

from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC

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**For Immediate Release**

## SRNS Education Outreach: Back to School Report

*Education Outreach Programs at SRS support thousands of students throughout the CSRA*

AIKEN, S.C. (August 23, 2012) – As another school year begins, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC Education Outreach Programs (EOP) prepares for another year of exciting competitions, lectures and demonstrations. Last year, the programs reached more than 17,000 students in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) and this year they expect to reach even more.

The goal of SRNS EOP is to empower area students by making education pertinent to their ambitions and talents. The programs promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through hands-on experiments, demonstrations and competitions in hopes of sparking interest in related careers. SRNS education initiatives include:

- **Innovative Teaching Mini Grants:** a competitive program that provides grants to CSRA public school teachers for innovative ideas that enhance science, math and technology curricula. In 2012, SRNS awarded 85 grants to classroom teachers, totaling \$50,000 to educators in South Carolina and Georgia. The grants are expected to impact over 2,380 students in the upcoming year. In 2013, \$75,000 in grants will be awarded in support of innovative CSRA teachers!
- **CSRA College Night:** a cooperative effort providing an opportunity for students, parents and guidance counselors to learn about education and financial aid opportunities available from accredited colleges and universities. Last year, 160 colleges from across the country interacted with more than 8,000 individuals within the CSRA and surrounding areas who attended the event. This year's event is scheduled for September 6, 2012.



Allendale-Fairfax Middle School students participated in the Science and Technology Enrichment Program visiting the Savannah River Site last month.

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- CSRA Science and Engineering Fair: develops students' scientific investigation skills and knowledge by planning, constructing and exhibiting their own "hands-on" scientific project. This year, 400 projects from local science fairs were invited to participate in the fair.
- Regional Future City Competition: this national project-based learning experience is for middle schoolers to imagine, design and build cities of the future with the help of a mentor who contributes real-world STEM knowledge. A total of 600 students were impacted last year, and the top team competed against 37 other teams at the National Competition.
- Science Bowl: a "Jeopardy Style" academic science competition for high school students in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, energy and earth and space science. Since its beginning, more than 1,500 students have participated, with 120 participating last year. Regional winners compete in the National Science Bowl.
- Traveling Science Demonstration Program: provides SRS scientists and engineers to teach in the areas of chemistry, biology, physics and other STEM related fields. SRS volunteers conducted demonstrations and experiments for over 16,000 students last year.
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering: Each year, 50 middle school girls meet with women engineers who encourage the girls to consider engineering, science and technology-related careers by participating in fun, hands-on science activities.
- Science Technology Enrichment Program (STEP): provides 3-12 grade students with environmental science, mathematics and technology education using a combination of classroom instruction and field investigation opportunities at SRS. Last year, more than 1,000 students participated in hands-on learning at SRS.

"We are committed to our community and through education outreach programs are adding value to the education system," said SRNS CEO and President Dwayne Wilson. "We understand that investing in the future of CSRA students guarantees the sustainability of the community and our Site."

Through inquiry-based learning opportunities, students learn teamwork, creativity and responsibility as they work together to solve engineering and science problems. Not only do students have the opportunity to compete with top students from the region, but to compete nationally.

"These competitions lead students to look at real-life challenges of our day and discover plausible solutions," said Candice Dermody, SRNS EOP manager. "Students benefit greatly from these competitions. In fact, one student who participated in our Future City competition is now a Disney Imagineer."

For more information visit: [www.srs.gov/general/outreach/edoutrch](http://www.srs.gov/general/outreach/edoutrch)

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor Partnership comprised of Fluor, 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)

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