

Principal Media Contact: Caroline Reppert  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC  
803-952-8367  
[caroline.reppert@srs.gov](mailto:caroline.reppert@srs.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SRNS Employees Learn How to Take the Next “LEAP” Forward

*Networking activity, panel discussion and keynote address top the agenda at the LEAP Professional Development Conference*

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 1, 2015) – Everyone faces moments of uncertainty in their careers. What should be the next step? What are the strategies for staying on track? The 2015 LEAP (Leaders Emerging Among Professionals) Conference, themed “Taking the Next Leap Forward,” tackled these questions and addressed other challenges faced by early-career professionals at the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS).

On Nov. 4, more than 120 LEAP members and managers from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) gathered for the conference at Newberry Hall in Aiken, S.C. The event kicked off with an introduction by Dave Eyler, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, who reflected on LEAP’s accomplishments since it was established in Oct. 2010.

“It’s impressive to see employees actively engaged in LEAP’s lunch and learn events on site, as well as the networking and community outreach activities outside of work. The LEAP organization is a valuable asset to the Savannah River Site, as it provides opportuni-



*Tom D'Agostino, Senior Vice President for Business Development and Strategy, Fluor Government Group, addresses members of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LEAP (Leaders Emerging Among Professionals) at a recent early-career professionals event in Aiken, S.C.*

# News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

---

ties for our future leaders to expand their network and learn about our company's culture. LEAP impacts retention and affects who stays in this area, and I'm pleased to see how it has kept the momentum going over the past five years," said Eyler.

After the introduction, conference attendees participated in a networking activity, which LEAP member Ian Rojas-Godoy found valuable. "I was able to gain useful information from the individuals at my table, which included LEAP members, as well as leaders from our company's executive team and senior level managers. The networking activity started discussions around the table throughout the morning," said Rojas-Godoy. "Overall, the conference provided a great opportunity for one-on-one conversations, and it was reassuring to hear that the managers and executives at my table had their own share of struggles along their path to a rewarding career."

Following the networking activity was a panel discussion with managers from different areas on site. The five panelists included Carol Barry, Senior Vice President of Workforce Services and Talent Management; Kevin Gallahue, Chief Engineer, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL); Mike Swain, Director of Environmental Management Programs; Jay Johnson, Manager, Programs Integration; and Jeannette Hyatt, Deputy Director Hanford Mission Support, Environmental Stewardship Directorate, SRNL.

"LEAP members had the option to invite their manager or lead to the conference, which is how I was made aware of the event," said Mike Hughes, Manager, SRNS Engineering Leadership Development Program. "Today's conference panel represented the diversity of career options and talent at the Savannah River Site, and was a good mix of total years of management experience, allowing the audience to relate to at least one leader on the panel. Although the panel discussion was intended for an early-career audience, the panelists' experiences and advice were highly relevant to professionals of all ages."

After gaining an in-depth look into the careers of the panelists, Tom D'Agostino, Senior Vice President for Business Development and Strategy in Fluor's Government Group in Greenville, S.C., presented the keynote address. D'Agostino discussed his career experience, including positions appointed by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama as the DOE Undersecretary for Nuclear Security, and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.

"Don't fall into a trap of over-planning your career. You're in a job right now – it's vital to do excellent work today. Looking back on the past 30 years, my desire and focus to do a good job in the moment is what led to the leadership opportunities in my career," said D'Agostino. "Many of you will someday be managers, or will be in charge of a group of managers within the facilities at SRS. As the future leaders of this site, it's important to learn how to clearly set expectations and hold people responsible for the standards of the organization."

---

# News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

---

LEAP is a developmental program for professionals in the early stages of their careers. With a focus of business awareness specific to SRNS, LEAP provides early-career professionals with networking, professional development and community outreach events, as well as increased visibility with management. The organization is peer-led by a steering committee of 14 members who coordinate monthly events for its 200 members.

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

Visit us on the web at [www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://www.savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

SRNS-2015-413