

● JUNE 2026

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today



## Empowering innovative educators

Nearly 110 educators receive Mini Grants



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to connect with  
our social media

## This month

New eDC/RO software • MC Lab milestone • Family Scholarships • Celebrity Waiter



**Jeff Griffin**  
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**

During the SRNS Innovative Teaching Mini Grant reception held in Aiken, South Carolina, 109 educators from the CSRA and Orangeburg County received their share of \$75,000 in grant funds.

# Welcome

to the June 2026 edition of

# SRNS Today

This month's accomplishments reflect the dedication, innovation and community impact that continue to define SRNS. The SRTE Quality Assurance department accelerated the commercial grade dedication process for safety-significant components supporting a new mass spectrometer installation, ensuring operational excellence and safety. The PPOP Material Characterization Lab advanced metallurgical characterization capabilities by launching chemical etching in the Metallurgical Characterization Line, enabling more detailed analysis and critical workforce training.

SRNS Health Physics Services employee Alan Boone earned national recognition, receiving the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists Exam Achievement Award for achieving the highest score in the February 2026 certification exam—a first for Savannah River Site. Tim Brown, Plutonium Operations and Programs Pit Technology Manager, was recently appointed to represent SRS as a member of the NNSA's Defense Programs Science and Technology Council.

Our commitment to community impact remains strong. At Children's Place, Inc.'s 31st annual Celebrity Waiter Night, SRNS contributed \$10,000 and helped raise over \$60,000, surpassing the event goal. Through our Family Scholarship Program, we awarded \$48,000 this year, contributing to over 250 scholarships totaling more than \$760,000 since the beginning of the contract. We continue investing in STEM education, awarding \$75,000 in Innovative Teaching Mini Grants to 109 educators across 79 schools, supporting initiatives expected to reach 17,000 students.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission and values. Enjoy this month's issue of SRNS Today.



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. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please visit our website.

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**COMMON ACRONYMS**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC) • Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) • Plutonium Disposition Operations and Programs (PDOP) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) • Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

# SRTE QA team accelerates system upgrade using internal expertise

To improve efficiency and streamline operations, the SRNS SRTE Quality Assurance (QA) department accelerated their approach to the commercial grade dedication (CGD) process for safety-significant components required in the installation of a new mass spectrometer at one of SRTE's primary processing facilities.

CGD is a quality assurance process used to certify that off-the-shelf, commercial-grade parts, which were not originally manufactured under nuclear quality standards (NQA-1), will perform their intended safety functions.

"In this process, engineering teams define the technical criteria that components must meet, and QA Engineering reviews and approves these criteria. The QA Inspection Team then verifies that the components meet these standards. This process can be very lengthy and time-consuming," said Institutional Quality Manager Eddie Windhorst.

Previously, parts were sent to an external source for some of the testing criteria needed to verify that they met the critical characteristics necessary for component dedication. Recognizing an opportunity to improve this process, the team leveraged the expertise

of the SRNS Receipt Inspection team to ensure the quality and functionality of the components. By utilizing this internal resource, the project team was able to move forward with the required fabrication ahead of schedule, expediting the installation of the mass spectrometer.

Mass spectrometers are essential to SRTE's mission of supplying high quality tritium to the U.S. military. This effort showcases the Site's ability to accelerate mission-critical work, in order to meet the demands of the nuclear stockpile.

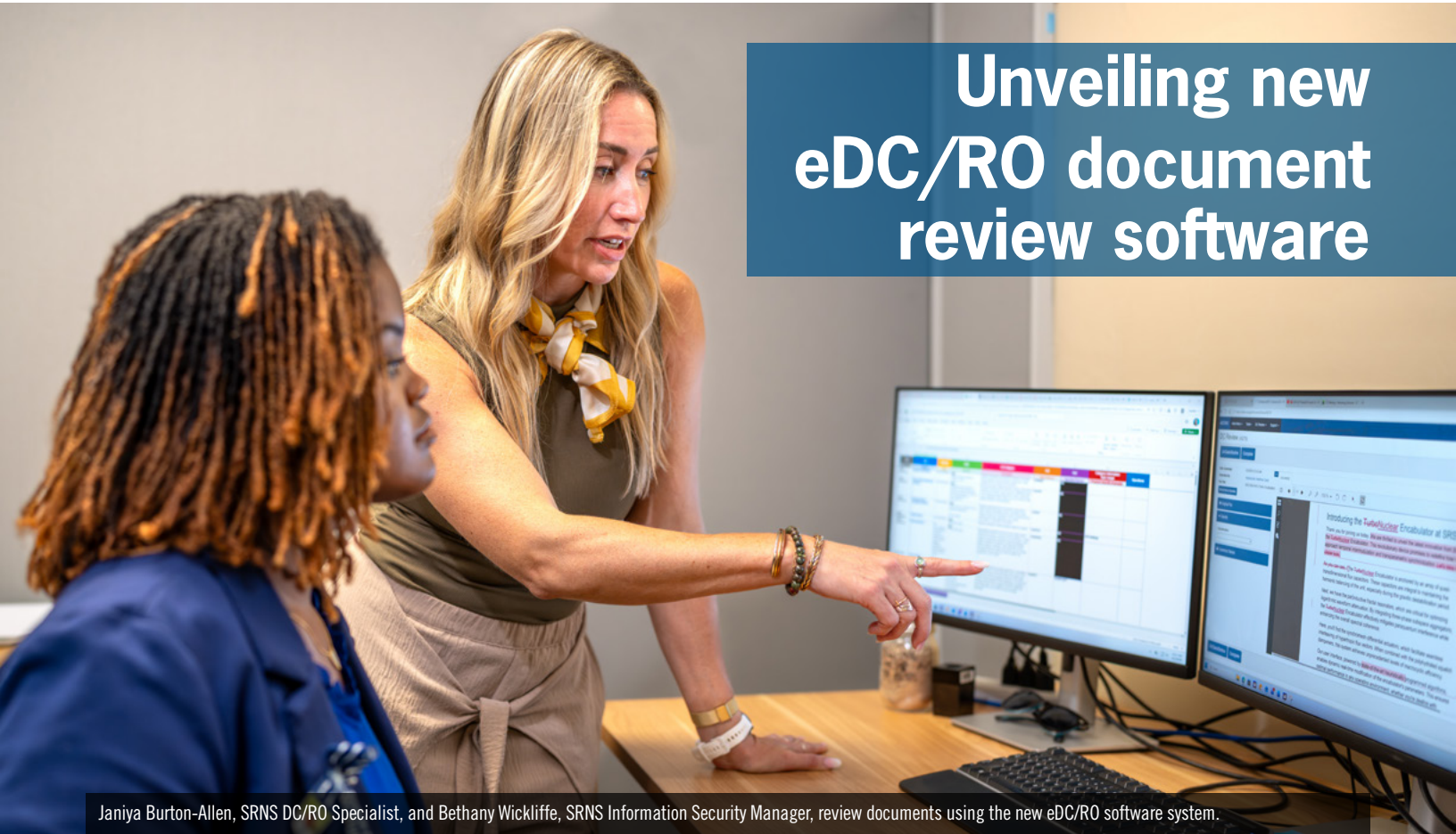
"I'm very proud of my team's willingness to support critical projects with a sense of urgency by identifying opportunities to save time without compromising quality," said Windhorst. "I am also grateful for the collaboration and support from the SRNS Receipt Inspection team, who have been instrumental in our success."

