

CNTA Aware Newsletter



Fall 2024

Letter from our Executive Director

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, along with the CSRA and entire southeast, faced unexpected challenges this fall when Hurricane Helene arrived. Our staff, board, and volunteers faced property damage and many were without electricity for an extensive period. The CNTA office fared well, but we had no phones or internet.

Firstly, I would like to apologize for anyone who tried to reach us and were unable. Secondly, I would like to thank our members and sponsors for your support as we had to cancel the Oyster Roast and the October Up & Atom. Through generous donations the Oyster Roast still raised over \$10,000 for our young professional programs.

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to thank our members and supporters. Without your commitment to CNTA and its mission to be the voice of truth on nuclear topics and technologies, we would not be entering our 34th year of existence. Over this time, we have given hundreds of students and teachers funds for their education, taught thousands of community members about radiation and nuclear technology, and contributed in countless ways back into our community.

I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you at our 2025 activities!

Allison Hamilton

Points of Interest

SEED/Fall Fission Festival

Nuclear Science Week

Up & Atoms

ATC Nuclear Scholarship Recipient

Night of Giving Back

NuWadi Grant Update

Teller Lecture

Distinguished Scientist Award

CNTA Nuclear Service Award

Fall Fission Festival

Thank You Members

About CNTA

How You Can Help

2025 Events

Education Committee Updates



STEM Activities

CNTA volunteers had a blast at the annual Science Education Enrichment Day (SEED) at USC Aiken! Through hands-on activities, we helped inspire curiosity about STEM and showcased the exciting world of nuclear science.



CNTA was also excited to participate in this year's Fall Fission Fest, a celebration of science and STEM in our community. We shared hands-on activities to showcase the benefits of nuclear technology and connect with families through interactive learning. Thanks to everyone who stopped by and made the day so much fun!

Communications Committee Updates



The Communications Committee worked hard again this year to create another fantastic Nuclear Science Week Insert. This partnership with The Aiken Standard reaches over 30,000 households in Aiken and North Augusta.

Published on October 14th in The Aiken Standard, this year's insert highlights the many ways nuclear science impacts our community and beyond. Huge thanks to our Communications Committee members—Lindsey MonBarren, Dean Campbell, Chris Noah, Gary Bunker, James Oldani, and Colleen Hart—for their incredible efforts!

This year's insert, along with previous editions, can be found at cntaware.org/nuclear-science-week/. We also have paper copies available in the CNTA office—feel free to stop by and grab one!

Up & Atoms



- **September 12, 2024:** “Regulator, the Reactor, and a Whole Set of Reports: Licensing Advanced Reactor Technology for Domestic Deployment”
- **November 20, 2024:** “Apprenticeships “WORC” because of our Partnerships”

ATC Nuclear Scholarship Recipient



The recipient of this annual award, funded by CNTA, is a deserving second year student enrolled in a nuclear program at Aiken Technical College (ATC). The award was started in celebration of CNTA’s 25th Anniversary in 2016.

Raymond Lee is the 2024 winner of this award. In his second year in the radiation protection program at ATC, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Lee is from Aiken, South Carolina.

The scholarship is \$1,000, split across two semesters to assist with school related expenses.

Young Professionals Committee Update

Night of Giving Back



Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness members gathered in the spirit of giving on December 12, at the Savannah River Site Museum. Attendees celebrated another year of giving back to the community through fellowship while also donating gift cards, non-perishable food items, paper products, needed clothing items and more to support area nonprofits that serve those most in need.

The items collected will be distributed to local charitable organizations including the Cumbee Center, Children's Place, the Salvation Army, FOTA's, Golden Harvest and Area Churches Together Serving.

"CNTA has amazing and generous members who give of their time and resources to our community both as part of CNTA and in other ways," said CNTA Executive Director Allison Hamilton. "This event allows us to celebrate them while also continuing to serve Aiken and the surrounding areas. CNTA is entering its 34th year of existence, and our members are the reason we are still serving as the voice of truth on nuclear matters," she said. "CNTA is a vital part of our unique community, and we are proud to be able to contribute back in such a meaningful way."

NuWadi Grant Update

Citizens for Nuclear Technology (CNTA) is part of one of the 13 consortia funded by the Department of Energy currently researching consent-based siting. Our project is directly focused on how we can alter our language to improve understanding and allow for informed conversations within communities. CNTA, as a grassroots nonprofit committed to the truth on nuclear matters, has experts researching how we can improve our presentation of the content to help public understanding.

