

● JANUARY 2022

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today



## Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards

SRNS employees achieve highest DOE honors



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### This month

Tritium projects complete banner year • Apprenticeships • WORCshop@AU competition



**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

# Welcome

to the January 2022 edition of

# SRNS Today

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) has hit the ground running in 2022. When I look back on the past two years, I am amazed at all we accomplished in spite of the challenges we faced. I am excited by the potential for success and project excellence that this year holds.

I am proud to announce that SRNS employees, including members of the Target Residue Material program team and representatives of the W76-2 Team, have received Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards again this year. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm presented the awards to honor achievements that supported the National Nuclear Security Administration’s portfolio of work during a virtual ceremony in January.

SRS has hit its 4,000th consecutive environmental compliance cleanup milestone since 1993. Our record of successful environmental cleanup has exceeded all expectations and every year we reduce the Site’s legacy footprint a little more.

Also in January, we kicked off our 2022 Safety Campaign and the 2022 American Heart Association fundraising campaign; the Solid Waste Management Facility installed equipment that will allow for the characterization and shipment of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant; and SRNS celebrated the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise for its banner year in small project execution in 2021.

I have no doubt that we will continue to meet and exceed expectations of our community, the Department of Energy, and the nation in 2022.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site 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 contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

[savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

#### COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS)  
Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Some of the photos in this issue were taken under previous COVID-19 guidelines, including guidelines with no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.



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**NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS**<sup>SM</sup>  
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## 4,000th environmental compliance cleanup milestone achieved



Over the years, multiple permits were obtained to successfully complete several phases involving the cleanup of D Area at SRS. SRNS personnel managed the demolition of structures and steamlines (above) that crisscrossed this major remediation project.

Site employees recently achieved their 4,000th environmental cleanup milestone since 1993, when state and federal regulators enacted the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). SRNS has been responsible for the Site's environmental cleanup program since August 2008, when it became the Site's management and operations contractor.

"Hitting this milestone validates the extraordinary level of performance achieved and level of dedication found within our workforce regarding cleanup projects, programs and compliance across the Savannah River Site (SRS)," said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality. "Our goal is not simply to meet expectations, but to excel within all aspects of our responsibilities related to environmental monitoring, testing and remediation. That's an extremely important priority for our company."

SRNS FFA Liaison Shelia McFalls noted that each of the 4,000 milestones was completed on or ahead of schedule, maintaining a standard of excellence throughout the decades. "Not once did we miss a deadline. Often, we came in ahead of schedule, sometimes months ahead," she said. "I think we all have reason to take pride in that. I'm proud of my co-workers' exceptional work ethic."

This multi-decade achievement involved a wide range of cleanup initiatives, permits, testing and projects. McFalls emphasized that it was accomplished by partnering with regulators, using a Core Team Process. The Core Team consisted of decision-makers from DOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. It was supported by the Project Team including SRNS' and regulatory agencies' technical subject matter experts.

"Working together with the best interests of all involved is the primary objective of this process," said McFalls. "The mutual respect displayed, positive reinforcement given for innovative ideas and the sharing of expectations are but a few reasons this concept has been so successful and rewarding. It's a comprehensive and proven approach to environmental cleanup established here at the Savannah River Site."

Examples of milestones achieved using this process include:

1. Grouted and permanently closed two nuclear reactor buildings.
2. Prevented nearly 7,000 curies of tritium from entering the Savannah River and saved \$208 million by drawing up irrigated water containing legacy tritium through 62-acres of pine trees, which harmlessly released the isotope into the atmosphere through photosynthesis.
3. Constructed a large underground, water-permeable wall made of 1.5 million pounds of iron filings from reclaimed automobile engines. The wall neutralizes Cold War-era chemical solvents found in the aquifer beneath SRS and acts like a giant water filter to remove and break down degreasing solvents.
4. Completed cleanup of more than 90 acres of coal ash-contaminated land a year earlier than scheduled and saved \$8 million. This mammoth cleanup task consolidated more than 400,000 cubic yards of coal ash under protective geosynthetic material and thick earthen caps.

SRS also maintained compliance with more than 500 regulatory permits, having no major issues or concerns identified by regulators.

"I'm looking forward to see what happens next. We have several major projects on the horizon and high expectations regarding our future milestones," said Sprague.

