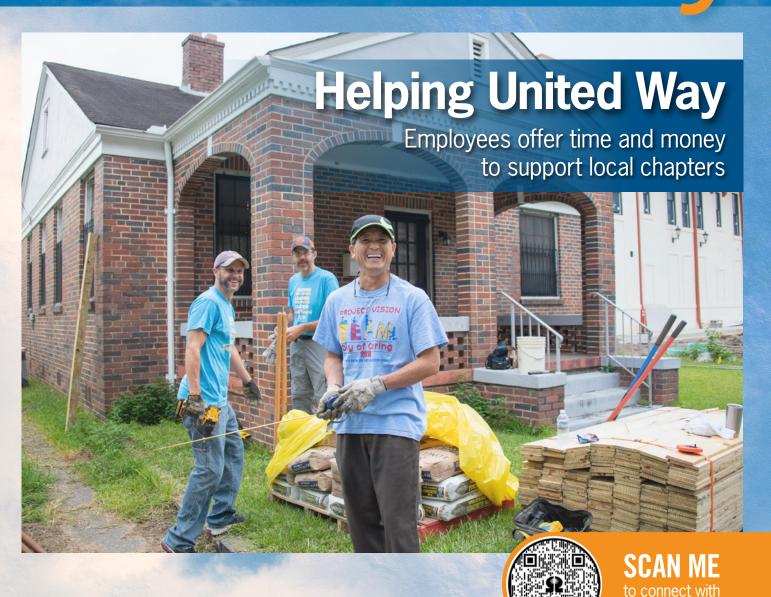
SEPTEMBER 2022

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

# SRISTOday



#### This month

Deactivation of 235-F ● Improving SRS roads ● Red Cross Heroes ● Mentor-Protégé excellence

our social media



**Stuart MacVean** SRNS President and CEO

#### On the cover

More than 45 SRNS employees recently volunteered their time at United Way agencies throughout the Augusta area as part of this year's Project Serve campaign. Blaker McPhail (left), Kevin Cross and Tuan Ho (right) prepare construction materials prior to starting a construction project at a nonprofit school.

### Welcome

to the September 2022 edition of

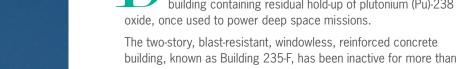
### **SRNS Today**

I love working at SRS because the missions we perform are so important and vital to the nation, but I love it even more for the people. Our workforce is talented, committed and generous. Every year, while continuing to meet and exceed Operational expectations, our employees give an extraordinary amount of time and money to charitable organizations around the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). It never ceases to amaze me how bighearted and giving SRNS employees are.

SRNS is again participating in fundraising efforts for local United Way agencies. A number of SRNS employees recently took time off to serve during Project Serve and Project Unite, helping to lessen the need to allocate resources towards general repairs, refurbishing or adding various features to a variety of structures. This—along with monetary donations and fundraising efforts—has led SRNS to again be able to give a substantial amount of support to the CSRA.

Along with giving back, SRNS was hard at work this month. The 235-F Facility completed deactivation, an almost decade long endeavor that leads to risk and footprint reduction at SRS. We exceeded our small business goals by 33%, by subcontracting \$1.26 billion to small business over the last five years. We also, demolished a former coal handling system whose removal further shrinks the legacy footprint at the 300-square-mile nuclear reservation.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



Employees practice bagging-out waste from a glovebox during preparations for

deactivation of 235-F.

25 years. One section of Building 235-F, known as the Plutonium Fuel Form (PuFF) Facility, was used to make fuel spheres and pellets out of Pu-238 to provide heat to electrically power longterm, deep-space missions, such as Galileo, Ulysses and Cassini.

"Deactivation of 235-F began in 2019," said Building 235-F Project Manager Jeff Hasty. "Deactivation will prepare the facility for Long Term Safe Storage, which is an end state relatively free of non-radiological hazards, with acceptable radiological risks, and minimal continuing surveillance and maintenance."

Hasty also explained that the deactivation will also prepare the facility for eventual decommissioning. "The deactivation project included the reconfiguration/shutdown of the ventilation system; isolation of all utilities (water, steam, power, etc.); removing contamination or using a permanent coating, called a fixative, that prevents contamination from spreading outside of the process enclosures; and removing non-radiological hazardous material (i.e., lead, oils, process water, etc.). This shutdown/isolation will greatly reduce the cost for surveillance and maintenance of Building 235-F during Safe Storage."

