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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Second Cohort of Nuclear Operator Apprentices Graduate from SRNS/ATC

AIKEN, S.C. (August 3, 2021) - The second cohort from the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship program graduated on Tuesday, July 27, after completing the Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate program at Aiken Technical College (ATC).

Twelve apprentices participated in the eight-month Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program, which provides ATC students a unique learning opportunity by allowing them to simultaneously receive on-the-job training while completing their required classroom work. Students spent two days a week receiving instruction from ATC and two days a week training at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Apprentices learned the basic qualifications of a production operator, including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification and how to perform shift rounds.

“We are proud to have completed another successful operator apprenticeship program,” said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. “To ensure the development of a viable workforce in our community,



*The second cohort of the Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program was recognized in a ceremony on Tuesday, July 27, at Aiken Technical College. From left: SRNS Senior Training Specialist Wendall James, Operator Apprentice Ted Miller, Operator Apprentice Aaron Bailey, Operator Apprentice Jeremiah Giles, Operator Apprentice Travis Brown, ATC Department Chair for Chemistry, Physics, and Nuclear Science Aherial Polite, Operator Apprentice Ethan Schroeder, Operator Apprentice Delayna Culp, SRNS Senior Training Specialist David Jackson, Operator Apprentice Dominic Chaplin, Operator Apprentice Jemehl Brooks, SRNS College Partnerships/Nuclear Production Operator Apprenticeship Program Manager Susie Ferrara, Operator Apprentice Henry Holston, Operator Apprentice Travis Williford, Operator Apprentice Christopher Mikolanis, and Operator Apprentice Brandon Hearn.*

*Photo prior to recently reinstated mask requirements*

# News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

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we aspire to establish 300 Registered Apprenticeships throughout organizations in surrounding South Carolina counties by Oct. 1, 2021.”

Those graduates who meet all employment requirements will be hired at SRS and put to work in areas around the Site.

The Nuclear Fundamentals Program, created in 2016 in collaboration with SRNS, prepares students for entry-level positions in the nuclear industry. The recent addition of the apprenticeship program pathway further helps to build the workforce pipeline.

“For many years, we have partnered with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to provide workforce development opportunities. The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship program has opened a new pathway for those interested in a career in the nuclear industry by providing them with the skills and knowledge that meet the industry’s workforce needs. The apprentices also have a unique opportunity to gain real-life, on-the-job experiences and network with various workgroups at the Savannah River Site. It creates a strong foundation for a long-term, successful career,” said Dr. Steven Simmons, dean of technical and continuing education at Aiken Technical College. “The success of this program has become the blueprint for us to build similar opportunities for other employers in the area in the future.”

The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC). AC is a division of the South Carolina Technical College System, and leads South Carolina in registered apprenticeship programs that help businesses and communities thrive economically. With the guidance of AC as well as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the operator apprenticeship program has been registered both with the state and nationally.

For more information about the SRNS Nuclear Operator Apprentice program, contact Janessa Smith, SRNS Human Resources Specialist, at (803) 646-3538.

For more information about the Nuclear Fundamentals program, visit [www.atc.edu](http://www.atc.edu).

*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](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

## **About Aiken Technical College**

*Aiken Technical College is a two-year comprehensive college located in Graniteville, South Carolina. Founded in 1972, the College provides educational and workforce development opportunities through academic programs, continuing education, and corporate training services. Visit [www.atc.edu](http://www.atc.edu) for more information.*

## **About Apprenticeship Carolina**

*Apprenticeship Carolina™ is an integral part of the SC Technical College System that works to ensure all employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship consultants are available to guide companies through the registered apprenticeship development process from initial information to full recognition in the National Registered Apprenticeship System. These services are available to South Carolina employers free of charge. Interested employers are encouraged to contact Apprenticeship Carolina™ at (803) 896-5287 or visit [www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com](http://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com).*

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