This fall our grant activities included:

1. Roundtable discussion on alternative terminology we can research.
2. Hosting the 2024 Teller Lecture where students and teachers could attend for free
 - a. We had over 50 students in attendance.
3. Launching the 2025 Essay Contest, and including the following as one of the essay prompt choices:
 - a. "Explain what spent nuclear fuel is and the pros and cons of the United States having one central interim repository for these materials."
4. Publishing an article and graphic in our 2024 Nuclear Science Week Insert

Heading into 2025 we plan to:

1. Conduct a public opinion poll researching alternative language options.
2. Attend Waste Management Symposium & have experts complete the survey so we can compare to 'average South Carolinians'
3. Teach a 3-part course on Spent Nuclear Fuel at the Aiken Center for Lifelong Learning In addition to all of the above, we are also interested in speaking with groups who want to learn more about this project, consent-based siting, spent nuclear fuel etc.

If you want to know more, email office@cntaware.org!

Teller Lecture



On October 24, 2024, CNTA hosted the 33rd Annual Edward Teller Lecture in Grovetown, Georgia. The evening featured John B. Williams, Senior Vice President of Technical Services and External Affairs at Southern Nuclear Operating Company, as the distinguished guest speaker. Williams, with over 25 years in the nuclear industry, shared insights on innovations shaping the future of nuclear technology.

Presented at the 2024 Teller Lecture was the 2024 Davison Distinguished Scientist Award. It was presented to Dr. David Diprete by Dr. Robert Sindelar. The event also honored Kent Rosenberger, Deputy Director of Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality at Savannah River Mission Completion, with the 2024 Nuclear Service Award. Rosenberger's 34-year career has made significant contributions to the Savannah River Site and the nuclear industry nationwide.

The Edward Teller Lecture remains a cornerstone event, celebrating advancements and achievements in nuclear science.

Thank you to our sponsors!!

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BWXT, Centerra-SRS, Nuclear Energy Institute, Nuclear Workforce Initiative, Savannah River Mission Completion, Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization, University of South Carolina Aiken

Many thanks to our exhibiting partners:

Augusta University's Nuclear Medicine Technology Program, Clemson University's Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences, NuWaDi Consortium, Savannah River National Laboratory, Savannah River Site Museum, Southern Nuclear-Plant Vogtle

2024 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award Winner Announced

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2024 Fred C. Davison Distinguished Scientist Award is Dr. David DiPrete. This prestigious award was announced on October 24, 2024, at the 33rd Annual Teller Lecture and Banquet held in Grovetown, Georgia.

Dr. DiPrete serves as the technical lead for the radiochemistry team in the Savannah River National Laboratory's (SRNL's) Analytical Development's Nuclear Measurement Group. During his tenure at SRNL, Dr. DiPrete has leveraged his unique technical expertise and insight into developing innovative analytical capabilities and nurturing business opportunities that have significantly advanced the reputation and outreach of the Lab.



“Dr. DiPrete combines a strong educational background in nuclear chemistry with extensive experience garnered from solving complex analytical challenges in the widely varying matrices encountered at the several Department of Energy Sites,” said Dr. Vahid Majidi, SRNL Director. “He has a passion for mentoring and teaching and has served as an adjunct professor at Clemson University, Florida International University, and Purdue University. He collaborates frequently with researchers and scientists to prepare and execute proposals for the development of new measurements systems/techniques.

Dr. DiPrete was the recipient of the prestigious Don Orth Award of Merit in September 2016, is the holder of several U.S. patents and has been the author or co-author to many papers and presentations related to his work. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's in chemistry and received his Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry from the University of Kentucky.

The Distinguished Scientist Award is presented annually to recognize regional scientists and engineers who have made exceptional lifetime scientific achievements. The award is in honor of Dr. Fred C. Davison who was Chairman of CNTA's Board of Directors from 1994 until his death in 2004. Davison was President of the University of Georgia for 19 years where he encouraged math and science education and managed the doubling of graduate enrollment. Davison was also President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Science Center Foundation, President of the Georgia-Carolina Boy Scouts Council, an elder at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, and an active Rotarian.

CNTA Honors SRMC's Rosenberger with Prestigious Nuclear Service Award



Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2024 Nuclear Service Award is Kent Rosenberger. This prestigious award was formally announced on October 24, 2024, at the 33rd Annual Teller Lecture held in Grovetown, Ga. The Nuclear Service Award recognizes accomplishments in applying nuclear technology, advancing education in nuclear technology, increasing public awareness of the benefits of nuclear technology and in promoting and defending the safe and effective use of nuclear technology.

Rosenberger currently serves as the Deputy Director of Environment, Safety, Health, and Quality (ESH&Q) at Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC). He has a 34-year track record marked with distinguished accomplishments that have advanced the nuclear industry, not only at the Savannah River Site (SRS) but across the nation.