The DOE and SRNS have worked with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finalize plans for the decommissioning of Building 235-F. The end state determination is complete and includes approval from both the EPA and SCDHEC.

recommended disposition path. Decommissioning will be a multiyear project that is planned to commence in fiscal year 2023. The decommissioning of 235-F will be similar to decommissioning of the former reactor facilities in P and R areas at SRS.

"We are pleased to see another SRS facility nearing decommissioning," said DOE Nuclear Materials Program Manager Bert Crapse. "This helps further the Department of Energy's mission of footprint reduction at SRS and reduces risks to workers, the public and the environment."



Years ago, a "dream team" of SRNS workers was assembled to begin work on Building 235-F. Now this building's deactivation is complete.

**WATCH THE VIDEO:** Go to the SRS YouTube channel and search "The 235-F Dream Team."



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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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SRNS Senior Engineer Wisdom Hokey inspects the progress recently made during the paving of Road 4, one of the Site's most traveled roads.

he vast majority of SRS paved roadways are nearing an industry rating known as "approaching failure," primarily due to extensive cracking; however, excellent and steady progress is underway towards resurfacing several of the Site's most traveled roadways, including Road 4.

"Once the substructure of an asphalt road has failed, usually due to water intrusion through cracks, that portion of the road must be completely reconstructed, not just resurfaced," said Wisdom Hokey, SRNS Senior Engineer. "Resurfacing a two-lane road for one mile, on average, costs approximately \$1.2 million. Fully reconstructing that same mile of road costs about five times that amount.

"That's why we have conducted extensive research to rate all 243 lane miles of our Site's paved roads and, combined with other factors, developed a prioritized list of roads to be resurfaced. We have the need, plan, and knowledge, but funding drives the schedule. The funding is all supplemental, none is in the annual baseline budget," he added.

Hokey explained that the average asphalt road lasts 15 to 20 years. Prior to 2017, the last major road work at SRS was resurfacing Road 1-A in 2001.

2017 saw an important step forward with the milling and paving of 18.5 lane miles of Road 2, which begins near the Aiken barricade. The following year, crews milled and resurfaced 9.3 lane miles of Road F. During 2019, crews milled and resurfaced 23 lane miles of the Site's primary route, Road C, and replaced the storm drainage pipes.

Using new materials and technology, this was all accomplished with a reduced cost.

In milling, crews use special heavy machinery to remove a layer of deteriorating asphalt to ensure a good foundation for the new surface. The milled asphalt is granular in consistency, moving directly from the

milling machine to a temporarily attached dump truck.

"I always compare asphalt millings to gold," said SRNS Engineer Richard Swygert. "What first appears to be waste material can serve a valuable purpose elsewhere."

He explained that milled asphalt costs about \$25 a ton, while new asphalt can cost as much as \$110 a ton.

"Repurposing the milled asphalt onto gravel secondary roads versus paving on Site is highly cost effective," he said.

Resurfacing a new layer of asphalt directly onto the milled surface of roads frequently results in the cracks found within the underlying asphalt eventually moving up through the new pavement. Industry standards prevent this problem by placing a specially developed fabric between the old and new layers. This is an effective, yet expensive solution.

"Discussions with our local contractor about this cost issue resulted in a cost avoidance by placing an open-graded interlayer of asphalt between the old and new pavement instead of the geosynthetic fabric," Swygert said. "This coarse, granular type of asphalt creates a surprisingly strong yet flexible long-term buffer. This serves as a much less expensive, yet highly effective, way to protect our new road surface."

To date, over \$200,000 in cost avoidance has been obtained by using an open-graded layer during repaying.

According to Hokey, performing a study of Road 1 to meet Department of Transportation standards, the resurfacing of sections of Roads B and E, and an additional section of Road C are high on the to-do list with the receipt of necessary funding.

"Our team of employees, both SRNS and our sub-contractors, are talented and highly dedicated towards ensuring quality work is accomplished safely each day," said Hokey.

### \$1B subcontracted to small businesses

SRNS has subcontracted over \$1.26 billion to small businesses over the last five years, averaging \$253 million per year, exceeding their small business goals by an average of 33%.

A significant factor contributing to this success is their emphasis on building strong relationships with the owners of these small businesses and finding a variety of methods to regularly and optimally communicate with them. This approach also helps ensure these same people fully comprehend the expectations and requirements found at SRS.