# Keeping it moving

## New X-ray at SRS next step to waste removal

With the recent installation of equipment at the Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF), newly generated transuranic (TRU) waste can now be characterized and certified by the National TRU Program, paving the way for off-site shipment and disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The equipment, a Real Time Radiography unit, utilizes an X-ray system to allow the contents of waste containers (e.g., 55-gallon drums or standard waste boxes) holding radioactive waste to go through a non-destructive examination (NDE).

WIPP has specific standards for the waste containers allowed to be disposed in their underground repository. The NDE portion of characterization verifies and validates that the waste within each container matches the documentation provided by SRS and that it does not contain any WIPP-prohibited items, without operators having to physically open the TRU waste container.

“The TRU waste we have shipped off-site in the past few years had already been characterized using equipment that was removed from the SWMF several years ago,” said Kerri Crawford, SRNS Solid Waste Programs Manager. “Operation of this equipment, in conjunction with other TRU waste characterization equipment installed at the Solid Waste Management Facility last year, will allow new TRU waste



A transuranic waste drum is loaded into the Real Time Radiography unit for characterization.

generated from SRS operations to be certified and ultimately shipped to WIPP.”

The term transuranic refers to elements with an atomic number greater than that of uranium (92). TRU wastes typically consist of protective clothing, tools, rags, equipment and miscellaneous items contaminated with small amounts of plutonium.

This equipment is owned by DOE’s Central Characterization Program for use throughout the DOE Complex. It was previously used by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, then sent for refurbishment before being provided to SRS for use in SWMF.

## F Area legacy facilities move to dayshift only operations

SRS continues to make progress towards closure of some legacy facilities in the Site’s F Area Complex, with the reduction from 24-hour coverage to day operations in November 2021.

“The three main legacy facilities in F Area Complex are Building 235-F, the F/H Analytical Laboratory, and the F Canyon chemical separations facility,” said Verne Mooneyhan, F Area Facility Manager for SRNS. “These facilities are in various stages of facility deactivation, and surveillance and maintenance, which have required operators to be present in the area 24/7. However, recent cessation of analytical operations, implementation of new DOE-approved technical safety requirements for facility operations — called a Safety Basis — and deactivation progress have allowed us to move to days.”

Building 235-F was part of the original construction in the early 1950s and was utilized for several production missions throughout its operational life, each of which left a mark on the robust facility. Its operations benefited the nation’s defense, NASA and DOE. Deactivation will place the facility in a stable condition for long-term safe storage until the eventual decommissioning. Deactivation is scheduled to be complete in September 2022.

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) has performed analytical sampling from radiochemical processing and radiological environmental monitoring programs at facilities across the Site for over 55 years and utilized the F/H Analytical Laboratory, one of F Area’s legacy facilities. To reduce costs and streamline capabilities, SRNS and SRNL completed a multi-year project to relocate analytical

services and methods from SRNL’s analytical laboratory facilities in F Area to SRNL’s main laboratory in A Area, several miles away. All 59 Laboratory Methods have been relocated and established in A Area. Deactivation of the legacy F/H Laboratory is projected to be complete in FY2027. Between FY2018 and FY2021, 45 labs no longer in use were placed in layup, which will help accelerate deactivation. Additionally, DOE-HQ recently approved excessing of F/H Labs and support structures.

Historically, F Canyon was used as a chemical separations facility to recover plutonium-239 and uranium-238. F Canyon chemically dissolved and processed spent nuclear fuel, much like the H Canyon facility at SRS continues to do today. F Canyon deactivation was completed in 2010, and the facility is awaiting decommissioning.

Transitioning away from 24-hour operations came with challenges and obstacles ranging from available resources due to COVID-19, to the implementation of two nuclear safety basis revisions happening concurrently within the facility. This effort involved multiple organizations from around SRS and required them to take a significant deep dive into the preparations to set up the area for the transition.

“Moving to days in these legacy facilities in F Area, frees up manpower for other important missions on-site,” said Mooneyhan. “Most importantly, it’s one step closer to deactivating portions of F Area and allowing us to fulfill our commitment to cleaning up the environment from activities related to the Cold War.”

# SRS Tritium projects complete banner year

**T**o continue successfully serving the NNSA missions at SRS, SRNS is carrying out a number of construction projects. Much has been said about the large NNSA capital projects currently underway; however, there are numerous lesser-known SRNS construction projects that are also vital to ensuring that SRS is able to continue fulfilling these important national needs, especially in the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE).

