SRPPF Construction
SRNS and Fluor kick off important partnership

This month
Weapon Intern Program • CSRA College Night • Annual Environmental Report • Red Cross Heroes
The work SRNS is responsible for at the Site continues to change and grow in size, complexity and priority. We take great pride in the confidence placed in us to adapt to these changes and to carry out some of the nation’s most vital missions while continuing a legacy of safety.

Work continued in NNSA mission areas in October, including work on site prep construction for the Tritium Finishing Facility, which will replace a Cold War era facility and ensure continued tritium reservoir processing capabilities. In K Area, the high-hazard task of removing a curtain wall from the main processing and storage facility furthers preparation for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition project.

The 2022 Annual Site Environmental Report was recently released and provides the public and stakeholders detailed information about environmental conditions at SRS. Several SRNS employees recently received awards recognizing their commitment to taking safety into their community. Two SRNS employees, Miran Tyrell and Fire Department Captain TJ Brown, were recently recognized at the American Red Cross Heroes breakfast for lifesaving actions. Additionally, Radiological Inspector Daryl Butler received the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association Safety and Health Outreach Award, which recognizes individuals who have achieved an outstanding level of outreach in the safety and health arena.

SRNS continues to be prepared to meet any challenge and to stay focused on mission excellence with safety at the forefront.

I hope you enjoy this month’s edition of SRNS Today.
SRNS employees were recently selected to participate in the Weapon Intern Program (WIP), an 11-month residential educational program hosted by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) Engineers Keith Abrahamson and Quentin Price became the latest participants from SRS selected for the prestigious leadership development program whose mission is to prepare future generations of experts in nuclear weapons stewardship.

The only program of its kind within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), the WIP offers participants an in-depth, Enterprise-wide exposure to all aspects of the nuclear deterrent. Over the past 25 years, WIP has graduated over 500 participants from multiple organizations, including DOE, the Department of Defense (DOD) and NNSA. Only 24 participants are accepted into the program each year. Of the 24 accepted, 12 are external to Sandia, allowing for one to two candidates to participate from SRS each year.

The WIP includes extensive classroom instruction from subject matter experts on a variety of nuclear weapon topics. Classroom instruction is reinforced with Site visits across the NSE, a variety of DOD facilities and historical sites. During their time in the program, WIP participants also complete class projects, such as weapon system program reviews, and a final project in which they are embedded in a Sandia working group. Those returning to SRS provide insight into nuclear weapon production and leverage established connections to support the SRPPF and Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) missions.

“It is an incredible honor to represent SRS in the Weapon Intern Program,” said Lisa Lee, SRPPF Senior Engineer, who coordinates the SRPPF application and selection processes and also helps plan the annual WIP SRS site visit. “WIP is well known throughout the NSE, and as a result, draws a considerable amount of interest throughout the nuclear weapon complex. Many of the candidates selected for WIP have 10-plus years of nuclear experience and are considered experts in their fields.”

Todd Woodsmall, SRTE Senior Engineer, who was involved in the SRS selection process, agreed. “Participation in the WIP is a big deal because it represents a significant investment on the part of both SRNS and the immediate organization from which each participant comes,” he said. “Each intern not only goes to learn, but he or she takes with them their knowledge of SRS facilities and capabilities to help inform other Sites’ interns about our role and contribution to the nuclear weapon complex. They are ambassadors for SRS and their home organization.”

Abrahamson and Price started the program in mid-September. “I have always heard of the program described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a distillation of decades of knowledge to develop the next generation of nuclear weaponeers,” said Price. “The intent of the program is to develop technical leadership in individuals while fostering relationships across the NSE. Both of these will help me better serve to integrate SRPPF into its nascent role in the NSE.”

“This is a great opportunity to understand the weapon systems, delivery platforms and – just as important – the purpose of the NSE and how SRS missions ensure our national and global security,” said Abrahamson.

