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SRS Information Technology Professionals Visit Greenbrier Middle School

Evans, Ga., (December 21, 2018) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) IT professional Brad Baker recently visited computer science classes at Greenbrier Middle School and, not surprisingly, the most sought-after information concerned video game programming.

SRNS IT professionals from across the Savannah River Site visited several middle schools during Computer Science Week within Georgia's Columbia County education system to share their knowledge and experience.

There was no lack of questions for Baker, an Army veteran whose IT experience also included years of military service translating and teaching Arabic.

Questions ranged from computer coding to seeking advice on how best to pursue a career in computer science.

"It's so important and vital for our students to hear directly from those who do this for a living," said Brandy Parker, computer science teacher, Greenbrier Middle School, Evans, Ga. "It gives them the confidence to believe they really can do this and follow their passion. It's been awesome."

Parker explained that this event also initiates a variety of related



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions IT professional Brad Baker recently visited a Columbia County school during Computer Science Week to share his knowledge and experience. Greenbrier Middle School student Victoria Abell explains to Baker a computer coding project she developed.

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thoughts and ideas in the students' minds to include future internships, making valuable contacts or even working within businesses or industries they have yet to consider.

“He gave us a lot of insight as to how we could choose a successful pathway if we were to go into coding, programming or be a software engineer,” said Greenbrier Middle School student Colby Metcalf.

Baker stated that he was encouraged by the high level of interest exhibited throughout all the classes receiving his advice. “These kids are so smart. I had sixth graders asking me questions that I would normally have expected from high school students,” said Baker. “There’s so much potential here.”

Computer science drives innovation throughout the US economy, but it remains marginalized throughout K-12 education. To date, only 15 states have adopted a policy to give all high school students access to computer science courses (and of those, only six states give all K-12 students access).

Currently, there are more than 570,000 open computing jobs nationwide; however, only 49,291 computer science students graduated into the workforce last year (Sources: The Conference Board and National Center for Education Statistics).

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is 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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