The Institutional QA group is crucial for ensuring that nuclear facilities operate safely and meet national standards. Their work protects workers, the public and the environment by continuously monitoring and improving quality, and by addressing any issues with materials or processes that don't meet requirements.



SRTE Quality Assurance Inspection's Sheba Pennington, Construction's Alex Minton and Quality Assurance Inspection's Travis Naylor measure tubing, which is one of the critical characteristics required for the commercial grade dedication process.

# Unveiling new eDC/RO document review software



Janiya Burton-Allen, SRNS DC/RO Specialist, and Bethany Wickliffe, SRNS Information Security Manager, review documents using the new eDC/RO software system.

As the Site continues ramping up its defense program missions in support of national security, the need for implementing and maturing robust security systems remains paramount. The SRNS Classification Office recently unveiled a new internal electronic system for submitting, tracking and reviewing documents, saving the company thousands of work hours.

Known as Electronic Derivative Classifier/Reviewing Official (eDC/RO), this system provides a faster, simpler, safer and more secure way to review and stamp documents. Since its implementation, the eDC/RO system has saved SRNS nearly 35,000 work hours with more than 695,000 pages reviewed.

According to Bethany Wickliffe, SRNS Information Security (InfoSec) Manager, the team identified an urgent need for a more sophisticated system for document reviews, with enhanced speed and efficiency, for the drastic increase of documents anticipated for the Site's growing defense missions. eDC/RO was the answer to this need.

Matthew Vandeventer, SRNS Lead Classification Analyst, said that, on average, his team of DC/ROs—authorized individuals tasked with analyzing and marking documents—reviews 600 documents, or approximately 6,000 pages, per week. “These individuals ensure that any newly generated or duplicated material derived from existing classified information is appropriately reviewed, classified and protected to safeguard national security,” said Vandeventer. “eDC/RO is an essential tool to manage, track and ensure the quality of those reviews.”

This tool provides a single site for all SRNS employees to submit documents for DC/RO review, as well as a centralized hub for DC/ROs

to track and review documents. Users can organize, manage and perform reviews all in one location.

“It is basically a classification office in a box,” said John Lowery, SRNS Classification Officer and SRNS Information Security Manager. “No more searching for a DC/RO with the right qualifications to review your documents; just upload, select a reviewer and wait for the results. Classification markings are automatically generated by the system and contain a unique eDC/RO ID for tracking.”

Lowery stressed that all SRNS employees have a responsibility to protect classified matter and are eligible to use this system. “Whether or not you use classified documents daily, occasionally or even if you find an unattended classified document, you must know and follow basic rules to protect this information,” he said.

eDC/RO is employed across NNSA Labs, Plants, and Sites with similar missions, including Y-12 National Security Complex, the Nevada National Security Site, Pantex and others.

According to Lowery, in addition to saving SRNS valuable time and resources, the system also provides benefits directly to the more than 800 SRNS DC/ROs across the Site. “It eliminates the need for DC/ROs to track their determinations throughout the year,” he said. “The Classification Office can access these statistics and sample documents anytime they are needed instead of reaching out to the DC/ROs on a regular basis to gather this information.”

The Classification Office is actively working to expand the eDC/RO software onto the classified system, with a tentative launch date of September 2026.