In addition to regular interpersonal communications with existing and potential small businesses, SRNS sponsors and conducts a series of events each year for the benefit of those small businesses who provide an extensive array of goods and services.

The list of events includes conferences, forums, 'Opportunity Days,' business builders, meetings and a Mentor-Protégé program. SRNS recently partnered with the Energy, Technology, and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA) who hosted the annual 2022 Savannah River Federal Business Opportunities Forum for small businesses within the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA). The forum focused on upcoming business opportunities with government agencies and prime contractors in the energy, environmental and defense markets.

Organizations participating in the event included SRS prime contractors, plus the U.S. Army's Fort Gordon (Augusta, Georgia) and the Federal



Government's General Services Administration. The forum also featured insight into much of the cyber security work being performed in throughout the CSRA.

A major component of the forum was the addition of a uniquely special discussion panel specifically dedicated to the production opportunities found across the 310-square-mile Site, related to manufacturing plutonium pits for the nation's nuclear deterrent.

"Our ability to perform our missions is hinged upon the success of our small business community. Partners like ETEBA, provide access to well established businesses who clearly understand what we do and the importance of performance," said Dennis Carr, Executive Vice President and National Nuclear Security Administration Chief Operations Officer. "SRNS will continue to support these events because they bring tremendous value to the Site."

#### Reuse and reduce strategy cleans up industrial footprint

Site workers recently demolished a former coal handling system whose removal further shrinks the legacy footprint at the 300-square-mile nuclear reservation.

SRS has achieved an 85% reduction of the Site's operational footprint, a percentage that will grow as employees with SRNS continue the decommissioning and demolition of facilities in the site's massive D Area. The term footprint is used to identify, monitor and cleanup portions of the Site used during the Cold War for industrial purposes.

"We're steadily working towards the goal of having all of D Area's 210 acres returned to its natural state, prepared for industrial use if needed," said Grady Friday, a subject matter expert with Area Completion Projects (ACP) at SRNS.

D Area facilities once produced heavy water for nuclear reactors and generated steam and electricity to support much of what was previously known as the Savannah River Plant, which was developed in the 1950s. To date, crews have torn down and removed more than 60 D Area structures.

In the latest D Area cleanup, workers knocked down a coal handling system that fed four massive boilers. The system consisted of hoppers, coal feeders, conveyors, a coal crusher and three support structures.

"Trains, and later trucks, brought in a huge amount of coal each year to

D Area when it was operational," said Friday. "The only way to quickly and effectively transport tons of coal 100 feet up in the air and into that huge powerhouse was on those conveyor belts."

Following the demolition project, SRS transferred the system's conveyor belts to the nonprofit Savannah River Community Resource Organization (SRSCRO). Combined, the belts were approximately 2,000 feet long.

Belts of that size and type are in high demand around the country and would almost immediately be offered to a company within nearby counties supported by the SRSCRO, according to Friday.

The belts date back to the 1980s when the coal transfer system was I ast refurbished.

"Surprisingly, they are still in good condition given their age and constant exposure to the elements," said Steve Conner, SRNS ACP Project Manager. "Whenever possible, we do our best to separate recyclable or reusable materials for repurposing from the numerous structures that have been decommissioned and demolished over the years."

Conner noted that the SRSCRO has preserved and transferred a wide variety of items to benefit nearby businesses since the organization's creation in 1993. They include tools, generators, oil, transformers, railroad tracks and even entire light-duty metal buildings originally assembled using nuts and bolts.

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### A tradition of caring

Every year, Site employees support United Way agencies with their volunteer and donation efforts. The tradition continues with multiple community outreach and fundraising events.

#### **Fundraising events**

The United Way kick-off event took place on Tuesday, Aug 9., promoting the theme *One SRS*, *One Family*, *One Community*.

"The United Way campaign is an efficient and effective way to raise needed dollars that go to our local communities to service those with overwhelming needs," said SRNS United Way Committee Chair Candace Stevenson. "SRS employees have been providing for the United Way and its predecessor organization for over 50 years."

Some United Way agencies benefitting include: American Red Cross, Hope House, Safe Homes Domestic Violence Center, Child Enrichment Inc., The Salvation Army, Easterseals East Georgia, Augusta Locally Grown, The Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, and Family Connection Wilkes County Community Partnership.