Some of the most notable among Rosenberger's extensive list of accomplishments benefitting the nuclear industry include:

- Being instrumental in the development of the regulatory framework and Performance Assessments supporting successful operational closures of SRS radioactive waste Tanks 5, 6, 12, 16, 18 and 19;
- Developing the necessary Waste Determination and supporting Performance Assessment leading to Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission approvals for disposal of salt solution as low-level waste in the SRS Saltstone Facility;
- Creating the SRS Radiological Technology Center (RTC), which was tasked with monitoring new technologies, equipment, and technical information; disseminating and implementing the information at SRS; conducting facility tours; and supporting vendor demonstrations; and,
- Pioneering the first successful DOE Order 435.1 high-level waste interpretation leading to low-level waste disposal of samples from SRS waste Tank 22. Because of this successful effort, he was then chosen as the primary technical resource and contractor interface of the second evaluation and shipment of contaminated SRS equipment.

Further, Rosenberger has served key roles on the DOE Low-Level Waste Disposal Facilities Federal Review Group, Program Advisory Committee for the Waste Management Symposia, and the Savannah River Chapter of the Health Physics Society (past president).

Joel Cantrell, SRMC's ESH&Q director, said Rosenberger possesses a towering intellect. "Kent is the top subject matter expert in the DOE complex for spatial-temporal contaminant groundwater modeling and results interpretation," Cantrell said. "His effective and transparent communication of results are appreciated by both his peers and by regulators."

Allison Hamilton, CNTA executive director, said it was a clear choice for CNTA to honor Rosenberger for this year's Nuclear Service Award. "Kent's leadership in the innovative solutions to some of our nation's most significant radioactive waste management challenges is quite impressive," Hamilton said. "CNTA is pleased to be able to honor his nuclear service with this recognition."

Exploring STEM and History at the SRS Museum

Submitted by The Savannah River Site Museum



The Savannah River Site Museum was established to preserve and interpret the technological and scientific achievements, the social impacts, and the ecological accomplishments of the Savannah River Site. One priority for the museum is to grow our education and outreach programming. The Fall Fission Festival, a celebration of Nuclear Science Week, is one event that encompasses both goals in a fun and exciting way. This year's festival was held on Saturday, October 19th. The festival invited local, state, and nuclear community partners to participate as exhibitors where they provided hands-on STEM activities, give aways, and candy all in a festival setting.

During the event, the SRS Museum was open with our newly installed R.I.S.E. (Roddy Ignites Science Engagement) Library with kid friendly science books sure to spark any child's imagination with scientific wonder. Our very own Mad Scientist and her band of misfit lab assistants performed wild and wacky science experiments throughout the festival. It was a day full of fun and scientific discovery for families across the CSRA. In the end, nearly 900 people attended this year's festival, and we are already looking forward to next year's festival! A special note of thanks to the CNTA staff and members for all your continued support as both an exhibitor and by providing much needed volunteer assistance

Inside the SRS Museum, we have recently introduced a couple of new educational interactives to engage our younger visitors in the SRS Museum experience. One is an ultraviolet light activity where kids learn about the different types of UV rays, and the different ways the rays are used and seen. Two additional educational programs that debuted at our fall festival are now also available for an in-museum experience, the RISE Kids Library and our STEM Bins. The STEM Bins provide several different engineering challenges in each box with different materials to complete the challenge and encourage critical thinking skills.

A few of our upcoming events to watch for include a partial day kids STEM winter camp on Monday, January 6th; a Night at the Museum on February 13th; and we will be co-hosting the Aiken Chamber Young Professionals with CNTA on January 23rd; more information to come on all these events soon. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and to visit our website for more information on the Museum and our upcoming events, SRSHeritageMuseum.org. You can reach SRS Museum staff for more information on events and volunteer opportunities by phone at (803) 648-1437 or via email at srsmuseum@gmail.com. The SRS Museum is located at 224 Laurens St. SW in downtown Aiken and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We invite you to visit the SRS Museum, where the CSRA's history and science collide!



Mission Completed: Sally's Marathon Journey

Submitted by Savannah River Mission Completion



When CNTA Board Member Sally Bartelmo isn't running a nuclear waste processing facility for a Savannah River Site (SRS) mission, she's running marathons to complete a mission of her own. As the Operations Manager of the Defense Waste Processing Facility at SRS, Bartelmo is helping the SRS liquid waste contractor, Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), in its work to safely treat and dispose of millions of gallons of radioactive waste remaining in underground tanks at SRS. But on her days off, she has been working toward a personal mission. Ten years ago, Bartelmo made a goal to run a marathon, or more, in each of the 50 states in America. She completed that mission in June 2024.