Emily Moody, SRTE Engineer, just returned to SRS after graduating from the most recent WIP class. “I definitely have a more thorough understanding of how what we do in Tritium fits into and affects the rest of the complex and the DOD,” she said. “I am very proud to be a part of our organization, even more so now than before WIP. The things I learned while doing my final project are invaluable in my understanding of our day-to-day work – how and why we do certain things. My participation in the program exceeded my expectations.”
SPD completes complex curtain wall removal task

Employees working on the Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project, located in K Area at SRS, recently completed the complex task of removing a curtain wall as part of the Site preparation phase of the project. These activities represent a crucial achievement in preparing the existing facility for the project to progress to full scale construction that will begin next year.

Part of the original K Area Exhaust Ventilation system, the curtain wall functioned to create a water seal in the ventilation duct during very early reactor operation days. While the curtain wall remained part of the reactor ventilation flow path and duct, it no longer served a specific design purpose.

The unique construction of the curtain wall, with the bottom edge suspended above floor level, required strategic planning and collaboration between Construction, Engineering and multiple craft disciplines to successfully complete the removal of the 80,000-pound concrete wall. “This is a great example of how collaboration and teamwork can successfully achieve unique tasks safely and efficiently,” said Brian Blackwell, SPD Project Construction Manager.

Employees utilized a remotely-operated track saw, which was mounted to the curtain wall to perform vertical and horizontal cuts through the 30-foot wide by 14-foot high concrete wall, while utilizing Engineering controls to mitigate noise and respirable silica dust hazards. A containment enclosure around the work area enabled the workers to remain outside of the immediate work area and maintain airborne silica levels below levels requiring additional respiratory protection.

A specially-designed rigging cart, fabricated by the project, was lifted into place as the final cut on each of the over 1.5-ton concrete blocks was made and subsequently lowered using two Gantry cranes. Utilization of this custom rigging cart further reduced the risk of silica exposure to workers during the removal of the 24 blocks.

“D&R [Disassembly and Removal] work in an existing operating facility can be extremely challenging, but the integrated project team showcased their dedication to safety, quality and efficiency by planning and executing this work seamlessly,” said Harrison Smoak, SPD Site Preparation Project Manager.

With the completion of the removal of the curtain wall, the SPD Project established the necessary space to begin construction of new rooms within the K Area Complex to meet the mission need for expediting the disposition and removal of surplus plutonium from South Carolina.

Tritium Finishing Facility celebrates start of site prep construction

SRS is celebrating the start of site preparation for the new Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF) within the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE). SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile, and TFF is critical to this enduring mission.

TFF will replace H Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM), a Cold-War era facility built in the 1950s. HAOM has been in continuous operation since construction and is considered the workhorse of tritium reservoir processing activities. HAOM hosts reservoir finishing, assembly, inspection and packaging processes, which are the last steps in meeting mission deliverables.

This site prep phase of the project will clear the area for construction of the new facility, including demolition of one warehouse.

The entire project scope also includes demolition of two additional warehouses and construction of three buildings – one a Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility, one a radiological facility, and one replacement warehouse.
2022 Annual Site Environmental Report

Each year, SRS prepares its Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) following DOE requirements. The Site releases this report at the end of each fiscal year to give the public and SRS stakeholders detailed information about environmental conditions at SRS for the previous calendar year.

In 2022, SRS continued to safely operate and accomplish its missions while maintaining a record of environmental excellence. As in previous years, the Site met federal and state standards, designed to protect the public, environment and SRS workers.

The report also summarizes SRS’ environmental data; environmental sustainability performance; compliance with applicable DOE, federal and state regulations; and remediation and surveillance monitoring programs.

“The SRS Environmental Report is one of the oldest continuous records of the Site’s environmental performance, documenting with intricate precision the effect our operations have on the public and the environment,” said Michael Budney, Manager of the DOE Savannah River Operations Office. “Our goal is to ensure that SRS operations do not result in any substantial risk to the public and that our community is informed and engaged in our mission execution and environmental performance.”

