins and outs of our department,” said Arnold. “Any chance we have to connect with students at the high school level benefits our organization and strengthens our workforce.”



The discussion highlighted the effectiveness of the IT Youth Apprenticeship Program at the Savannah River Site in building a workforce pipeline to support the site’s critical missions. Over 60 professionals attended the event.

“The best skill I have gained through this experience is professionalism,” said Aguirre-Hernandez. “Being in an office surrounded by hard working adults has been an invaluable experience, offering a stark contrast to daily high school life. This program has given me a significant edge. Experiencing an IT-related job before college ensures I make an informed decision if I choose to pursue IT further.”

Lott said, “I’ve always had an interest in computers, and when I heard about the apprenticeship at SRS, I was excited about the possibility of working on a variety of new devices. The support from my counselors and the folks at SRS has ensured a balanced schedule, letting me excel academically while gaining valuable on-the-job experience. The connections I’m making and the practical skills I’m acquiring, including potential IT certifications, will open numerous doors for me in the future.”

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.

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