"My dad, an avid runner, passed away while he was on a run," Bartelmo said. "I was in college at the time, and I ran a 5K as a tribute to him. After that, I wanted to go longer distances. I've been running marathons ever since." It didn't take long to combine her new love of running with her life-long love of traveling. Hundreds of miles and more than 60 races later, Bartelmo's journey was accomplished at mile 26.2 on June 3 in Deadwood, South Dakota. "It feels great to be able to accomplish a goal like this one," Bartelmo said. "I don't think it fully hit me until I was on the plane home. This has been a fun goal to go after, but after 10 years, it's a relief to have it all done."

Bartelmo credits her SRMC co-workers for the support they've shown along the way. One of her co-workers, Tank Farm Shift Operations Manager Annah Garrison, even ran the last marathon with her, and several showed up in South Dakota to cheer her on. "When I started this goal, I did not think anyone would care about it, but what I found is that the encouragement that my co-workers and friends gave me carried me to the end," she said. "This was a long, hard-earned goal, and I truly would not have gotten it done without a lot of people in my corner. I hope everyone is as lucky as I am with great people."

She's learned a lot while running races, including some lessons learned from working at SRS – like having the "right tools" for the job. "I need to be ready with a certain set of tools when I show up for a race – not only things like water and the right shoes, but also the right mindset," she said. "Similarly, I need to come to work with the right tools to make sure I can get the job done safely and correctly. Being prepared for a race means I will be ready to handle the path in front of me, and being prepared for work means I'm ready for what I have on my plate that day."

Bartelmo started her SRS career as an engineering summer intern in 2011 and has been promoted to roles such as shift technical engineer, shift operations manager, and a project owner in the tank farms before becoming DWPF operations manager in 2023.

Researcher Christine Langton Receives Laboratory Fellow Honor

Submitted by Savannah River National Laboratory

Savannah River National Laboratory recently named Christine Langton a laboratory fellow. Langton has contributed to lab success in various capacities for the duration of her career. She leveraged her expertise in materials science, engineering and geochemistry to design several processes in environmental management, waste treatment, nuclear facility decommissioning and site closures. Langton served as a senior advisory scientist at SRNL from 2008 to 2023 before accepting her current role of laboratory fellow.



In 1983, a year after arriving at SRNL, Langton worked on developing a waste form and process for treating and dispositioning the salt waste solution from the Savannah River Site's high-level waste tanks. This waste form, referred to as Saltstone, was the first large-volume radioactive waste form produced anywhere in the world. Langton fine-tuned the formulation to meet the Environmental Protection Agency hazardous metals stabilization requirements and to chemically stabilize technetium, a long-lived radionuclide in the waste solution. These efforts aided in developing cement-based grouts that led to the closure of high-level waste tanks at the Savannah River Site in 1997; the first such closure in the DOE complex. Additionally, Langton's work facilitated disposal of more than 60 solid, mixed waste streams, both radioactive and hazardous, that previously did not have feasible pathways to disposal.

Langton's innovations also had a significant impact on nuclear facility decommissioning. She led a team at SRNL that developed concrete and grout formulations used to close three reactor buildings and a fuel rod disassembly basin at SRS. The team also designed a high-performing concrete cap for strategic covers over radioactively contaminated structures above and below ground.

Currently, Langton is a supporter of SRNL's Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program and serves as an Environmental and Legacy Management laboratory fellow. Her current work is focused on material formulations, test methods and quality control for low carbon, durable cement matrices including high-volume concretes to support the Department of Energy Environmental Management closure mission.

Robert Pierce Receives SRNL Donald A. Orth Lifetime Award of Merit



Savannah River National Laboratory Staff Scientist Robert Pierce is the recipient of the 2024 Donald A. Orth Lifetime Award of Merit for demonstrating technical excellence and leadership in his service to SRNL, the Savannah River Site, and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Donald A. Orth Lifetime Award of Merit for technical excellence and leadership is one of the highest honors than can be given from SRNL, presented to an individual who by character and leadership best exemplifies Dr. Orth's character and contributions.

Pierce has worked at SRNL for 36 years supporting separations facilities and providing his expertise in the dissolution and evaporation process. Within the last decade, he's spent much of his time developing novel technology for processing spent nuclear fuel from advanced reactors. Pierce currently holds four patents related to his work at SRNL and he has authored 20 papers associated with his work.

Pierce was presented the award during a recognition event held Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, South Carolina.