“We refer to these as ‘small projects,’ but that may give the wrong impression. That term refers to anything that does not require a separate line item in the Congressional Budget, which means any project with a Total Estimated Cost less than \$20 million. That includes some really substantial projects,” said Allen Neiling, SRNS Director, Savannah River Tritium Facility Projects. These represent many different ways in which SRNS is modernizing SRTE to keep it safely and efficiently carrying out its national security missions.

2021 was a banner year for SRTE’s “small” projects, with SRNS achieving several highly anticipated milestones and meeting objectives for spending. Those milestones included the installation and connection of the new diesel generator. The diesel generator is part of the “bridging” strategy to maintain H Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM) until the new Tritium Finishing Facility (one of SRNS’ large NNSA capital projects, now in design and planning), is completed and comes online to replace it. It provides emergency power to HAOM in the event site power is lost, to maintain the ventilation that prevents radiological release from the facility.

The installation project installed the new diesel generator foundation, diesel generator and enclosure, fuel tank, and associated electrical commodities, including the switchgear. The connection project involved the tie-in of the electrical power from HAOM to the diesel generator to include installation of cable tray and supports, conduit, cable, and terminations. Two significant electrical outages to 234-H were required to tie in the electrical power to the diesel.

“COVID-19 certainly impacted our schedule for completing the generator replacement,” Neiling said, “but in the end we were able to successfully complete the work and turn the new generator over to Operations ahead of the negotiated milestone extension.”

Other projects that are part of the formal bridging strategy for HAOM will help enable the aging facility to continue safe operations. One of these is the replacement of four 60-year-old motor control centers (MCCs), which kicked off in 2021, mobilizing seven weeks ahead of the milestone due date. The fan control cabinet was fabricated and the four MCCs were received in 2021. Like several of the projects in SRTE, the transfers to the new MCCs have to be scheduled to take place during planned outages, so they can be accomplished without disrupting SRTE’s operations.

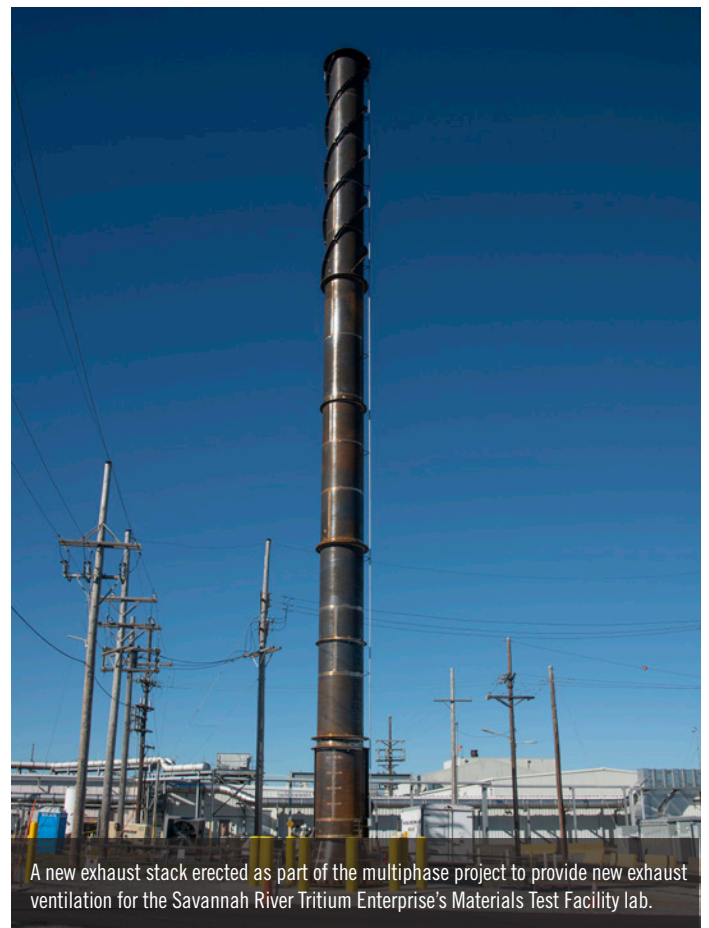
A number of “small” projects serve to modernize other SRTE facilities. Among the most significant of these is the replacement of about 30 outdated oxygen monitors in H Area New Manufacturing facility gloveboxes. In 2021, SRNS replaced five, the most ever done in a single year. Like the MCC work, this must be scheduled to be performed without impacting operations.