SRNS Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects (EC&ACP) team collects more than 10,000 monitoring samples annually found both on- and off-site including air, water, soil, sediment, food products, freshwater fish, seafood, wildlife, plants and trees. These samples are analyzed by the Environmental and Bioassay Laboratory at SRS.

This publication also supports the SRS educational and community outreach programs and serves to educate a broad cross-section of the population on important programs at the Site. The 2022 ASER is available online at www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/index.html.

SRNS Radiological Protection Inspector Daryl Butler Jr. and Daryl Butler stand with Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair Andy Foster.

SRNS employee Daryl Butler honored with VPPPA award

SRNS Radiological Protection Inspector Daryl Butler was recently nationally recognized for his outstanding safety efforts at SRS. Butler received the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association (VPPPA) Safety and Health Outreach Award, which recognizes individuals who have achieved an outstanding level of outreach in the safety and health arena.

Butler’s passion for safety has left a lasting footprint at SRS, where he has inspired and trained countless employees to value safety and demonstrate safety leadership in day-to-day life. Practicing the “See Something Say Something” process, Butler ensures that all aspects of work are conducted in a safe and efficient manner.

Butler is especially passionate when it comes to the promotion of the Behavior-Based Safety (BBS) program, in which employees positively reinforce a safe work environment by identifying and discussing safe and at-risk behaviors with their peers. He continuously empowers employees to perform BBS observations during pre-job briefings, morning toolbox meetings and during walk-abouts in the facility and encourages the time-out process if unsafe conditions are observed.

“The Savannah River Site has a robust safety program with a decades-long legacy of excellence,” said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality. “Daryl is one of our top safety leaders at SRNS; his exceptional commitment to safety and employee engagement contributes to the continued success of our Site’s safety culture.”

For over 15 years, Butler has served as the Chair of his area's Local Safety Improvement Team (LSIT), F Area OWLS, providing valuable safety leadership and insight to every level of the company. He takes a hands-on, highly-enthusiastic approach to promoting safety awareness and performance, which is evident in his team’s consistent recognition by senior management as one of the most engaged and creative LSITs at SRNS.

“Being actively involved in safety initiatives is an excellent way to pass on safety expectations and drive meaningful results,” said Butler. “The F Area OWLS motto is ‘Just One Makes a Difference.’ Each and every one of us are a key piece to the safety culture puzzle uniquely shaped for one purpose—safety excellence.”
SRNS AND FLUOR KICK OFF

Construction Management transition for SRPPF project

Dennis Carr welcomes employees to the Construction Management (CM) transition town hall meeting Oct. 10.

Jon Lunn, SRPPF Project Director with SRNS, will lead the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility Integration/Transition Team during the transition period.

James Toler, Fluor Project Director, explains details of the CM subcontract during the town hall meeting.
SRNS kicked off the beginning of an important partnership with its selected Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) Construction Management (CM) subcontractor during an employee town hall meeting held Oct. 10.

SRNS awarded Fluor Federal Services the CM subcontract on Sept. 26 to deliver construction of the SRPPF project. The award fulfills a request by NNSA to mobilize a large Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) company to complete construction of SRPPF to meet the NNSA objective of producing plutonium pits at the Site.

“Today we kick off a partnership between SRNS and Fluor,” said Dennis Carr. “SRNS will still retain ownership and oversight of the SRPPF project, while Fluor will deliver engineering, procurement and construction management for the project. SRPPF is the No. 1 priority for the NNSA. Blending SRNS knowledge of our Department of Energy requirements into Fluor’s commercial practices is the best way to implement this mega construction project.”

SRPPF is one of two NNSA pit production sites in the nation, with the other located at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. A plutonium pit is a critical component in nuclear weapons. Once constructed and operational, SRPPF will produce the bulk of the nation’s supply of plutonium pits in support of sustainable nuclear deterrence.

