

**Mackenzie McNabb**

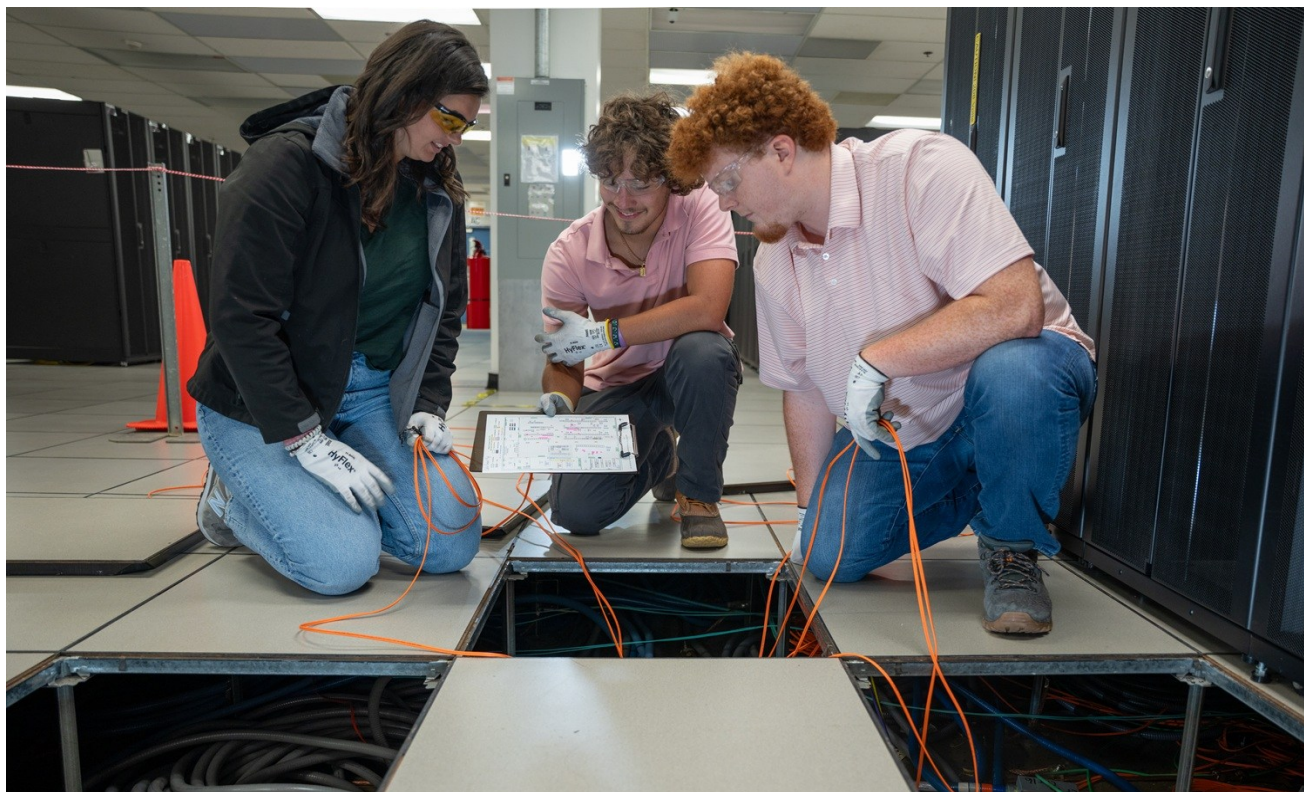
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions  
(803) 952-8179, [mackenzie.mcnabb@srs.gov](mailto:mackenzie.mcnabb@srs.gov)

**For Immediate Release**

## Building Tomorrow's Leaders: The Impact of SRNS Internships

**AIKEN, S.C.** – (September 8, 2025) – At the Savannah River Site (SRS), four dynamic interns are making waves and leaving an indelible mark, showcasing the transformative power of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions' (SRNS) summer internship program. Through hands-on experience in fields ranging from Information Technology (IT) and Supply Chain to Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP), these young talents are not only shaping their futures but also contributing to mission delivery at SRNS.

Since its inception in 2009, the SRNS Internship Program has bridged the gap between emerging talent and meaningful work opportunities that benefit the nation. These interns exemplify how investing in young professionals fosters innovation, drives progress and strengthens industry partnerships.