A large, multiphase project to provide new exhaust ventilation for SRTE’s Materials Test Facility (MTF) lab began in 2021. This project

will eliminate the lab’s reliance on aging ventilation associated with HAOM. The first phase focused on a new 100-foot exhaust stack. In addition to assembling and erecting the stack itself, which came in three separate sections, the early work included clearing and grading the area, installing a new road, and removing existing overhead power lines and a power pole. The remaining work, which includes ductwork, fans, an electrical building, and an emergency diesel generator, is scheduled to complete during 2022.

For 2022 and beyond, SRNS is ramping up to an even higher level of small project performance. This calendar year, plans include completion of construction for the MCC replacement, completion of construction for the MTF ventilation project, and replacement of four more oxygen monitors.

To avoid impacts to the SRTE production schedule, which the U.S. Department of Defense relies upon, SRNS plans to take advantage of a scheduled partial facility outage in 2025 to carry out six significant maintenance and repair projects totaling nearly \$100 million. These projects support the Thermal Cycling Absorption Process (TCAP — the process SRTE uses to produce the highest-quality tritium by isolating the pure tritium from other gases) and focus on replacing a portion of the system equipment, including the TCAP column and the hot-and-cold nitrogen system that allows the beds to function properly. SRNS has completed the conceptual designs and estimates for these six projects; initiation of final designs and long-lead procurements will begin in this year.



A new exhaust stack erected as part of the multiphase project to provide new exhaust ventilation for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise’s Materials Test Facility lab.

The background of the entire page is the official seal of the U.S. Department of Energy. It features a central shield with a sun, an atom, and a lightning bolt, topped by an eagle. The shield is set against a circular background with the words "DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY" around the perimeter. The seal is rendered in a dark, metallic blue color.

## SRNS employees recognized with Secretary's Achievement Awards

**J**ennifer M. Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy, recently presented Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards to the team responsible for the safe and successful completion of a multi-year campaign to support global nuclear security goals by transporting highly enriched uranium (HEU) liquid to the Site from Canada for processing. Two other SRNS employees were recognized for the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise's (SRTE) role on the W76-2 Modification Team, supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent.

The Secretary of Energy Achievement Awards honor groups or teams of DOE employees and contractors who accomplish significant achievements on behalf of the Department, demonstrating cooperation and teamwork in attaining their goals.

A virtual award ceremony was held on January 11, 2022 for those teams whose achievements supported the NNSA's portfolio of work. Secretary Granholm congratulated and thanked the employees, saying "Not only did these awardees get the job done, they did it as a team. It is a privilege to call you colleagues."





*“I am awed by the collective contributions to the department and our nation, and I can’t thank all of you enough for your dedication and your teamwork.”*

**Jill Hruby,**

**Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator**



**The Target Residue Material (TRM) campaign,** completed in 2020, involved transporting HEU from the Chalk River Laboratories in Canada to the SRS H Canyon for processing. This achievement marked the first time that irradiated HEU liquid was shipped internationally to the U.S. The campaign was coordinated among more than a dozen organizations in Canada and the U.S., including multiple federal, state and tribal partners, and involved 115 total truck shipments covering almost 150,000 miles.

The U.S. team worked collaboratively with Canadian partners to overcome obstacles presented by the scope and complexity of the mission in order to facilitate the safe and secure packaging and transport of the TRM. This effort advanced U.S. and global goals on nuclear security and contributed to a significant reduction in worldwide HEU holdings.

**The W76-2 Team** was honored for their “relentless dedication” in developing a modification of an existing warhead to provide a low-yield, sea-launched ballistic missile warhead capability. This modification helps preserve credible deterrence against regional aggression. Weapon Program Engineers **Don Zecha** and **Scott McGee** were honored as representatives of SRTE’s contribution, which was to supply the gas transfer system used in the modification.

Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Jill Hruby echoed Granholm’s praise. “I am awed by the collective contributions to the department and our nation, and I can’t thank all of you enough for your dedication and your teamwork,” she said.

