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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Engineers Share Knowledge and Experience during CSRA Teach-Ins

AIKEN, S.C. (March 1, 2016) – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees observed National Engineers Week 2016 by conducting science and engineering demonstrations for more than 3,000 students throughout the greater Aiken-Augusta area.

More than 35 SRNS engineers, scientists and technicians conducted "Teach-In" demonstrations over a two-week period at 29 middle schools, with a focus on seventh-grade students.

Teach-Ins promote the importance of math, science and technology literacy. SRS volunteers provide interactive demonstrations and informative discussions to give students a broader understanding of the field of engineering.

"The benefits of partnership with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Teach-Ins extend well beyond this educational outreach," said Aiken County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford. "Having scientists and engineers on our school campuses provides real-world application to classroom studies and inspires student interest in STEM fields. It's this type of partnership that will enhance our District's ability to produce a viable workforce for our community's unique needs of highly scientific and technically skilled future employees."



*Kendra Sterling (from left), SRNS Engineer Fred Swanson, Elijah Jarrard, Ann Jenkins, SRNS Engineer Buford Beavers, Matthew Price, Satchel O'Meara, and Stephen Nelson, use a hands-on experiment involving a jar, rubber band, paper clips, and a metal nut to demonstrate how centrifugal force can have an effect on gravitational pull during this year's SRS Teach-Ins Program at Paul Knox Middle School, in North Augusta, S.C.*

# News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

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Middle schools in the South Carolina counties of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Edgefield, plus the Georgia counties of Columbia and Richmond, have participated in this outreach program managed and sponsored by SRNS since 2008. During this time period, over 15,000 students from this region have benefited from the creative work and hours of effort provided by hundreds of enthusiastic Teach-In volunteers.

SRNS engineer Leslie Wells had groups of students in each class write instructions describing how to correctly make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich in the proper sequence that a robot could follow, to simulate the process of writing computer code. There were numerous giggles and lots of laughter as the “robot” (Wells) repeatedly struggled with what appeared at first to be good directions.

“Using the peanut butter and jelly analogy today really gave me good experience on how to properly write computer codes,” said seventh-grader Haley Kitchens at Paul Knox Middle School. “It was a lot of fun.” Kitchens said she plans to become a labor and delivery nurse. “But, after today, I’ll probably consider a career in medical engineering as well.”

National Engineers Week is a project of DiscoverE (formerly National Engineers Week Foundation) and celebrates the positive contributions engineers make to society and is a catalyst for outreach across the country to kids and adults alike.

“I’m very grateful for the SRNS participants, for the planners, for all of those working together to help bring learning to life for my students,” said Yashonda Goodwin, a science teacher at Paul Knox Middle School.

“To sum up the value of the Teach-In program, I would use the word relevance,” added Goodwin. “My students need to know it’s not just me as a teacher saying this is important. The relevance of these demonstrations related to life outside of school is important for the kids to see.”

The SRS Teach-In Program is managed by SRNS Education Outreach personnel for the DOE Savannah River Operations Office. DOE and SRNS provide a variety of science, engineering and literacy outreach programs to reach tens of thousands of students each year in the Central Savannah River Area through the unique resources available at SRS.

*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.*

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