

# News from the Savannah River Site

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Joins Augusta Technical College and Georgia Power Partnership in Support of Nuclear Engineering Technology Programs for Area Students**

AIKEN, S.C. (August 7, 2014) – Augusta Technical College announced a formal Agreement of Understanding today between the College, Georgia Power and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) in support of the Nuclear Engineering Technology Program at Augusta Tech, recognizing SRNS as an industry partner.

“This partnership is a win-win situation for everyone,” said Bob Collins, Augusta Technical College Instructor, Nuclear Engineering Technology Program. “It’s a win for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions because they get high quality employees that are now exempt from the majority of their fundamental training. It’s a win for Georgia Power because it balances out their workforce needs. It’s a win for the college because we accomplish our mission to provide students with skills and knowledge needed by local industries. And, most importantly, it’s a win for the community because local people are placed in local jobs.”



*Jeff Gasser, Site Manager, Plant Vogtle (left), joins Dr. Rick Hall, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Augusta Technical College and Carol Johnson, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions President & CEO, to sign an Agreement of Understanding, creating a mutually beneficial partnership to support the nuclear industry throughout the region.*

Georgia Power has served as the primary utility partner with Augusta Technical College since the Nuclear Engineering Technology Program was developed in 2008. This program began admitting students in the Fall of 2010. As the need to fill nuclear sector job vacancies has grown, so has interest in this area of study. SRNS recognized the value of the program and sought out an opportunity to join the partnership.

Over 75 students have graduated since the inception of the program and most are currently working at Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle and SRNS facilities at the Savannah River Site.

Serving as an industry partner also means SRNS will collaborate on developing curriculum, support outreach efforts to students and participate on advisory councils.

"We have a long history of working closely with and supporting Augusta Technical College," said Carol Johnson, SRNS President & CEO. "We're pleased that all involved will greatly benefit from this agreement."

The Engineering Technology programs at Augusta Technical College are high-tech, associate degree programs that prepare graduates for careers in plant maintenance and operations at commercial nuclear facilities such as Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle, Department of Energy nuclear facilities such as those operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and other related nuclear support companies. These robust programs span three technical areas to include electrical, mechanical and nuclear specific courses.

"We're excited to have SRNS as a major partner in Augusta Tech's nuclear engineering technology programs," said Jeff Gasser, Southern Nuclear Executive Vice President of Operational Readiness and Site Integration for Georgia Power Vogtle 3 and 4 Project. "This partnership is another step forward to provide our future workforce the tools and the skills they need to prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow."

The Nuclear Engineering Technology program is sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute and Institute for Nuclear Power Operations based on Nuclear Uniform Curriculum guidelines for associate degree programs.

*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)

#### *About Georgia Power*

*Georgia Power is the largest subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO), the premier energy company serving the Southeast through its subsidiaries. Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle is operated by Southern Nuclear Operating*

*Company, and is owned jointly by Georgia Power, Oglethorpe Power Corp., the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and Dalton Utilities.*

*Value, Reliability, Customer Service and Stewardship are the cornerstones of Georgia Power's promise to 2.4 million customers in all but four of the state's 159 counties. Committed to delivering clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy at rates below the national average, Georgia Power maintains a diverse, innovative generation mix that includes nuclear, advanced coal and natural gas, renewables such as solar, hydroelectric and wind, as well as a variety of energy efficiency programs. Consistently recognized as a leader in customer service, Georgia Power was recently ranked highest in overall business customer satisfaction among large utilities in the South by J.D. Power and Associates. For more information, visit [www.GeorgiaPower.com](http://www.GeorgiaPower.com) and connect with the company on Facebook ([Facebook.com/GeorgiaPower](https://Facebook.com/GeorgiaPower)) and Twitter ([Twitter.com/GeorgiaPower](https://Twitter.com/GeorgiaPower))*

#### *About Augusta Technical College*

*Augusta Technical College operates under the supervision of The Technical College System of Georgia which oversees 23 colleges throughout the state. Augusta Technical College offers more than 100 programs of study leading to associate degrees, diplomas and technical certificates of credit. It also provides over 20,000 hours in business and industry training to area companies. Augusta Technical College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information visit us online at [www.augustatech.edu](http://www.augustatech.edu).*

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