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Not-So-Basic Training for Future Leaders **Multi-state JROTC students learn from STEM Leadership Academy**

AIKEN, S.C., August 10, 2022 – With help from Savannah Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) organizers, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Leadership Academy benefitted more than 300 Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) students from North and South Carolina.

The three-day STEM event, held at South Carolina State University (SCSU), featured professionals from SRNS, Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness and the U.S. Forest Service.

JROTC Army instructors collaborated with members of SCSU's Nuclear Engineering Department to facilitate the STEM academy. It was designed to provide JROTC students across the two states activities to promote an interest in STEM-related careers, both in the military and beyond. SRNS Education Outreach Programs (EOP) organized a group of employees from the Site who traveled to the campus providing hands-on activities, educational materials, panel discussions, leadership classes and career opportunity information.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank SRNS for their contributions to this First JROTC STEM Academy on the campus of South Carolina State University," said Anthony Watson, Recruiting Operations Officer, SCSU. "SRNS stimulated the participation of other presenters from other organizations. The JROTC students' interaction and participation with the SRNS presenters was outstanding. SCSU looks forward to participating with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions next year and working together on other projects on the SCSU campus, as well."

Maurice Abraham, SRNS Information Technology, participated in a panel discussion and interacted with the students.

"As an SRNS presenter, I responded to students' questions related to STEM and Leadership activities as well as questions pertaining to what sparked my own interest in these areas. I had the opportunity to interact with all 330 JROTC students and received helpful feedback from many. We explored the Scientific Method, Pros and Cons of STEM, 'High School to Industry' with key courses taken in high school, and the benefits of Diversity in the workplace. Other panel members included a surgeon, a Boeing recruiter, a SCSU graduate and Army Officer, as well as a college president," said Abraham.

In addition, Abraham took full advantage of the event to discuss his experiences working at SRS, their safety culture and Standards of Excellence.

"I feel certain that my path to STEM resonated with some of the students and opened the eyes of others as to the career possibilities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math," he added.

Abraham also observed that JROTC students tend to be more disciplined in life activities and, therefore, often make better job candidates.

"Being in the Army ROTC and Physics Program of South Carolina State University, I was ecstatic to see those young JROTC cadets come to my campus and spend a week of intensive STEM classes," said Sophia Papa, JROTC STEM Leadership Academy mentor and participant. "I was fortunate enough to teach some of them about energy production. The JROTC STEM Academy certainly had an impact on me. As one of the organizers, I was able improve my teaching and time management skills. And as one of the ROTC cadre, I was able to help and encourage them to attend college and participate in its glorious ROTC program. The skills and lessons I took from this will most definitely be carried with me."

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 located near Aiken, South Carolina.



Janice Bentley, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Physical Security Lead, works with Junior ROTC students to identify prohibited items from the car featured in the photo, contraband items not allowed at the Savannah River Site. The instruction took place during the first annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Leadership Academy held at South Carolina State University.