

DT Townsend

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
(803) 952-5564,
DT-lawrence.townsend@srs.gov

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Claflin University Students Find Potential Careers Visiting SRS

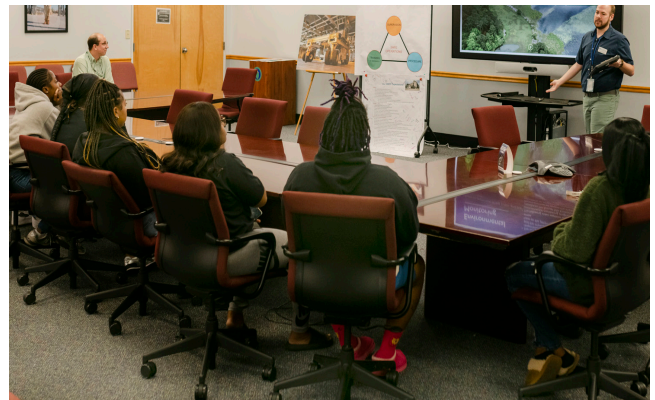
AIKEN, S.C. May 26, 2023 – Claflin University students recently traveled from Orangeburg, South Carolina, to tour the Savannah River Site (SRS) in order to learn about the wide array of facilities and occupations found across the 310 square-mile U.S. Department of Energy environmental reservation.

According to Claflin University Assistant Professor Daniel Koenemann, the environmental management and biology students arrived with a natural interest in the Site's nuclear and environmental restoration missions.

"It benefits our students to see exactly where they could apply their future degrees and the job opportunities available in those areas," said Koenemann. "I thought it was a great trip, and I'm happy we came here today."

Jared Wicker, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) Environmental Monitoring Program, stated that Site tours are beneficial for all involved.

Wicker said, "Participants can see first-hand emerging scientific technologies being developed at SRS and our commitment to protecting the land where the Site is located and surrounding areas for our employees and our communities. By touring the Site, participants can get a sense of the wide scope of environmental health and safety programs that we have due to the complexity of our missions which is not typical in most industrial settings."



Jared Wicker, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, explains how different technologies are used to monitor the environment at Savannah River Site.

Bryan Ortner, Manager, SRNS Talent Acquisition, added that each student visiting the Site is a potential future employee.

"We have several ways to populate our employee pipeline with job candidates; including tours, job fairs and education outreach programs. We proactively reach out with the goal of creating a positive impression of our company and the Site," said Ortner.

The one-day event included a driving tour of several facilities supporting the wide range of missions at SRS and featured a walking tour of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). In 1996, DWPF operations began with use of a vitrification process to convert high-activity liquid waste stored at SRS into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal.

News from the Savannah River Site

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“We have a history of partnering with Claflin University to help their students identify and pursue successful careers at SRS. It’s a mutually beneficial relationship I’m confident will continue to grow,” said Ortner.

Claflin University is a comprehensive institution of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church. A historically black university founded in 1869, Claflin is committed to providing students with access to exemplary educational opportunities in its undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs.



Les Patten, Savannah River Mission Completion, describes a special vehicle used to safely transfer large stainless-steel canisters filled with vitrified, high-activity waste from the production facility to the nearby, long-term storage structure.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site located near Aiken, South Carolina.