

# SRNS *special edition* news

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS AND  
NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING WELDING SCHOOL

## SRNS Facilitates Newport News Shipbuilding's Welding Curriculum Gift to Four Local Colleges

Among the banging of tools, the low hissing of bright flames and the whirring of machines at the Augusta Technical College welding shop on June 7, Fred Dohse, SRNS executive vice president, presented a 10-disk, 12-week, computer based training welding program, to Augusta Tech President Terry D. Elam and Department Head of Welding and Joining Technology Tommy Lyles.

Developed by Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), one of SRNS' parent companies, the program has a development and validation cost of approximately \$400,000.

The effort to give the program to colleges in the Savannah River Site area began after SRNS' Terry La Point facilitated visits for Aiken Technical College and Denmark Technical College to see the NNS shipyard and welding shop in the fall of 2010, where they learned about the program and realized the potential advances it could provide.

Aiken Technical College, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College and Denmark Technical College also jumped ahead in progressing their welding programs when they received the world-class, comprehensive instructional program at no cost, to supplement their academic curriculums.

Dohse and La Point visited Aiken Tech to speak with the president, Dr. Susan A. Winsor, and the lead instructor of Welding Technology, Jean Palmer, about their first impressions of the software and how they plan to use it.

Palmer said that she had been going through the disks each night since receiving them a week earlier, eagerly learning the functions of the software.

**“It's a great computer based aid to help with student learning and to help get them ready for the workforce. I'm familiar with other programs like this, but this has been the best one I've seen yet.”**

**-Jean Palmer**

*Continued* ►



## Welding Curriculum Gift

As a shipbuilding company, NNS relies heavily on welding thousands of steel components together each year to create nuclear powered aircraft carriers and submarines for the U.S. Navy. In the early 2000s, NNS personnel developed this program, based on their in-lab training and textbooks, to better equip their students.

**“The Newport News Shipbuilding Welding School, in Newport News, Va., is acknowledged as a world leader in training welders for the shipbuilding and repair industry. And in 2005, they modernized their welding program with an extensive addition of computer based training. ”**

**- Fred Dohse**



*Fred Dohse looks through a shielding mask as a student operates a machine in the Augusta Technical College Welding Shop.*



*In one of Aiken Technical College's computer labs, Terry La Point and Jean Palmer review the program on one of the computers. As the class goes through the course, each page will be projected onto a large screen for Palmer to teach from.*

▶ *Continued*



*Although the case presented to Susan Winsor at Aiken Technical College was small and housed only 10 disks, they contained a 12-week course with an estimated development and validation cost of \$400,000.*

According to the Feb. 8, 2011 issue of the Los Angeles Times story entitled “Top 10 Sectors for New Jobs,” welders, pipe fitters and mechanics will be in high demand. Many in the field agree that one of the primary contributors to the increased demand for welders is the expected growth within the nuclear industry.

The Savannah River Site area might not be the only one to benefit from the welding education provided by these four schools, however. Welding positions need to be filled across the country, including the Newport News, Virginia area. As hundreds of welding positions open each year at NNS, opportunities could arise for students who receive NNS’ computer based training through local area technical colleges.

**“We are pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of this generous effort that will create or significantly improve the welding classes offered to interested students throughout the region. And we can appreciate how this gift from Newport News will also benefit those employers within the greater Aiken-Augusta area needing employees with highly developed welding skills. ”**

**- Fred Dohse**