**Members of the TRM team**

that received this honor include:

- |                        |                    |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Derek Alexander        | Mick Hickman       | Rita Pernell       |
| Michael Avino          | Megan Holley       | Kurt Peterson      |
| Scott Baggott          | Kevin Hooper       | Anthony Polk       |
| Dan Bales              | Billy Hunt         | Linda Quarles      |
| Jonathan Barnett       | Glen Jackson       | Jay Ray            |
| Tiffany Blanchard-Case | Joel Jones         | Tony Riley         |
| Roy Boyd               | Kiran Karanth      | Genave Russo       |
| Amy Boyette            | Roy Kennedy        | Leon Scott         |
| Michael Budney         | Matthew King       | Davis Shull        |
| Annette Burnette       | Michael Kirkland   | Leroy Smalls       |
| Rick Burns             | Victoria Lampkin   | Bill Stephens      |
| Jeffrey Chamberlin     | Leah Lilly         | Mitchell Stokes    |
| Virginia Childers      | Johnny Lott        | Todd Strock        |
| Chris Cody             | Gail Majors        | Ken Syphertt       |
| William Cooper         | Mike Martin        | Lorie Talbert-Burt |
| Thomas Corey           | Maxcine Maxted     | Tim Tice           |
| Mike Dalmaso           | Steve Mayle        | Calrton Travis     |
| Clifford Day           | Robin McCammon     | Kalyn Turner       |
| Mark Day               | Tim McClure        | Donald Walker      |
| Ellen Edge             | Mark McDermott     | Sue Wells          |
| Mark Farrar            | Twyla McDermott    | Tom Wells          |
| Brian Fiscus           | Patrick McGuire    | Sam Wheatley       |
| Jaclyn Fitzpatrick     | Michael Mickolanis | James White        |
| Greg Ford              | Nick Miller        | Blake Williams     |
| Jeffrey Galan          | Rich Minichan      | Hayley Williams    |
| Bill Giddings          | Michael Mosley     | Shannon Williams   |
| Eric Gleaton           | David Nason        | Shirley Williams   |
| Magali Gonzalez        | Hitesh Nigam       | Dennis Yates       |
| Lydia Greenway         | Rich O'Donnell     | Ron Yourmans       |
| Allen Gunter           | Bill Park          | Cheryl Young       |
| Jessica Halse          | Sherry Park        | Jim Zelgewicz      |
|                        | Wanda Patterson    | Steve Zimmerman    |



A cask of TRM HEU arrives at the H Canyon facility.

# Rapidly growing apprenticeship programs create local jobs

**H**igh school and college students, the unemployed and underemployed are taking charge of their futures through Registered Apprenticeship Programs now available throughout the region as well as at SRS.

“To ensure the development of a viable workforce within the South Carolina counties of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield and Orangeburg, several companies and organizations are partnering to establish 300 Registered Apprenticeships,” said Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer.

SRNS is striving to ensure approximately one-third of these apprenticeships will be at SRS.

Apprenticeships allow companies to establish a learning path for participants while the students pursue a technical education and obtain paid on-the-job experience. Unlike most internships, apprenticeships promote and document knowledge transfer and provide the participants with proof of skill mastery as a portable Department of Labor (DOL) credential. Apprenticeships also allow organizations the opportunity to build the workforce they desire for decades to come.

“Apprenticeship Carolina and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments have played an important part toward making this goal a reality. I believe our collective efforts have resulted in a magnificent job of designing and converting job functions into DOL-approved apprenticeships that will benefit all involved,” added Alford.

Since the Production Operator apprenticeship job profile was established at SRNS in 2020, 13 additional profiles have been approved: Software Engineer, Records Management Clerk, Process Software Engineer, Systems Engineer, Computer Systems Support, Maintenance Mechanic, Fire Protection Engineer, E&I Technician, Process Control Technologist, Radiological Protection Inspector, Network Operations Engineer, Cybersecurity Engineer and Supply Chain Management Resource. And the list continues to grow.

“We have several important missions to fulfill at SRS involving the protection of our nation and the cleanup of Cold War-era waste sites,” said Alford. “And, we have a need to fill a wide range of job pipelines with enthusiastic candidates, to safely and securely

accomplish all of this for the Department of Energy.”

Alford noted that other companies at SRS, such as Battelle Savannah River Alliance and Savannah River Mission Completion, are establishing apprenticeship programs as well.

“The credentials you earn as a registered apprentice are invaluable,” said Janéssa Smith, SRNS Human Resources Operations. “In fact, depending on the job profile you pursue, you can be accepted into our program with zero experience. We will provide all the training you need. At which point, you now own a portable credential proving you can do the work for any company needing that skillset.”

