

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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2019 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and Savannah River Remediation (SRR) announced South Carolina State University student Amelia Manhardt as the winner of the 2019 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship is sponsored by SRR, the liquid waste contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Manhardt, who is from Eutawville, S.C., is a nuclear engineering student at S.C. State University. CNTA Executive Director Jim Marra said CNTA is proud to award this \$5,000 scholarship to such an ambitious, enthusiastic, and deserving student.

“Amelia has a great passion to pursue nuclear research, continue her education, and grow her knowledge and experience in the field,” Marra said. “All these go-getter qualities make Amelia the ideal candidate to award this scholarship. No doubt she will be an exemplary addition to the nuclear industry.”

This summer, Manhardt has interned at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, assisting in digitizing information that was recorded on film from experiments that were done in the 1940s and '50s. Manhardt also interned with SRR in the summer of 2018 as a land surveyor.

“I was fascinated by how the fields of land surveying and nuclear engineering overlapped,” she said. “Because my late mother was a land surveyor, this field is of interest to me. Seeing these two fields coincide opened my eyes to how there is more to nuclear engineering than just the inner workings of a reactor – it made me interested in the infrastructure encapsulating the technology within.”

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree, Manhardt plans to go to graduate school to study materials then eventually on to receive her Ph.D.

“No matter where my research takes me, I want to eventually spread my knowledge to others, and help more student rise to the challenges faced in the field of nuclear engineering,” she said.

CNTA also awarded Kennesaw State University student Alisa Machiwalla a Special Merit Award. Machiwalla is studying mechanical engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering.

The Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship is a joint project of CNTA and SRR. Maher, Vice President and General Manager for Strategic Mission Development at SRS, passed away in 2002 after a 48-year career at the Site. A visionary with a broad view of the Site’s potential, Maher helped shape SRS.

The annual scholarship was established in Maher's memory to support students pursuing science and engineering degrees in preparation for careers in the nuclear field.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or e-mail at cnta@bellsouth.net.

-Caption: 2019 Maher Memorial Scholarship Winner, South Carolina State University student Amelia Manhardt, and Special Merit Award Winner Alisa Machiwalla.