# MC Lab reaches capability milestone

The PPOP Material Characterization (MC) Lab recently completed the startup of chemical etching in the SRNS Manufacturing Technology Center's Metallurgical Characterization Line (Met Line). This achievement marks a significant advancement in the lab's capabilities, enabling personnel to perform more detailed and accurate metallographic analysis, develop critical technical competencies and gain hands-on experience essential for future facility operations and ongoing workforce training.

"Chemical etching is a vital process for exposing microstructural contrast on metal surfaces—an essential step for accurate and meaningful characterization using optical microscopy," said James Maner, MC Lab Manager. "The ability to conduct chemical etching in-house is especially important for meeting training demands, as it allows new staff and trainees to learn and practice industry-standard methods, ensuring a highly-skilled and prepared workforce."

Chemical etching reveals features such as grain boundaries, phases and inclusions that are critical for understanding material properties, assessing quality and supporting research and development. Without this process, many subtle but important microstructural details would remain hidden, limiting the effectiveness of metallographic analysis and the ability to draw informed conclusions about material performance.

Previously, etching work in the MTC was limited to ion etching, which is significantly slower than chemical etching and relies on selective removal of material, resulting in diminished clarity and speed required for high-quality training and analysis.

"The MC Lab is a critical component of our PPOP training program," said Lee Sims, Senior Vice President, Plutonium Operations and Programs. "The work being conducted in this facility is laying the foundation for developing future competency and skills that will be useful for pit production, once material handling operations commence."

Chemical etching of metallographic samples typically involves immersing the sample in the etchant or swabbing the etchant onto the sample surface. In both cases, the etchant is allowed seconds to minutes to react with the metal, after which the sample is rinsed, dried and then inspected with an optical microscope. This technique is not only faster but also more effective at revealing the true microstructure of a wide range of metals and alloys.



Daniel Foley, Lead Metallographer and Mechanical Property Scientist, performs chemical etching on a metallographic sample in the Material Characterization Lab.

"Establishing this capability was not without its challenges," said Maner. "Through careful planning, comprehensive staff training and diligent oversight, the lab has ensured that chemical etching is performed safely and efficiently. This represents a major step forward in competency development and will significantly improve turnaround time and data quality for the Material Characterization Met Line."

# Science and Technology Council selects Tim Brown

Tim Brown, Ph.D., of SRNS, was recently appointed as a member of the NNSA Defense Programs Science and Technology Council (STC). Brown, SRNS Plutonium Operations and Programs Pit Technology Manager, will begin his new assignment in July, serving as a Council member assigned to the NNSA Office of Defense Programs (NA-10).

The STC is a vetted team of senior detailees from NNSA Labs, Plants, and Sites (LPS) who investigate and explore cross-cutting science, technology and engineering issues that have an impact across the NSE. The Council supports NNSA in a variety of ways, including promoting the most elite science and technology practices throughout the enterprise, analyzing stockpile planning and hedge strategies, and championing development of NNSA's Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan.



Tim Brown

Brown's duties will include advising on science, technology, engineering and production issues related to stockpile management requirements, production modernization programs and other activities assigned to the Council by Defense Programs leadership. Current STC members include representatives from five other LPS, in addition to SRS.

"I am honored to have the opportunity and responsibility to serve on the Council and will work diligently to strengthen the ties between SRS and the rest of the NSE," said Brown.

He is taking over the role previously held by Rick Burns, SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs Senior Technical Advisor, who has served as a member of the STC for the last two years and is retiring from SRS after a distinguished 45-year career in a variety of roles.

"Dr. Brown is an excellent choice to represent SRS on the highly regarded STC," said Lee Sims, SRNS Senior Vice President, Plutonium Operations and Programs. "His extensive knowledge and technical expertise will have a direct, positive impact on NNSA's defense program missions, ensuring our nation's safety and security. We thank Rick Burns for his previous years of service in this vital role and look forward to continuing the SRNS legacy of supporting the Council's cross-cutting efforts to address critical challenges."



A view of the slurry-out process

## Upgrades to used nuclear fuel storage

Crews with SRNS have brought innovations and other improvements to a basin that stores used nuclear fuel at the Site.

They recently replaced an exhausted resin to maintain the quality and safety of the basin water. Changing the resin ensures purified water chemistry and clarity, both critical for shielding and protecting the fuel stored underwater and the personnel working around it.

The basin stores used nuclear fuel from former production reactors, and from foreign and domestic research reactor programs. It holds about 3.4 million gallons of water, with depths of 17 to 50 feet.

“From preparation through completion, our success was driven by diligence and collaboration. The new equipment and upgrades, combined with our team’s dedication, have significantly enhanced the safety, efficiency and reliability of operations,” said Tristan Downey, SRNS L Area Deputy Facility Manager.

Systems in place address the water chemistry by removing harmful impurities, ensuring low conductivity in the water. High conductivity can lead to significant risks such as degraded fuel, corrosion to the fuel’s metal covering, or cladding, and radioactive contamination. The resin captures impurities effectively, but once it reaches its capacity, it is considered spent, requiring replacement.

Workers removed the contaminated, spent resin using a process known as “slurrying” that includes two campaigns: slurry-out and slurry-in.

During the slurry-out process, a system of pumps and hoses pushes the spent resin out of tanks and into a container. Water is then removed from the container and returned to the system.

In the slurry-in process, operators create a mixture of the new resin and water to pump into the system’s process vessels.

Workers also installed water wall doors, which have dramatically improved maintenance operations. Previously, maintenance behind the water wall—a radiation shielding barrier—required draining water and partially disassembling the wall, a time-intensive process involving the use of heavy equipment.