Erik Christensen, President and CEO of Swiss Krono in Barnwell, explained that his company has a long tradition of employing apprentices from local high schools.

“This year we invested more heavily in the program having just hired 12 high school youth apprentices. The program is really well received. It benefits the students, the high schools and guidance counselors, and certainly us, here at Swiss Krono,” said Christensen. “The students get a chance to learn about the different career opportunities while on the job, and we get the chance to get to know them with the intent of hiring them after their high school graduation. The long-term value of this employment concept is clear to us.”

“We are pleased to partner with SRNS, Apprenticeship Carolina and officials within the South Carolina Technical College System to help champion an employment solution with local, regional and state-wide impact through this important cause,” said Andre Anderson, Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

Since July 2019, the number of companies within Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg and Barnwell counties alone have tripled, and a ten-fold increase in DOL occupation profiles have been created. “Even with the trials brought about due to COVID-19, on-the-job training, worked concurrent with obtaining a technical certificate or degree, has proven to be a highly successful alternative to a traditional four-year degree. Apprenticeship programs have innovatively created a career path leading to well-paying jobs and a highly trained, reliable workforce for the future,” said Alford.

SRNS Nuclear Production Operator Apprentice Program graduate Kevin Thomas uses training equipment to simulate work practices performed by full-service employees at the Site.



## WATCH THE VIDEOS:

Go to the SRS YouTube channel, [youtube.com/SRSNews](https://youtube.com/SRSNews).

To find multiple videos, search for “SRNS Apprenticeship Program.”



# Students learn about nuclear science careers

**S**RNS partnered with Augusta University (AU) to create WORCshop@AU, a unique education outreach opportunity to introduce students to nuclear science careers by solving a real-world problem. The program concluded on Dec. 9, when student teams presented their solutions during a friendly competition.

Beginning in August, SRNS engineers volunteered to mentor students and their teachers while they researched how to cost effectively transport nearly 3,000 construction workers to and from the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) construction work site at SRS. SRPPF is part of the NNSA's two-site approach to revitalize the nation's plutonium pit production capabilities in support of the nuclear deterrent. The students presented their solutions to an audience of 150 people consisting of their peers, educators and a three-judge panel.

"We were very impressed with the quality of presentations and took something away from each of them," said Rick Connolly, SRNS Operations and Maintenance Director – NNSA Capital Projects (NCP), speaking on behalf of the judge's panel. "You helped solve a problem. Thanks for spending time on this effort and stepping outside of your comfort zone."

Teams presented solutions that are environmentally friendly and cost effective. They examined options utilizing hydrogen, natural gas or electric buses and encouraged carpooling and parking lot expansions. Students also weighed the safety and security implications of increased traffic, important factors for SRS as it carries out national security missions.

The winning team from Augusta Preparatory Day School earned the title Best Engineering Student Design and received a trophy and a \$100 gift card. The team's teacher James Mason said, "These are hardworking students, with a strong interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, and they really enjoyed working with the talented engineers from SRNS to explore the engineering design process while solving a real-world problem."

Kathryn Geoffroy, a student on the winning team, said, "This project gave me an opportunity to not only dive into my future aspirations of engineering, but it furthered my problem-solving skills in the world of logistics. Being able to work with people from SRNS opened my eyes to the wide range of jobs offered at the Site. Additionally, the use of Advanced Placement chemistry applications and multiple ideas my teammate Hannah and I brainstormed allowed us to realize the importance of electric transportation during the climate crisis."

Mary Flora, SRNS Environmental, Safety & Health, Quality and Waste Management Director, and Paul Hunt, an SRNS SRPPF Plutonium Modernization Program Manager, the two other WORCshop@AU judges, both shared their educational and career experiences that led them to their current roles. They were excited to see so many students engaged in this project and a STEM environment.

AU Assistant Professor and Director of Nuclear Science Joe Newton, Ph.D., said, "The student presentations were amazing. Watching these students take ownership over their ideas and solutions was so exciting to see. Partnering with SRNS was a great opportunity to encourage students to stay in STEM disciplines and expose them to local career opportunities like those at the Site."

Commenting on the event and mentor volunteers, SRNS Education Outreach Programs Specialist Taylor Rice said, "I am thoroughly impressed with the innovative solutions presented by each team. Nineteen SRNS volunteer mentors assisted these students and teachers throughout the school year as they developed plausible solutions to an authentic problem. This project was a great way to connect industry with classrooms in the region."