Over the next few months, SRNS, Battelle Savannah River Alliance (BSRA), Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), and Centerra are hosting many fundraising events. All four companies are combining their campaigns to reach one site-wide total goal of \$1.4 million. As part of that sitewide goal, SRNS has a goal of \$800,000. To date, SRNS currently has donated 77% of their goal, with an amount of \$618,601.

In 2021, the sitewide goal for SRNS, BSRA, SRMC and Centerra was \$1.4 million. The sitewide contribution total came to a total of \$1,465,649. Of the total amount, \$827,691 was contributed by SRNS, which had surpassed its original goal of \$800,000.





#### **Project Serve**

More than 45 SRNS employees recently volunteered their time at United Way agencies located throughout the greater Augusta area as part of this year's Project Serve campaign.

Each year, many SRNS employees commit to a day of work at a project that will improve the quality of life for disadvantaged children, low-income senior citizens or the disabled.

Tasks typical of Project Serve include clearing debris, painting siding, repairing flooring, putting up dry wall, building wheelchair ramps, installing smoke detectors, constructing fences, fixing faulty plumbing and various types of yard work.

Volunteers worked at multiple locations. Heritage Academy is an independent school offering a quality Christ-centered education to children of diverse economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. SRNS Project Serve teams also worked at the Family Counseling Center of the CSRA and Camp Tanglewood.



James Jefferson, SRNS Health and Safety Programs, works with a team of SRNS employees to build a privacy fence for the Heritage Academy.



#### **Project Unite**

A group of volunteers from SRNS made their way out to the Tri-Development Center of Aiken County on Friday, Sept. 9 as part of Project Unite Aiken. This was just one of six locations where 62 volunteers dedicated their time. Other worksites included the Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County, Helping Hands of Aiken, Mental Health America Nurture Home, Family YMCA of Aiken County and Brothers and Sisters of Aiken County.

To ensure the projects were a success, a coordinated effort was led by Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP), Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) and Leaders Investing for Tomorrow (LIFT).

Tri-Development Center of Aiken County is an organization that provides services and support for individuals with autism, head and spinal cord injuries and intellectual disabilities within the community.

Earlier in the year, SRNS supported Project Unite CSRA.





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#### **Awards breakfast for Red Cross Heroes**



RNS recently served as the presenting sponsor for the American Red Cross Augusta Area's annual Heroes Breakfast held on Sept. 13. Several SRNS employees were honored with awards at the event.

Honorees are chosen for their willingness to go above and beyond for the greater good in order to save lives, prevent tragedies, and help those in need. The American Red Cross hosts an annual breakfast banquet to recognize these local heroes and inspire others to rise to the occasion.

Last November, SRNS Site Services Traffic Logistics Specialist Sarah Prosser was driving to pick up her child from preschool when she noticed a toddler running in the middle of a busy four-lane highway. Instinctively, she began blowing her horn to alert nearby drivers. She then, quickly and safely, stopped her vehicle on the shoulder of the road and ran to secure the child. Aiken City Public Safety officers arrived at the scene and took custody of the child while they conducted a search for the parents.



the Good Samaritan Hero Award at the Red Cross Augusta Area's Heroes Breakfast.

"I didn't even hesitant to lay my hand on the horn and throw my car in park. I think if I had hesitated, the circumstances would have been very different." said Prosser.

For her heroic efforts, Prosser was recognized with the Good Samaritan Hero Award. Prosser has previously been recognized with the SRNS President's Safety Award and Aiken's second-highest civilian award.

Also recognized at the event was Savannah River Site Fire Department Battalion F6, who received the Fire Rescue Hero Award for their brave actions in rescuing an injured worker from SDU-8, a salt-stone disposal tank.

The SDU-8 tank is a newly constructed mega-volume tank that is 43-feet high and 375-feet in diameter. A worker suffered a head injury while removing scaffolding from inside the tank, requiring a very complex and technical high-angle rescue to ensure the worker's safety during extrication.

In order to access the patient, responders had to ascend the 43-foot tank, traverse the 187-foot tank top, and then descend 43-feet of scaffolding to the bottom of the tank. The patient had to be packaged inside the tank and lifted to the tank top utilizing rescue rope and a mechanical advantage lifting system constructed on scene by rescue personnel. Once they were on the tank top, the patient was then lowered 43-feet off the side of the tank to ground level where they could be placed in an ambulance for transport to a nearby hospital for evaluation and treatment.