The new hinged doors allow for easy access, requiring just minutes to open, which saves time and reduces radiation exposure for personnel. It was the first time the new doors were used for resin replacement. What once took a week and a half to execute was reduced to mere minutes.

Additionally, the completion of a major recent system upgrade transformed the facility’s control room from a dated analog system to an advanced digital interface. The upgrade now manages over 80 valves with improved efficiency, a significant step forward for operational safety and reliability.

“The integration of the control system upgrade with the execution of this complex task showcased outstanding coordination among all team members,” Downey said.

# Urgency-driven H Canyon pilot program

In June, SRNS launched a new pilot program in the Site's H Area that fundamentally shifts maintenance work planning and control processes from a one-size-fits-all nuclear standard to a graded, risk-based approach driven by urgency and tailored to three hazard levels.

The pilot aligns with DOE and NNSA's emphasis on urgency and acceleration. It also follows a broader SRNS modernization effort launched in March 2026 to accelerate non-nuclear, non-complex construction projects through the adoption of commercial requirements paired with OSHA+ safety standards.

For decades, SRS maintenance activities have operated under a work-control procedure that applied uniform, rigorous nuclear-facility standards to every job, no matter how small or regardless of risk. While appropriate for certain critical nuclear operations, it unnecessarily complicates others, creating time-intensive work packages for maintenance tasks that pose minimal facility risk or worker hazards.

The newly issued procedure addendum introduces fit-for-purpose work packages based on whether a job is classified as low, medium or high risk.

- Low-risk or routine tasks with little to no hazards require only basic work package rigor and rely primarily on employee training.
- Medium-risk tasks may need additional guidance but avoid formal instructions unless necessary.
- High-risk or non-routine jobs require detailed instructions to ensure safety and effectiveness.

The pilot also removes self-imposed requirements not mandated by DOE directives, ensuring facility operations remain fully compliant with DOE expectations while eliminating administrative burdens. The new approach is projected to cut work package planning cycle times by 65% to 75%.

"NNSA has emphasized responsiveness and proactive solutions across the NSE, urging teams to anticipate needs and act swiftly," said Andy Tisler, SRNS Senior Vice President of Infrastructure Modernization and Sustainment. "With the expected reductions in planning cycle times, this means increasing efficiency where it matters most—supporting mission operations safely and without delay."

The pilot will initially focus on maintenance activities supporting Environmental Management Operations missions, specifically those conducted in the Site's H Canyon. As the nation's only operating, production-scale, radiologically shielded chemical separations facility, H Canyon is uniquely positioned to lead this modernization effort.

In March, DOE-EM announced in a news release the decision to restart HB Line operations at SRS, providing the capability to power the nation's nuclear future by recycling surplus plutonium and partnering with industry to produce fuel for advanced nuclear reactors. Restarting HB Line will accelerate EM's plutonium disposition mission by 10 to 13 years and creates an opportunity to recover valuable isotopes available in limited quantities domestically.

"Implementing these new processes will significantly improve our efficiency and effectiveness," said Kevin Moeller, SRNS H Canyon Facility Manager. "In H Canyon, where operational tempo is high and legacy infrastructure requires constant attention, the ability to streamline work preparation without compromising safety is a major step forward for mission readiness."

SRNS' new graded work package approach reflects a broader cultural and operational shift happening across the DOE Complex. For SRNS, it means challenging the status quo and setting a new standard for maintenance planning in both nuclear and non-nuclear environments.



The Site's H Canyon facility

# SRNS Mini Grants reception

Nearly 110 educators receive grant funding to advance STEM learning

**SRNS HONORED NEARLY 110** outstanding educators during the annual Innovative Teaching Mini Grants reception, celebrating creative, hands-on STEM projects that will reach thousands of students across the region. Awarding \$75,000 in classroom grants this year, SRNS continued a long-standing philanthropic commitment to strengthening STEM education and supporting the workforce pipeline essential to the Site's national security missions.

The evening brought together educators representing 79 schools, whose projects span a wide range of STEM initiatives, including robotics, drone technology, environmental science, astronomy, coding and engineering-based investigations.

Nearly 110 of the 329 applications were selected to receive grants of \$500, \$750 or \$1,000, supporting new materials and equipment that will benefit approximately 17,000 students.

"Tonight we celebrate educators who turn curiosity into capability," said SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead Taylor Rice. "Today's educators play a critical role in preparing future STEM professionals and skilled technicians who will help carry forward SRNS' mission to make the world safer."

These impacts reflect the heart of SRNS Education Outreach Programs, which has invested more than \$1.125 million in local STEM education since 2009. As SRS prepares for significant workforce growth, including an anticipated 2,000 new hires over the next five years, the need for a strong local talent pipeline continues to grow.

During the ceremony, Jeff Griffin reflected on the Site's 75-year legacy of scientific innovation, national security contributions and strong community partnerships. "As SRNS advances missions of national importance, we know our success depends on strong schools, dedicated educators and thriving communities," he said. "We consider it a true privilege to partner with you in strengthening our workforce, our Site and our community."

"This hands-on approach deepens students' understanding of scientific and mathematical concepts while building essential skills," said Kari Keck, a first-grade teacher at Aiken Elementary. "For families who have fewer resources for outside activities, this funding ensures students still receive quality, engaging learning experiences."