“I believe this transition to a CM services contract allows Fluor to bring our extensive expertise in executing complex mega projects and will enhance the ability of the collective NNSA/SRNS/Fluor team to be successful in delivering this project,” said James Toler, Fluor Project Director.

Fluor has a proven history of performing mega projects and will bring streamlined procedures, tools and key personnel to lead the EPC activities.

“During the structured process of transition, Fluor will be standing up its full suite of systems and tools for engineering, procurement and construction,” Toler said.

SRNS will provide an oversight and support role to the CM subcontractor.

“SRNS will provide project oversight and any needed support, and Fluor will have full EPC delivery,” Toler said. “That means pick up the project, drive the project and – at the end of the day – turn it back over to SRNS for commissioning and startup.”

The CM subcontract award triggers a 120-day transition period, beginning Oct. 9, during which organizational realignment and adjustments will be necessary to ensure a successful interface of numerous SRNS and CM processes.

“We’re going to be figuring out over the upcoming weeks how we can best lay out the resources to execute the SRPPF project,” Carr said.

Jon Lunn, SRPPF Project Director with SRNS, will lead the SRPPF Integration/Transition Team during the complex transition period.

“The transition is like a project within a project,” Lunn said. “Planning the transition has been underway for several months, and the transition itself will take time.”

A construction management execution strategy is being developed, with a focus on schedule acceleration from construction to production as close to 2030 as possible.

“We all need to come together and know the plan moving forward because SRPPF is really important,” said J.C. Wallace, SRNS Executive Vice President and NNSA Chief Operations Officer. “It’s important that we know what we’re doing but also why we’re doing it. There is a need for the nation’s weapons systems to be modernized. Constructing SRPPF is incredibly important. It’s not just a job – we’ve got something to do for this nation.”
During the SRS CSRA College Night on Sept. 14, thousands of students filled the James Brown Arena in search of higher education opportunities, apprenticeships and future career paths. Fifteen local high school seniors won scholarships totaling $15,000.

“We are filling a huge need in our community,” said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. “CSRA College Night highlights many different careers and opportunities for students. This enables us to connect with the future workforce, spark interest in our most needed occupations and prove to students that they can make their dreams a reality.”

Serving area students for three decades, CSRA College Night has awarded more than $300,000 in scholarships and reached tens of thousands of participants over the years. This year alone, 3,248 total attendees connected with 116 colleges and universities, four branches of military and many local technical colleges.

“There is something here for everyone,” said Lukas Willard, a senior at Aiken Scholars Academy. “Trying to navigate admissions and opportunities online can be very difficult. Here, you can ask direct questions to representatives from different colleges, military entities and potential employers from SRS. I was surprised to see so much exposure and opportunity under one roof.”

In addition to scholarship opportunities, students and parents obtained information on educational opportunities and college admission requirements, participated in scholarship seminars, learned about SRS apprenticeships and met with counseling centers.

Associate Director of Regional Recruitment Caitlin Norton proudly represented the University of Alabama at Birmingham at one of the largest college recruitment events in the states of Georgia and South Carolina.

“This was a fantastic way to get access to thousands of students who may be undecided or looking for their next big step,” said Norton. “With over 4,000 institutions in the country, this in-person event was a great way for a student to narrow down their options and find the perfect school without having to spend thousands on traveling or college visits.”

Thirty volunteers from the Aiken County Public School District assisted students in the Career Exploration area where students could card sort interest inventory to validate their potential career choice and match personality traits to future job opportunities.

“We couldn’t have made tonight a reality without the hundreds of volunteers that contributed to its success,” said Hewitt. “They understand the impact this event has for many of our attending students and their parents. It is an incredible way to exchange information with the right people and provide guidance and direction on their next career move.”