"None of us view ourselves as heroes because this is our job, but part of the definition of hero really stands out to me—'a person of noble qualities'," said Firefighter Scott Sturkie. "That portion of the definition means more to me than telling people about the risks we take. It's the noble qualities of a person that are important."

### **Employee receives lifesaving award**

SRNS Painter Foreman Billy Bennett was awarded the Fluor Silver Medallion at a SRNS President's Safety Council meeting for his efforts in saving the life of a man suffering from severe heat stroke.

In May, while Bennett was taking his son out fishing at a local pond, he noticed a car parked near the pond. Close by was a man sitting in a walker. He was slumped over and was unresponsive to Bennett's attempts at asking him if he was okay. Further investigation revealed the man was extremely warm to the touch and was showing symptoms of severe heat illness.

Bennett quickly called 911 and followed the emergency responder's instructions, wiping the man down with cool rags to lower his body temperature and monitoring his breathing until the local fire department arrived to take over. Bennett stayed at the scene until an ambulance arrived to transport the man to the hospital.

Bennett and a fireman searched for the victim's identification and discovered the man was a 73-year-old veteran. They were able to successfully contact the man's family to notify them of the situation. Bennett kept in touch with the owner of the pond, who was close to the man's family, and learned that although the victim had suffered a severe heat stroke, he was slowly recovering and would be able to return home from the hospital soon.



Bennett doesn't view himself as a hero, but he was glad to set a good example for his son. "I actually received a card from the man after the incident. thanking me for saving his life," said Bennett. "I like to think that I did what any person would have done in that

situation. I'm just grateful that I was in the right place at the right time, and that I was able to get the man help when he needed it most."

"Billy chose to stop and question the situation when many people would have continued on their way," said Stuart MacVean, who presented Bennett the award. "There is no doubt that without his swift action and questioning attitude, the man would have lost his life that day. Billy's response is an excellent example of the importance of assessing a situation when something doesn't feel right and taking quick, decisive action when seconds matter most."

The Fluor Silver Medallion is a distinguished award given to employees who act in a lifesaving manner and assist others in distress, either on-or-off the job.



### **Earning Palmetto Shining Star Award**

SRNS recently received the Palmetto Shining Star Award from the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation at a ceremony held in Columbia, South Carolina.

The award reflects safety achievements and successful health and safety programs from the previous calendar year. Employers must meet certain criteria in order to be nominated, such as having zero recordable injuries throughout the year, reaching one million safe work hours without a lost-day due to injury, or achieving a commendable reduction in injury or illness incidence rate.

SRNS met several criteria for the award, including achieving incidence rate that was at least 75% below the industry average and reaching over one million safe work hours—in fact, the SRNS workforce exceeded 6 million safe work hours in 2021.

SRNS Senior Vice President of Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality, O Rick Sprague, said this achievement would not be possible without the value that SRNS employees place on safety.

"Earning the Palmetto Shining Star Award is demonstration of SRNS employee's continuous commitment to achieving safety excellence," Sprague said. "Sustaining a strong safety performance and culture takes hard work from each and every employee, and it is an honor to receive recognition for that dedication from state and national agencies."

The mission of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation is to promote the health, safety, and economic well-being of the public through regulation, licensing, enforcement, training, and education. The Safety Awards program is the agency's way of rewarding employers, both large and small, for the success of their safety and health programs. A total of 12 South Carolina-based companies were awarded the Palmetto Shining Star.

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### **Engineering and Project Controls career fair**

Hundreds of eager candidates came out for the SRNS Engineering and Project Controls career fair on Friday, Aug. 26, at the University of South Carolina Aiken. The goal of the fair was to assist in staffing new and existing projects at the Site. The new projects will require considerable manpower, and the career fair is a big step in achieving that goal.

SRNS Talent Acquisition Manager Bryan Ortner, organizer for the event, saw results within the first couple of hours of the fair. "We had about 300 pre-register...we have already offered probably 10 or more [positions], mostly engineers," said Ortner. "We're doing exactly what we wanted to today, changing lives while meeting the needs of the Site missions."

Ortner noted that the quality of the candidates was exceptional and that the engineering tables at the event were full of potential new employees. By the time the event ended, he confirmed that there were 33 job offers made to candidates ranging from entry-level, to individuals with 25 years of experience. Additional offers were made in the following weeks, with approximately 20 candidates accepting positions.