Matt Herring of Merriwether Middle School will integrate physics, data analysis and engineering into disc golf experiments, reaching more than 175 students in his classes and disc golf club. "These grants amplify student interest by providing high-quality equipment needed for scientific investigations involving Newton's Law, energy transfer and projectile motion," he said.

Mini Grants support K-12 public, private and charter school educators across the CSRA and Orangeburg County. Proposals undergo an anonymous review panel of 50 judges to ensure fairness and high educational impact.



Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Programs Lead, speaks at the event.



Jeff Griffin presents awards to Mini Grants winners.



# Celebrating 2025 grant impact

SRNS visited two 2025 grant recipients whose projects are transforming classrooms.

Educator Ashley Exantus purchased two new 3D printers and filament to support design engineering learning across three classes at A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School.

Exantus also secured a second grant to launch the school's first robotics initiative. Beginning with a small after-school group, students learned to build and code robots using durable tools and components that can be reused for years to come. This initiative helps students think creatively, troubleshoot, collaborate and begin exploring pathways toward STEM careers.

"With plans to expand robotics capabilities next year, this year I'm working with 16 students through our after-school robotics program," she said. "Our team competes throughout the school year in Macon, Georgia, and this funding has been instrumental in supporting our work. Robotics and 3D printing help students understand key concepts through exploration while opening their eyes to future career options."

Educator Amanda Waymer acquired 20 Micro:bit processors, compact devices that allow students to learn coding using JavaScript, Python or block coding. With sensor kits, students at Aiken Scholars Academy can program each device to respond to radio, light, temperature and other inputs, turning abstract concepts into interactive learning experiences.

"Micro:bits give students an accessible, exciting introduction to coding and cyber," said Waymer. "They can write code, test it, troubleshoot it and watch their work come to life. It also helps them build communication and teamwork skills as they plan, solve problems and execute their projects together."

The equipment also strengthened the school's Cyber Patriots program, giving students tools to practice debugging, security configurations and policy changes in a fun, approachable way.



Nearly 110 educators receive Mini Grants.



A.R. Johnson



Aiken Scholars Academy

# Prepared to protect

## SRSFD earns top honors at NNSA training

The Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD) recently showcased its commitment to excellence and emergency preparedness by earning first place in the Fire Department category at the NNSA Active Assailant Response workshop. This event brought together top fire departments and protective force teams from across the NNSA Enterprise for a comprehensive five-day workshop, held May 4-8.

Designed to benchmark compliance with the NNSA Enterprise Mission Essential Task List (EMETL) for active assailant response, the workshop also fostered collaboration between rescue and protective force units. Fourteen protective force teams and 11 firefighter or rescue teams, including Centerra personnel, participated in 14 events—11 graded scenarios and three large-scale exercises.

Each day emphasized a different aspect of emergency response. The workshop began with a review of site policies and procedures, establishing a baseline for EMETL standards. On the second day, teams engaged in “deliberate practice” to hone essential skills. Grading started on day three, with teams tackling increasingly complex real-world scenarios. The final days featured large-scale, dynamic exercises requiring teamwork under pressure.

SRSFD’s team included Division Chief of Training T.J. Brown, Division Chief of Health and Safety Phillip Weathers, Captain Reynaldo Ruiz, Captain Anthony Feraci, Firefighter/Paramedics Jonathan Brown, Alex Murray, Justin Benton, and James Martinez, and Firefighter/EMTs Jerry Tysdal and Thomas Johnson. Their expertise and teamwork were key to the department’s success.



The Savannah River Site Fire Department and Centerra personnel attend the NNSA Active Assailant Response workshop, held at the Constellis Training Facility in Moyock, North Carolina.

SRSFD plans to share lessons learned with on-site colleagues, enhancing both their own capabilities and collaboration with Centerra, which helps protect the Site and its community.

“This workshop was an invaluable opportunity to test our skills, learn from our peers and strengthen our partnerships,” said SRSFD Fire Chief Travis Scott. “I am incredibly proud of our team’s dedication and professionalism.”

SRSFD’s achievement highlights their readiness and contributes to best practices and interagency cooperation across the NNSA network.

# Alan Boone receives top score on radiation protection exam

Recently, SRNS Health Physics Services employee Alan Boone received the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) Exam Achievement Award for the highest score on the February 2026 certification exam. This prestigious award is presented to the individual who attains the top score on each scheduled NRRPT examination, a rigorous test required to become a certified Radiological Protection Technician.

The NRRPT certification is recognized across the industry as a benchmark of excellence, certifying professionals who demonstrate superior knowledge and competency in the radiation field. While numerous SRS employees have earned NRRPT certification over the years, Boone distinguished himself by achieving the highest score in the nation among 53 candidates, marking the first time an employee from the Site has received this honor.

“Passing the NRRPT exam is a significant achievement, but earning the highest score is truly exceptional,” said Radiological Protection Director Roy Windham. “Alan’s success highlights both his personal dedication and expertise, while also demonstrating SRNS’ unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards in radiation protection and safety.”



SRNS employee Alan Boone

# A legacy of learning

SRNS holds Family Scholarship event



SRNS recognizes 15 Family Scholarship winners.

Each year, SRNS recognizes 15 graduating high school students who are children of SRNS employees by awarding them college scholarships. This year, SRNS continued this legacy by again awarding 15 \$3,200 scholarships, totaling \$48,000 during the 2026 Family Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony, held at Newberry Hall in Aiken, South Carolina, celebrated far more than financial awards. It honored the dedication of students who are actively shaping their futures and the unwavering support of the families who stand behind them. The event also underscored SRNS' long-standing pledge to honor its employees and invest in education as a pathway to strengthening both the workforce and the communities it serves.