NNSA announced funding for the WORC II grant program in 2020. The \$5 million investment supports the development of the future workforce to carry out vital missions at SRS. The Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization administers and oversees the distribution of the grant to academic partner institutions, including AU. A small portion of the grant was used to develop WORCshop@AU. Growing NNSA missions at the Site in support of the nation's nuclear deterrent prompted NNSA to enhance its efforts to develop an enduring workforce that will carry out these long-term missions.



## WORCshop@AU teams

### Augusta Preparatory Day School

teacher James Mason and students Kathryn Geoffroy and Hannah McDonough  
*(first place winner of Best Engineering Student Design)*

### Evans High School

teacher Courtney Bernal and students Ha'ani Ismael, Yumeka Katonka, Georgia Walden and Velmuel Smith  
*(second place winner of Best Engineering Student Design)*

### Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

(Team 1) teacher Carla Biley and students Tamea Dunnorn, Jaidyn Moore, Rashad Wright, Amarie McNeal and Leila Cortez  
*(third place winner of Best Engineering Student Design)*

### Hephzibah High School

teacher Jeremy Dingman and students Xavier Argyle, Blayne Gates, Reuben Griffin and Ariel Rineer

### Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

(Team 2) teacher Nathalie Pace and students Travis Lee, Hannah Rhodes, Laila Anthony, Melannae Zamor and Alana Potter

### Edmund Burke Academy

teacher Kim Tsakonias and students Braelyn Reeves, Dennis Eberly, Trey III Johnson, Braddock Wilson, Luck Poma, Darcy Rich, Ava Timms, Noah Christian and Jordan Giles

# \$12M saved at SRS benefits local businesses

Since 2013, SRNS personnel have obtained a cost avoidance of nearly \$12 million by partnering with the Savannah River Site Community Resource Organization (SRSCRO) to safely and cost-effectively remove items no longer needed by the U.S. Government at SRS. This property or the proceeds from its sale, are used by the SRSCRO for the economic and workforce development of businesses and industry throughout the region.

“The SRSCRO was designated as the community reuse organization for SRS in 1996,” said Andy Albenesius, SRNS Program Manager. “They know the people in the counties that surround SRS and the potential strengths there waiting to be tapped. And they know the region’s economic issues. All of this combined, supports their ability to strategically promote economic growth in areas that, without their help, would have seen economic loss instead of significant growth through the years.”

Over time, the list of excess items provided to the SRSCRO from multiple areas at SRS became as diverse as it is long, and it includes railroad tracks, cranes, laboratory equipment, generators, motors, electrical transformers, industrial water pumps, excavators, tools and emergency response vehicles.

“DOE recently donated six metal buildings that can be disassembled and then reassembled elsewhere,” said Terry Schallick, SRNS Site Technical Representative for D Area, who works closely with SRSCRO work crews. “That project alone represents nearly two million dollars in cost avoidance had we used traditional means to demolish and dispose of the metal structures.”

DOE-SR Organizational Property Management Officer Sam Brantley stated that DOE has enjoyed a productive relationship with the SRSCRO.



Savannah River Site Community Resource Organization (SRSCRO) employees work with SRNS engineers to safely and cost-effectively remove unneeded metal buildings from the Site. This property or the proceeds from its sale, will be used by the SRSCRO for economic development throughout the region.

“We are pleased that we can often help small and disadvantaged businesses and manufacturers within the communities near SRS through the donation of our surplus items. The donations may well lead to increased demand for products and services, which often results in the creation of new jobs. The SRSCRO’s safety culture, work ethic and depth of experience continues to be impressive.”

The SRSCRO is a private non-profit organization charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy to diversify the economy around SRS. “We strive to provide leadership for the common economic interests and benefits of local residents, businesses and industries and to stabilize the economy with balanced growth throughout our multi-county service area,” said Rick McLeod, SRSCRO President and CEO.

## SRNS kicks off 2022 Heart Walk campaign with \$130K goal

The 2022 SRNS American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk Campaign began the first week of January and runs through March 12, with an SRNS goal of \$130,000.

This year’s group of SRNS Heart Walk coaches recently gathered for their kickoff meeting in preparation for the upcoming campaign. During the kickoff, SRNS Heart Walk coaches heard remarks of encouragement and motivation from AHA Development Director Catherine-Anne Martin. A quick tutorial on how to register, recruit and rally participants was also presented for the new group of coaches.