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

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<th>Za’Nyah Mullins</th>
<th>Angel Tanksley</th>
<th>Destiny Moss</th>
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<td>Hephzibah High School</td>
<td>Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics</td>
<td>Thomson High School</td>
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<td>Cameron Downs</td>
<td>Halle Janik</td>
<td>Shanya Curry</td>
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<td>Aiken Scholar’s Academy</td>
<td>Alleluia Community School</td>
<td>Lakeside High School</td>
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<td>Robert Wright</td>
<td>Zyone Green</td>
<td>Myah Rodriguez-Alvarado</td>
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<td>Evans High School</td>
<td>Allendale-Fairfax High School</td>
<td>John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School</td>
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<td>Leo Littles III</td>
<td>Dylan Byrd</td>
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<td>Home School – Palmetto</td>
<td>A. R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School</td>
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<td>Independent Educators</td>
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<td>Caalyn Hyman</td>
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Within the last year, SRNS Supply Chain Management (SCM) has established recruiting connections with area universities and colleges and increased internal program incentives to attract 12 new graduates to SRS.

“The internship and apprenticeship programs have helped us recruit, build and retain highly-skilled individuals that are eager to join our team,” said Brittany Alston, SRNS Supply Chain Apprenticeship Coordinator. “Through skill-based education, our apprentices are learning from the best of the best and transitioning to full-service roles quickly.”

In 2021, SRNS added the SCM occupation to the Registered Apprenticeship Program, which now includes 23 technical and professional occupations.

“As we continue to grow our recruitment efforts and incentives, we are looking for young professionals that demonstrate solid academic performance, strong analytical skills and have the ability to work independently,” said David Dietz, SRNS Supply Chain Procurement Senior Director. “Our latest group of apprentices proved vital to SCM performance, which resulted in numerous full-service positions being offered.

Apprentices are introduced to SCM functions at the entry level, which includes 500 hours in each work process category. A successful candidate progresses in the role and cross trains to support other SCM functional areas, including Warehouse Operations, Property Management, Procurement and Inventory Information Services.

Benjamin Bruno, a senior at Clemson University and Small Business Program and Supply Chain Strategy Apprentice, believes his internship put him ahead of the curve.

“Working in pursuit of supplier excellence, I had the opportunity to grow my skills from theoretical knowledge to real, impactful solutions,” said Bruno. “The internship and apprenticeship programs gave me a head start and a chance to connect with professionals that have decades of experience, which I am extremely grateful for.”

SCM Policy and Compliance Apprentice Brandy Edwards accepted a full-time assignment in February after completing her bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Georgia.

“My women-led group is extremely empowering and motivating, allowing me to get my name out there and push my career forward,” said Edwards. “You don't have to be a business major to accept this opportunity. You rotate through the entire supply chain while receiving strong mentorship, networking opportunities, strategic relationships and lessons on how to carry yourself professionally.”

SCM has increased its recruitment activity at University of South Carolina Aiken, Augusta University, Clemson University, University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, The Citadel and Benedict College.

“We are experiencing a huge transition of workforce,” said Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Vice President, Contracts and SCM. “In the last year and a half, our team has spent 30% of our time hiring and closing gaps in our department. We will continue to ramp up opportunities in training and professional development to speed up time to [hire] talent and bring additional hires into our more needed roles.”
Red Cross Heroes include SRNS employees

SRNS recently served as the presenting sponsor for the American Red Cross of Augusta’s annual Heroes Breakfast. The Red Cross Heroes Breakfast is an annual event that was established to honor local heroes who strive to embody the mission of the Red Cross in their everyday lives.

This year, two SRNS employees were honored with awards at the event.

SRS Fire Department Captain TJ Brown received this year’s EMT Hero Award. Captain Brown was out enjoying a baseball tournament one weekend, when an emergency arose. A 20-month-old boy had swallowed an apple juice cap and was unable to breathe. Brown, an off-duty paramedic, jumped into action attempting back blows and chest compressions since he could not see the cap in the child’s throat while having someone call 911. Because of Brown’s CPR training and quick response time, he was able to keep the child breathing. He even rode in the ambulance holding the child in a position that allowed him to breathe until he was sedated at the hospital and the cap was removed.