For more than 17 years, the Family Scholarship Program has awarded over 250 scholarships totaling more than \$760,000.

"The Family Scholarship Program is one of the most meaningful investments we make as a company," said Sean Alford, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. "By supporting the educational dreams of our employees' children, we're investing not only in their future, but in the future of the communities we serve."

This year's recipients were selected through a competitive application process evaluating academic achievement, leadership experience and personal accomplishments. Their diverse interests and career goals highlight the bright future ahead for this new class of scholars.



*"By supporting the educational dreams of our employees' children, we're investing not only in their future, but in the future of the communities we serve."*

**Sean Alford,**  
**SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer**



## 2026 SRNS Family Scholarship recipients

- **Amiya Brooks**, student at John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet High School, child of Samantha Brooks of Safeguards and Emergency Services
- **Andrew McKinney**, student at South Aiken Baptist Christian School, child of Michael McKinney of Design Engineering
- **Anna Dingfelder**, student at Aiken High School, child of Henry Dingfelder of Operational Excellence
- **Carolyn Cross**, student at Lakeside High School, child of Kevin Cross of Tritium Operations, Training Procedures
- **Declan Miller**, student at Bonita High School, child of Jeremy Miller of Workforce Service and Talent Management
- **Dylan Harris**, student at Ridge Spring-Monetta Middle/High School, child of Maretha Harris of Operational Excellence
- **Elias James**, student at Aiken Scholars Academy, child of David James of Nuclear/Criticality Safety Engineering
- **Emma Riede**, student at Los Alamos High School, child of Robert Riede of Operational Technology
- **Harrison Williams**, student at Aiken Scholars Academy, child of Carl Williams of Information Technology
- **Isabelle Best**, student at Greenbrier High School, child of William Best of Operational Technology
- **Jacob Werling**, student at Harlem High School, child of Paul Werling of Nuclear/Criticality Safety Engineering
- **John Dolin**, student at Alleluia Community School, child of David Dolin of Nuclear/Criticality Safety Engineering
- **Ryan French**, student at French Family Home School, child of Phillip French of Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs
- **Shlok Trivedi**, student at Lakeside High School, child of Kavyesh Trivedi of Operational Technology
- **Taylor Chilton**, student at John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet High School, child of Samantha Chilton of Engineering Technical Services

# Welcoming nearly 150 summer interns

The 2026 SRNS Summer Internship Program provided opportunities for 144 talented students from 45 colleges in 16 states across the United States.

The 12-week program offers interns an immersive, explorative opportunity to learn where their skillset may fit across SRS, including disciplines such as engineering, computer science, physical sciences, business services, site services and more.

The program kicked off on June 3, at the Internship Orientation event, where interns learned more about the company, its missions, and what would be expected of them throughout the summer program.

Previous interns shared testimonials at the orientation, describing their prior experiences as a great way to network and connect with both young and seasoned professionals. They also discussed how they successfully transitioned from the classroom to the workplace.

Internship Program Coordinator Felicia Hartzog stated that her team is excited to bring in the new year of interns.

“We have a great group of interns this year. They’re excited, motivated and ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. Each intern brings with them their own diverse set of educational background and skills,” Hartzog said.

The previous year’s program saw 38 interns selected for full-service positions and 25 intern-to-apprenticeship conversions. This successful conversion and retention of talented staff is part of the SRNS workforce pipeline strategy. SRNS plans to hire approximately 2,000 employees to meet the needs of its NNSA and DOE customers and SRS missions over the next few years.

Many returning interns, such as Kiyah Robinson, have recently graduated from college. She personally sees the SRNS Internship Program as a great step to finding a career, stating, “I’m really enjoying my experience learning about waste management. I’m hoping to continue working with the Environmental Compliance Authority and gain a full-time position after this internship.”



Jeff Griffin addresses interns about the successes of previous cohorts, the importance of nuclear deterrence and the future of nuclear energy.

The following week on Wednesday, June 10, interns had the opportunity to network with SRNS executives during the annual Executive Meet and Greet. The program opened with a brief statement from Jeff Griffin. “Each year, SRNS receives thousands of applications from talented college students across the country. Of the applications we received this year, 144 of you were chosen for this fantastic program that identifies potential future employees who are interested in our missions and the company who gets it done.”

Valencia Bustamante, a Political Science student at Clemson University and returning SRNS intern, stated that the internship program has provided a great, multifaceted experience that continues to get better each year.

“This year I’m more focused on building connections and coming out of my shell. Everyone at SRNS is welcoming and helping me to make long-lasting, professional connections,” Bustamante said. “I can really tell that a lot of work and attention has been put in this year to make the program an even greater experience, which I really appreciate.”





## Enhancing drone inspection capabilities

**S**RNS Site Services and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) teams are expanding their use of drone technology to enhance SRS infrastructure inspections—improving safety, reducing labor needs and delivering measurable cost savings.

In 2023, SRNS and SRNL formalized a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to support aerial inspections of key structures and systems, including domestic water elevated storage tanks, river water piping corridors, fire water tanks, roof systems, power distribution, steam pipelines and other critical assets that support ongoing operations.

During each mission, Site Services Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM), Operations and Engineering personnel collaborate with a SRNL pilot and spotters to review real-time imagery, enabling qualified staff to perform detailed visual assessments directly from the drone controller interface.