*IT Facilities Interns Emma Kramer, Christopher Kinard, and Aiden Arnold uphold reliability and performance of data center infrastructure by removing abandoned cables to enhance airflow. Airflow is essential to maintaining optimal temperatures and preventing potential server shutdowns.*

"The SRNS Internship Program and its dedicated management team have excelled in creating employment opportunities that provide real-world, hands-on experiences," said Bryan Ortnor, SRNS

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Senior Vice President, Workforce Services and Talent Management. "By offering practical training and mentorship, we ensure our interns develop the skills and confidence needed to make significant contributions to Environmental Management and National Nuclear Security Administration missions."

Christopher Kinard and Emma Kramer, mechanical engineering students at the University of South Carolina (USC) Aiken, enhanced the integrity and efficiency of the Site's Data Centers, Telecom Facilities, and IT equipment. Guided by the IT Facilities Department, their tasks included maintaining the physical infrastructure, power systems, and cooling systems of the Data Centers; removing abandoned cables to improve performance; and validating layouts and power drawings across 13 telecommunication facilities.

"Our interns continue to increase our teams' productivity by handling small tasks and projects," said Tammy Pruitt, Acting Manager, Facilities, and PC Administration. "This is a great way to evaluate future employees and observe their work ethic, skills and fit within our team. As mentors, it's our duty to pass on valuable knowledge and industry insights to the next generation."

Their favorite project was installing and configuring a Keri Door Access System in the PCA warehouse, enhancing accountability and protecting assets valued between \$2.5 and \$3 million. "This experience allowed me to enhance my electrical skills, critical thinking and overall knowledge of power systems," said Kinard. "Overall, this was an amazing 12-week experience learning from expert IT professionals and getting a taste of what a full-service role would look like at SRS."

Kramer added, "This internship kept me on my toes with each day presenting a new challenge and opportunity. Over the past two years, I've formed meaningful connections at SRS and this program has given me a newfound confidence that I will succeed in the professional world."



*SRNS PPOP personnel tour the Rolls Royce Facility to spark a new strategic partnership.*

Jason Manzanares, a mechanical engineering student at USC Aiken, spent his summer fostering strategic partnerships for the PPOP modernization effort. Collaborating with top PPOP operations managers and engineers, Manzanares coordinated a tour of the Rolls Royce Manufacturing facility in Graniteville, South Carolina, gaining insights into high-quality engine and turbine production.

During the visit, PPOP personnel toured multiple manufacturing lines, included a 20-cylinder engine used for backup power generation in major data centers such as Google and Amazon.



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*PPOP Strategic Partnership Development Intern Jason Manzanares coordinated a tour of the facility to gain insight into high-quality engine and turbine production.*

“Our vision is to develop strategic partnerships for cultural awareness, efficiency, training and resource development,” said Manzanares. “South Carolina is a manufacturing-friendly state with hundreds of name-brand companies with elite facilities that SRNS can learn from or utilize for buy-over-build components. These partnerships help SRNS visualize a new path forward and drives our goals of creating a successful and best-in-class pit production facility.”

Scott Pardue, PPOP Production Modernization, said, “These opportunities give students a head start in understanding our company culture

and missions while receiving mentorship from industry leaders. Internships are often the first professional experience students have, and being labeled as ‘interns’ provides them with the time, attention, and space to mature in their roles and deepen their understanding.”

Catherine Newman, a business economics student at Wofford College, focused her internship on supplier segmentation to drive informed decision-making. Newman played a key role in organizing and presenting at the annual Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA) conference, managing event logistics, engaging with subcontractors, and sharing valuable insights on market opportunities with DOE and NNSA.



*Supplier Engagement Intern Catherine Newman during the ETEBA conference.*

“I was able to explore my passions and strengths in a practical setting,” said Newman. “The support from my team made executing the ETEBA conference highly rewarding and provided a fantastic networking opportunity. Many companies left ETEBA feeling heard and optimistic about positive business opportunities with SRNS.”

SRNS’ commitment to nurturing young talent is evident in the practical learning opportunities provided to each intern. At the conclusion of this year’s program, 38 interns accepted full-service positions while 25 transitioned into apprenticeship roles. For more information, [click here](#).

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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