

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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2021 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and Savannah River Remediation (SRR) announced Kennesaw State University (KSU) student Alisa Machiwalla as the winner of the 2021 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).

Machiwalla, who is from Marietta, Georgia, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering. CNTA Executive Director Jim Marra said CNTA is proud to award this \$5,000 scholarship to such an ambitious, enthusiastic, and deserving student.

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

Her career aspiration is to find solutions to issues that involve clean, sustainable nuclear energy. She also hopes to be involved in the research, design, and implementation of innovative technology, such as the cost-competitive Generation IV reactors or the implementation of small modular reactor technologies.

In the Spring of 2019, she joined Southern Nuclear as an engineering co-op student, completing three rotations with the company, first in the monitoring and diagnostic center at the corporate office and second/third at Plant Vogtle. She has also interned with Enercon in the Next Era and Entergy groups, where she supported engineers to provide upgrade designs for their nuclear plants.

"With the knowledge that I have gained through my experience, I understand now more than ever that with plants closing around the country, nuclear needs to become cost-competitive in the market to meet the demand for clean and reliable energy," Machiwalla said. "I strive to help ensure this future."

She plans to continue assisting in nuclear research at KSU and complete the Nuclear Engineering Minor Program.

At KSU, she serves as the American Nuclear Society Kennesaw chapter president.

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. Details on the scholarship can be found at: <https://cntaware.org/maher-memorial-scholarship/>.

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.