“By integrating drone technology on-site, we are redefining how maintenance inspections are performed, especially for elevated and remote assets,” said Dawson Oglesby, SRNS Site Services RCM Team. “Not only does this improve safety, but it also streamlines the inspection process, saving both time and costs while delivering accurate, real-time results.”

Traditional inspections of certain areas require substantial manpower and physical access. For example, inspecting river water piping in wetland terrain previously required two to six workers to cut access paths, haul equipment and navigate challenging ground conditions. Drone-based inspections eliminate land disturbances, reduce labor requirements, improve safety and accelerate assessment timelines.

In one case, transitioning to UAS inspections resulted in more than \$43,000 in cost avoidance. As a result, SRNS Site Services leadership has committed to partnering with the SRNL UAS team for river water piping assessments moving forward, reducing the need for invasive ground access while capturing high-quality imagery to support maintenance decisions.

“We’re always looking for safer, more efficient ways to verify that our systems meet regulatory standards and are operating as designed,” said Randy Keenan, SRNS Director of Site Services. “Using UAS, our personnel can evaluate conditions in a fraction of the time it takes to walk or climb an inspection route, while quickly identifying erosion concerns, equipment issues or structural wear.”

Drone technology has also proven to be safer and more effective for regulatory inspections, once performed by staff climbing elevated structures. UAS flight assessments of domestic water elevated storage tanks can verify hatch locks, aviation warning lights and vent screens without requiring personnel to scale the towers.

The UAS program began in 2017 to support SRNL, SRS contractors, and research and development efforts, later expanding to serve partners across the Armed Forces, federal agencies, law enforcement and the intelligence community. To date, the SRNS Site Services RCM team has facilitated more than 50 joint inspection flights with SRNL as additional project managers adopt UAS as an inspection tool.

“UAS technology has become a powerful asset for SRS,” said Troy Lorier, SRNL UAS Operations Manager and Aviation Safety Officer. “This SLA ensures we can deliver consistent, high-quality inspection support while helping SRNS improve efficiency, reduce risks and make more informed maintenance decisions.”



SRNS Fire Protection Engineers Aaron Splitter, Parth Patel and Zachery Wilson, and SRNL's UAS pilot Jeffrey Steedley, right, perform an inspection of a fire water tank at SRS.



SRNS and Children's Place employees pose together during the disco themed 31st annual SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night.

## Disco for a cause

### SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night raises funds

SRNS employees stepped into full disco shimmer as they gathered at Newberry Hall as part of Children's Place, Inc.'s 31st annual Celebrity Waiter Night. With bright lights, bold colors and a retro beat in the air, the disco theme set the stage for a lively evening dedicated to uplifting local children and strengthening families across the community.

As a diamond sponsor of the event, which raises money for Children's Place, Inc.'s Therapeutic Child Care program, SRNS contributed \$10,000 to this year's event and helped raise an additional \$50,000 through sponsorships, online and live auctions, raffles and waiter tips. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of SRNS employees, the event exceeded its \$55,000 fundraising goal, resulting in a total contribution of over \$60,000 to Children's Place, Inc.

SRNS employees, including event co-chairs Victoria "Tori" Slate and Carolyn "CJ" Rachels, played a major role in coordinating another memorable and impactful evening. Their commitment, creativity and leadership helped ensure the continued success of this long standing community tradition.

For more than 58 years, Children's Place, Inc. has served as a cornerstone of support in Aiken County, offering compassionate, research based programs that help young children and families recover from trauma and build healthier futures.

At the center of this mission is the organization's Therapeutic Child Care (TCC) program—one of only two in South Carolina and the sole provider of its kind in the CSRA. Designed specifically for children under age six who have experienced trauma, the TCC program offers specialized mental health counseling and rehabilitative therapies in a safe, structured environment. These services give children the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive while ensuring families receive the resources necessary to support long term healing.

Together, SRNS and Children's Place, Inc. remain dedicated to empowering families, strengthening the region, and creating brighter futures for the next generation.

## DOELAP reaffirms EBL accreditation

To ensure the SRS radiobioassay program meets federal standards, the Department of Energy Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) recently conducted an on-site assessment of SRS' Health Physics Services (HPS) and Environmental Bioassay Laboratory (EBL).

DOELAP makes sure DOE laboratories comply with federal regulations for radiobioassay and dosimetry programs. At SRS, the accredited EBL conducts urine and fecal radiobioassays, managing indirect testing of laboratory samples (in vitro), while HPS performs direct testing on individuals (in vivo).

The SRS Internal Dosimetry Program monitors individuals using both direct and indirect radiobioassay techniques. For direct monitoring, a Chest Counter machine is used to evaluate possible intakes of radionuclides by measuring gamma radiation from transuranic isotopes such as Pu-238 and Pu-239. Indirect monitoring is accomplished by collecting and analyzing individual urine samples. Together, these methods help determine the potential committed effective dose for personnel involved in radiological incidents.

Every three years, DOELAP assesses SRS' performance through simulated sample testing and on-site reviews. In the latest assessment, DOELAP representatives interviewed staff and reviewed documentation, concluding that SRS continues to meet all accreditation requirements. The program is run by skilled professionals dedicated to accuracy and reliability.

Annually, EBL conducts about 6,800 urinalyses (including 5,300 tritium analyses), and HPS performs 1,500 direct measurements. In fiscal year 2025, EBL increased tritium analyses to over 20,000 to support the SRTE Tritium Outage. Beyond SRS, EBL provides radiobioassay services and HPS offers in vivo testing to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, with backup support for Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 Complex.

