

Principal Media Contact: DT Townsend
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803.952.7566
dt-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Carolina Students Create Cities of the Future, Striving to Attend National Competition: Regional Winners Announced

AIKEN, S.C. - (January 28, 2020) – Teams of middle school students from across South Carolina have been building large, and often complex, table top models in hopes of winning this year's Regional Future City® Competition.

Special awards were presented to select teams and the first, second and third place winners were announced after each table top model was carefully examined and team members quizzed by a panel of guest judges.

- 1st Place** ***“Novus Valde,”*** Merriwether Middle School, North Augusta, S.C.
- 2nd Place** ***“Klin Wara,”*** Kennedy Middle School, Aiken, S.C.
- 3rd Place** ***“Gonjing de Shui,”*** Westview STEMS Magnet Middle School, Greenwood, S.C.

“This competition really opened up my mind,” said Hailey Meteraud, an 8th grader at Merriwether Middle School. “Because I was so surprised by everything engineers do. All our research showed just how much work is accomplished by engineers, especially nuclear engineering at the Savannah River Site. And since all of this really interests me, I’ve decided to be an engineer.”

The first-place team receives an all-expense-paid trip to compete in the Future City Competition National Finals in Washington, D.C., Feb. 15-19.



Students representing Kennedy Middle School attempt to persuade Future City judges that their model city deserves a special award during the recent daylong event at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

Each year, student teams are presented a new design challenge. This year's challenge, "Clean Water: Tap into Tomorrow," challenged students to create a resilient water system to maintain a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

"Keep in mind that this is definitely not your typical school project," said Taylor Rice, Future City Regional Coordinator and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employee. "The students work for months using the engineering design process and project management skills to address solutions to this year's challenge."

With guidance from a volunteer mentor and their supporting teacher, each team of students conducts research, designs the city and gathers the materials needed to convince the judges that their city is the best.

"The creativity and ingenuity found within each project is impressive," added Rice. "The teams research cutting edge technologies and develop an imaginative and plausible solution that can exist for generations. It's amazing."

SRNS Education Outreach personnel have been managing the local Future City Regional Competition for 17 years, in partnership with the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center at the University of South Carolina Aiken. They participate with 1,500 schools in 39 U.S. regions around the country, all of whom are engaged in similar competitions.

Future City has received national attention and acclaim for encouraging middle schoolers to develop their interest in a STEM-based education. The annual challenge is one of the nation's leading engineering education programs and among the most popular.

Marisa Wetzel, 8th Grade, Merriwether Middle School, explained "In addition to the academics, I liked the teamwork and public speaking. I've never talked in front of a lot of people before. It's been very helpful."

For more information on the Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org

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.

Visit us on the web at www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

SRNS-2020-874