Mirian Tyrell, Water Compliance Lead in Environmental Permitting, received the Wilderness Rescue Award. Trained in Wilderness First Aid, Tyrell used her knowledge to assist in a situation that could have ended badly. While walking the Greeneway in North Augusta, Tyrell heard a loud thud from behind her on the trail and saw that a runner had taken a bad fall, so she ran over to help. After the fall, the man could not speak or move well and was bleeding from the head. Tyrell immediately called 911 and got the attention of others on the trail to help flag down the ambulance and direct them to the correct access location.

“I would like to encourage everyone to get basic first aid training,” said Tyrell. “I didn’t have any first aid supplies when I was walking on the Greeneway that day, but I did have a phone which was all I needed. My training helped me figure out what I needed to do, stay calm while on the phone with the 9-1-1 dispatcher and enlist help from others who came by.”

Other honorees from the local community include:

- Kayla Watkins – Good Samaritan Adult Hero
- Patrick Broom and Tate Williams – Water Rescue Hero
- Chief Darryl Stewart – Military Hero
- Deputy Jonathan Adams and his dog Spencer – Animal Rescue Hero
- Taji Johnson – Good Samaritan Youth Hero
- Mary Cook – Nurse Hero

“I’m proud to say that SRNS shares our award winners’ commitment to safety,” said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety, Health and Quality. “A successful safety culture doesn’t happen by accident; it is built through training and an intentional commitment to make choices which protect ourselves and those around us. Above all, safety culture is dependent on people who care and are not afraid to take actions. We are proud to have employees in our workforce who embody those principles.”
Leeanna Biery is the Construction Engineering Manager for SRNS. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and is a Professional Engineer licensed in South Carolina.

In her current role, she manages construction engineers across the Site to ensure quality work packages are produced so that construction scopes and projects are executed safely to meet design requirements. She also manages the Project Management and Construction Services Programs group, which aids in continued procedure compliance.

Biery is heavily involved with the community as this year’s Aspiring Mid-career Professionals (AMP) President. AMP has recently expanded to a multi-company organization, encompassing members from SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion and Battelle Savannah River Alliance. She has worked to continue recruiting new members and ensure all three companies are integrated. The organization’s projects include numerous outreach and professional development events, such as the recent Successsteam bookbag drive and the AMP Recharge leadership event.

“I’m thankful for all of the opportunities SRNS has provided me in my career thus far,” said Biery. “I’ve especially enjoyed learning and contributing to the K Area Complex mission and [am] grateful for the relationships I’ve been able to develop along the way.”

She and her husband Adam reside just outside of Beaufort, South Carolina, where they tend to their hobby farm raising chickens, pigs and honeybees. They have a three-year-old son and recently welcomed a daughter in July. The family also enjoys hunting, traveling and fishing coastal waters.

The annual Aspiring Mid-career Professional (AMP) ReCharge event drew 211 attendees to the Julian Smith Casino in Augusta, Georgia, for a day of professional development and awards. This year’s theme was “The Leader Within You: Title Not Required.”

Speakers included Generac Value Stream Manager Tom Lamb; Richardson Professional Solutions’ Amy Richardson; SRNS Manager of Talent Management Matt Wright; Richmond County Tax Commissioner Tederell “Chris” Johnson; Textron Senior Talent Management and Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Specialist Triyoko Boatwright; and SRNS Mission and Contractor Assurance Deputy Director Tamara Baldwin. Pictured, Baldwin kicked off her presentation ready to talk about battling adversity.

AMP also presented the Be the Change leadership award to Marion Cofer of Battelle Savannah River Alliance and the Going the Extra Mile award to Danielle Elliott of SRNS.
We make the world safer.

SRNS

Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges

Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation’s nuclear deterrent

Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation

Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms

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