In February 2026, EBL received notification from DOELAP that all performance testing results for the 2026 session met the required criteria. Reflecting on the recent results, Radiobioassay Technical Director Josh Delaney said, "Following a successful on-site audit, EBL will remain accredited for another three years of urine and fecal radiobioassay activities at SRS."



Scientist Barbara Warren loads samples prepared for Liquid Scintillation Counting.

# THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



**Carolyn “CJ” Rachels**

**AT SRNS:** SRPPF Operations Project Integration Specialist

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** Co-chair for the Children’s Place Inc. 2026 SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night, Volunteer for CSRA College Night and a South Carolina Guardian ad Litem

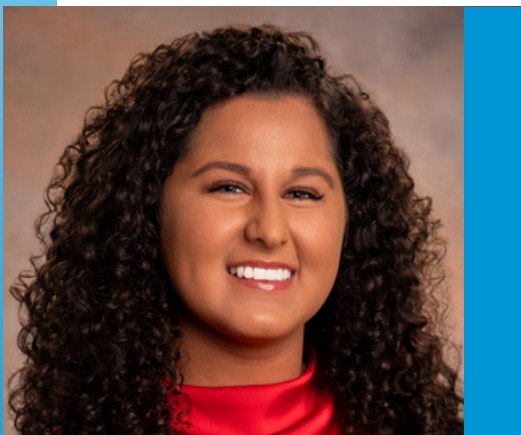
With 25 years of service at the Savannah River Site, Carolyn “CJ” Rachels has built a career defined by expertise, collaboration and commitment to mission success. A University of South Carolina graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Minor in Business, her education has supported diverse roles across the Site.

As an SRPPF Operations Project Integration Specialist, Rachels serves as a Subject Matter Expert for Operations, Maintenance, Training and Procedures. She collaborates with cross-functional teams to evaluate operational needs and ensure effective integration throughout project phases, uniting varied perspectives to solve complex challenges and becoming a trusted resource at SRPPF.

Rachels began her career as an Analytical Laboratory Technician at the Defense Waste Processing Facility, later gaining environmental laboratory experience before moving into radiological protection. Over 13 years, she supported missions and facilities across the Site, where she later advanced into leadership roles as FH Lab Shift Operations Manager and SRPPF Deputy Operations Manager, strengthening her operational insight and team leadership.

Outside of work, Rachels enjoys traveling and exploring nature, having visited 33 states and five countries. She values time with her children and embraces new experiences. A former member of the SRS Women in Nuclear Professional Development Committee, she remains dedicated to supporting others.

Committed to community service, Rachels co-chaired the 2026 SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night, raising over \$65,000 for Children’s Place, Inc., and volunteers with CSRA College Night. She has also served as a South Carolina Guardian ad Litem, advocating for children in foster care. Born and raised in North Augusta, South Carolina, she approaches each day with dedication, compassion and optimism.



**Victoria “Tori” Slate**

**AT SRNS:** Site Drill Team Scenario Writer at SRTE

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** Co-chair for the Children’s Place Inc. 2026 SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night, volunteer for United Way and CSRA College Night Committee member.

Victoria “Tori” Slate brings a dynamic blend of technical expertise, leadership and a passion for continuous improvement to her role as Site Drill Team Scenario Writer at SRTE. With seven years at the Site, she develops and designs realistic emergency response scenarios—ranging from radiological releases to fires, spills and medical events—ensuring Emergency Response Organizations are ready to act with accuracy and coordination during real-world incidents.

Slate’s career path reflects her versatility and commitment to learning. Before her current role, she supported the Manufacturing Technology Center as Operations Support, leading welding machine operations, managing procurement, coordinating confined spaces and assisting with chemical and training responsibilities. She has also held numerous critical roles supporting SRPPF operations and began her SRNS journey as a Supply Chain and Procurement intern. Her educational background includes an associate degree in welding technology from Aiken Technical College and a Bachelor of Science in business administration with an emphasis in management from the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Slate values the people she works with and the rich history of the Site, which inspire her sense of pride. She is also motivated by the wide range of career opportunities.

Outside of work, Slate seeks adventure; she has snorkeled during a hurricane, learned fencing from a former Olympic official, interned in the Bahamas and traveled to 21 states and 11 countries. She is deeply engaged in community service, having co-chaired SRNS Celebrity Waiter Night since 2023—an event that has raised nearly \$200,000 for Children’s Place, Inc. She also volunteers with CSRA College Night and United Way. Slate is a lifelong resident of Aiken, South Carolina, living with her husband Noah, their golden retrievers, cats and 18 chickens.

# FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.



**SCAN ME**  
to connect with  
our social media



**Lisa Steed**

Continuous Improvement  
Specialist



**Shanissa McKie**

Human Resources  
Business Partner



**Carolyn "C.J." Rachels**

SRPPF Operations Project  
Integration Specialist



**Victoria "Tori" Slate**

Site Drill Team Scenario  
Writer at SRTE

# SRNS

**Supplying products and services necessary  
to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent**

**Securing nuclear materials to prevent  
unwanted proliferation**

**Developing innovative approaches to deliver  
on our environmental commitments and  
nuclear materials challenges**

**Transforming nuclear materials into assets  
and stable wasteforms**



Savannah River  
**NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS**<sup>SM</sup>