

Principal Media Contact: Lindsey MonBarren
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
803.645.5455
lindsey.monbarren@srs.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SRNS/ATC Graduate First Cohort of Operator Apprentices

AIKEN, S.C. (October 5, 2020) - The first cohort from the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions' (SRNS) Operator Apprenticeship program was recognized Oct. 2 for completing their Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate from Aiken Technical College (ATC).

The eight-month Operator Apprenticeship Program provided a unique learning opportunity for eight apprentices from ATC to simultaneously complete classroom work while receiving on-the-job training. Students spent two days a week receiving instruction from ATC and two days a week on Site working.

SRNS paid the tuition for the operator apprentices enrolled in the first round of this program. Apprentices learned the basic qualifications of a production operator including conduct of operations principles, radiation worker training and qualification, and how to perform shift rounds.

SRNS has extended offers to several of the apprentices, who, if hired, will be put to work in areas across the Site.

“This pilot program was a success for both the operator apprentices and SRNS,” said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. “Through



The first cohort from the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Operator Apprenticeship program was recognized Oct. 2 for completing their Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate from Aiken Technical College. Pictured are (front row, from left) Kevin Thomas, Melinda Greene and Alexander Sims; (second row, from left) Adam Thomas, Denis Pressley and Christopher Sullivan; and (back row, from left) Michael McAdory and John Starnes.

News from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE • AIKEN • SC 29808

the program, the apprentices have gained the skills to prepare them for jobs in the nuclear field, while SRNS is receiving employees already trained in the work for needed positions.”

The Nuclear Fundamentals Program, created in 2016 in collaboration with SRNS, prepares students for entry-level positions in the nuclear industry. The recent addition of the apprenticeship program pathway further helps to build the workforce pipeline.

“Providing opportunities for educational and workforce development is central to ATC’s mission and contributes to the economic vitality of the region,” said ATC President Dr. Forest Mahan. “This partnership is a great example of creating a pathway for students from the classroom to the workforce. We strive to provide students with employable skills that are valued and meet the needs of our local employers.”

The Operator Apprenticeship Program is part of Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC). AC is a division of the South Carolina Technical College System, leads South Carolina in registered apprenticeship programs that help businesses and communities thrive economically. With the guidance of AC as well as the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, the operator apprenticeship program has been registered both with the state and nationally.

“Many employers struggle to find the skilled workers they need to grow their business,” said Amy Firestone, Vice President for Apprenticeship Carolina. “Apprenticeship Carolina and our technical colleges across the state are dedicated to increasing the awareness and use of registered apprenticeships in South Carolina. We know from experience that apprenticeships, like Savannah River Nuclear Solutions’, can go a long way to bridging the skills gap so many companies face.”

Applications for the second class of operator apprentices are being accepted now through October 14. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/careers/careers.htm> or call Janessa Smith, SRNS Human Resources Specialist, at (803) 646-3538.

For more information about the Nuclear Fundamentals program, visit www.atc.edu.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor-led company with Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, is 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

Aiken Technical College is a two-year comprehensive college located in Graniteville, South Carolina. Founded in 1972, the College provides educational and workforce development opportunities through academic programs, continuing education, and corporate training services. Visit www.atc.edu for more information.

Apprenticeship Carolina™ is an integral part of the SC Technical College System that works to ensure all employers in South Carolina have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship consultants are available to guide companies through the registered apprenticeship development process from initial information to full recognition in the National Registered Apprenticeship System. These services are available to South Carolina employers free of charge. Interested employers are encouraged to contact Apprenticeship Carolina™ at (803) 896-5287 or visit www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com

SRNS-2020-952