Charley Pettigrew wasn't expecting such a cordial environment when he arrived. The recent graduate from the University of Georgia attended the event in search of a new career in his area of study. "[The experience] was great. Everyone was so welcoming and very helpful and friendly. I really liked that," Pettigrew said. "Sometimes you'll come up to job fairs and they'd be kind of cold, but this was very welcoming. I really appreciated that." When Pettigrew left, he had a job offer from SRNS to bring along with him.

While some candidates were hoping to get a start right out of school, others were searching for a new career path. Quincy Williams arrived hopeful that his experience in engineering and project controls could lead to a brand-new career on Site. He welcomed the inviting atmosphere, something he wasn't initially expecting.

Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) Process Engineering Manager Paul Rogerson was also on hand for the event. He stressed the importance of SRPPF's need to have adequate staffing and to fill roles that the teams require. Rogerson mentioned that there were many high-quality candidates that came by his table, some of which were specifically suited to the needs of the group.

## Mentor-Protégé program excellence

SRNS has proven to be a leader within the DOE Complex, in the realm of small business development. This ongoing goal was recently exemplified during a Mentor-Protégé Center of Excellence meeting sponsored and managed by SRNS.

Since its inception in 2016, the SRNS Mentor-Protégé Program has steadily grown, supporting multiple mentor protégé companies at any one time. There are currently four, with a fifth company now being evaluated. In order to nurture these small businesses, SRNS has increased its support from \$415,000 to \$19.5 million annually.

The event offered numerous activities including a roundtable discussion that generated suggestions on how to further improve the program.

SRNS officials actively share their knowledge of the small business mentor-protégé program with other DOE sites while steadily increasing small business participation at SRS.

"Mentor-protégé programs are a tremendous asset for small businesses and participating DOE contractors, providing valuable insight to ensure success at SRS and to the complex level," said James Toler, SRNS Executive Vice President, NNSA Capital Projects. "These programs allow us to actively engage with these small and often new companies, teach them best practices and show them how to provide high-value products and services that support our missions."

In addition, supporting local small businesses has a significant economic "ripple effect" within the communities surrounding SRS.

Mentor-protégé companies often hire local residents for SRS contracts. They also frequently satisfy a large percentage of their procurement needs using nearby commercial vendors.

Economic impact studies have shown when SRS organizations spend a dollar, it returns two dollars to the five surrounding counties.

As each company receives their mentor-protégé agreement, they can obtain subcontracts to conduct similar work at other DOE sites. The agreement serves to significantly simplify the procurement process, saving federal procurement dollars through streamlined purchasing methods.





#### Shanteka Glover

AT SRNS: Senior Information Technology (IT)
Technical and Business Analyst for IT Projects Support

IN THE COMMUNITY: United Way of the CSRA Campaign Associate

#### **THE PEOPLE OF SRNS**

Shanteka Glover is a Senior Information Technology (IT) Technical and Business Analyst for the IT Projects Support group at SRNS. Glover was recently selected to serve as a United Way of the CSRA Campaign Associate, assisting the organization with their regional fundraising campaign over a 10-week period.

"The program has been rewarding and given me a newfound respect of giving to United Way, the agencies and programs," said Glover. "I have gained so much appreciation for the opportunity to impact thousands of lives through just a few dollars a month. During the agencies' tours, it has been amazing to see how those dollars are put to use."

Through an investment made by SRNS and DOE, Glover—and other loaned professionals—can support nonprofit organizations in the region. The loaned professional program also provides unique opportunities for project management, public speaking and networking with key business and community leaders.

Glover's passion for community service routinely involves giving back, engaging and mentoring students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She also serves as a board member on several national, community, and school boards. She volunteers with SRNS education outreach initiatives and campaigns. In addition, she is the Senior Advisor of SRS Women in Nuclear.



#### Women in Business

The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce hosted a Women in Business luncheon at the Enterprise Mill Events Center on Tuesday, Aug. 16. Manager of Continuous Improvement at SRNS, P.K. Hightower, spoke to a group of business leaders about continuous improvement and the role it plays in cutting cost and improving productivity in businesses. She also encouraged managers and employers to implement systems, like the SRNS Individuals Developing Effective Alternative Solutions (IDEAS) program, for employees to provide feedback and ideas that can help bring changes within the workplace.

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