“I would like to encourage Site employees and Heart Walk participants to connect with the mission of the AHA and the purpose of the Heart Walk. Pull inspiration from your family history, the loved ones you know impacted by heart disease and stroke, and from your personal health journey and goals,” said Martin.

After an extremely successful campaign last year, 2022 SRNS Heart



The 2022 SRNS American Heart Association Heart Walk Campaign coaches

Walk Chair Candice Gordon is excited to step in and continue the legacy of the SRNS campaign. “We are so excited to hit the ground running in 2022 with the start of our SRNS American Heart Association Heart Walk Campaign,” said Gordon. “This year’s theme is ‘Go for the Gold,’ and we are dedicated to supporting the AHA in their effort to raise awareness for cardiovascular disease and stroke.”

Last year, and for the first year ever, SRNS was the number one contributing company

out of the 59 in the CSRA.

“Site employees and Heart Walk participants have been unwavering in their support of the American Heart Association, and for that I and the other AHA staff members are eternally grateful. It is inspiring to see so many share the passion for the health of our community. Thank you for being a pillar in the CSRA and for going for the gold at this year’s Heart Walk,” continued Martin.



**Kevin Whitt**

**AT SRNS:** Training Director

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** Chair, Denmark Technical College Advisory Commission; Advisory board member, Aiken Technical College and Augusta Technical College; SRNS Executive Sponsor for Children's Place's annual Celebrity Waiter fundraiser

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

SRNS Training Director Kevin Whitt is proud of his training team's accomplishments and the continuous learning culture they foster every day at SRS. That is why he was asked to help lead Denmark Technical College's recovery.

When Denmark Tech's board was dissolved and the state assumed oversight in 2017, Whitt was appointed by South Carolina Gov. McMaster to serve on a newly formed commission overseeing the college's recovery. Whitt was elected as the commission's chair in 2019, and helped to drive the development of a plan of actions and milestones for the recovery and a national search for a new president. "We were fortunate to bring in Dr. Willie Todd as president and CEO of Denmark Tech. In just two years, he and his team have a new 5-year strategic plan, improved campus infrastructure, and obtained new funding for scholarships and improvement initiatives," says Whitt. "Student enrollment has increased, and all restrictions on Denmark Tech, have now been lifted."

Whitt's continued involvement chairing the Denmark Tech Commission stands out in a 26-year Navy career on nuclear submarines that included reaching the rank of Master Chief, followed by his nearly eight years with SRNS. "My father was also career Navy, and — because he believed in technical training — I don't think he was prouder of any achievement than my appointment to assist Denmark Tech," he says. "I'm a firm believer in the value of our region's technical colleges, and their importance to our workforce needs."

Whitt also serves on advisory boards for Aiken Technical College and Augusta Technical College, and is the SRNS Executive Sponsor for Children's Place's annual Celebrity Waiter fundraiser. He has been married for nearly 33 years to Tamara ("my best friend"), and they have two children and one grandchild.

## Contributing to United Way of Allendale and Barnwell

SRNS United Way Employee Campaign representatives recently made a check presentation to the United Way of Barnwell & Allendale Counties for both employee contributions and the SRNS parent company Fluor's match to employee contributions and fundraisers. SRNS employees again surpassed their United Way campaign goal, raising \$827,691 as part of the Site's \$1.4 million effort in 2021.



SRNS United Way Campaign Co-Chair Candace Stevenson, Barnwell and Allendale County United Way Board Chair Cheryl Long, and SRNS United Way Campaign Chair Rachael Simon



**Safety and Security begin with me.**  
At Work. At Home. In the Community.

In January, SRS revealed the 2022 Annual Safety and Security campaign titled "Safety and Security begin with me. At Work. At Home. In the Community."

The campaign displays new banners at the SRS cloverleaf and barricades. The annual safety and security campaign rollout at SRS also features a safety culture video starring SRS employees from contractors across the Site. (To watch, go to the SRS YouTube channel, [youtube.com/SRSNews](https://youtube.com/SRSNews) and search for "2022 SRS Safety and Security.") SRS employees take personal ownership for the safety and security of those around them, be it on-site, at home or in the community. This year's campaign is a reflection of that commitment and reinforces the SRS culture of accountability and integrity.

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

# SRNS



**Savannah River Nuclear Solutions**

We make the world **safer.**