Savannah River Site Renovates Old Guardhouse, Vehicle Access Gate

Submitted by Centerra-SRS

The Savannah River Site (SRS) recently completed construction of a much-needed renovation of a key access control gate at the 310-square-mile nuclear facility. Dedicated to maintaining the highest possible safety and security standards, SRS is a key U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration industrial complex responsible for national security and nonproliferation missions, disposition of nuclear materials, waste management, and environmental cleanup and stewardship.



Barricade 9, a vehicle access gate located near the site's main badge office, closed in December 2022 for construction of a new guardhouse and covered canopy. The new facility formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month. It was accessible to site traffic afterward. "The barricades and the security police officers who staff them are the first line of defense for the safety and security of SRS," said Ron Bartholomew, director of the DOE-Savannah River Office of Safeguards, Security and Emergency Services. "The renovations will improve traffic safety for the thousands of employees and vendors who enter and exit the site each day and keep the officers safe as well."

The site's perimeter barricades are staffed and operated by Centerra-SRS, the site's protective force services contractor since 1983. Security police officers at barricades restrict site entry to properly badged and authorized individuals, conduct inspections of vehicles to deter the introduction of prohibited items onto the site and check for government property upon exit. The old guardhouse was built over 25 years ago, and vehicle traffic was limited to single-lane entry and exit traffic patterns. As a result, traffic delays were common during peak hours. The new facility allows for two-lane traffic going in and out of the site, which should minimize delays while enhancing safety and improving efficiency of the access control and vehicle inspection process.

The new guardhouse is a bullet resistant enclosure that is over four times larger than the old facility and provides protection against severe weather, including tornadoes and hurricane force winds. The guardhouse also includes an interior restroom with a dedicated septic system, eliminating the need to refill a tank and drain a septic tank weekly. "We began planning in 2019 to replace the old guardhouse," said Chuck Filbin, Centerra-SRS project engineer administrator. "The Corps of Engineers (COE) was awarded a contract to create a design package for replacement and we worked with our DOE oversight and the COE on multiple concepts and designs."

"The final phases of the project were recently completed with installation and inspection of lighting, fiber-optic cables, security cameras, and commissioning of the generator, well, and HVAC unit," said Filbin. After closure of the old Barricade 9 in 2022, an alternate gate was opened for use during the construction project, and that temporary gate has now been closed. "The reopening of the gate is good news for SRS employees who use that road for access to work locations and visits to the badge office," Bartholomew said. "It also represents a significant facility improvement that will minimize delays while further enhancing safety and security."

SRS partnerships critical to SRPPF project

Submitted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions



The importance of partnership to complete construction of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in support of enduring and sustainable nuclear deterrence was on display during a Deliver 2032 banner signing ceremony with the Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council on November 6th.

Representatives from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), SRS managing and operating contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), Construction Management subcontractor Fluor Federal Services, and other subcontractors supporting the SRPPF project were on hand during the show of support as leaders with the Trades Council signed a Deliver 2032 banner at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union hall in downtown Augusta. "As the NNSA invests in modernizing our nation's essential infrastructure supporting the Nuclear Security Enterprise, SRS must deliver the SRPPF project by 2032," said Dennis Carr, SRNS president and chief executive officer. "Shifts in our global nuclear landscape have made SRS a key player in strengthening the nuclear deterrent to keep our nation, partners and allies safe. Now more than ever, our nation's nuclear posture must remain strong and resilient. Skilled trades workers are essential to reaching our milestones on our path to pit production, and I appreciate you being here today."

The construction of the SRPPF complex is one of the largest infrastructure projects happening in the nation. In 2022, SRNS signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Trades Council in support of workforce needs. More than 4,000 craft and staff employees are expected to support construction during the life of the project. "The Augusta Building and Construction Trades Council has supported the Savannah River Site and its mission for decades," said Jeff Britt, president of the Trades Council. "Our local union leaders are here today to sign this banner and show their continued support and dedication to this important project."

Also signing the banner after the union reps were leaders from NNSA, SRNS, Fluor and other subcontractors supporting the project. The signed banner symbolizing the site's commitment to project completion will be displayed in the SRPPF craft area onsite. The SRPPF complex is being constructed through repurposing an unfinished concrete structure with more than 400,000 square feet of available Hazard Category-2 space, which will meet pit production requirements. Repurposing this facility allows NNSA to make use of an existing seismically-qualified structure, with numerous supporting facilities and existing SRS services and infrastructure, such as security, fire protection and emergency response.

Once construction is complete, SRPPF will support the U.S. nuclear stockpile by producing plutonium pits, which are components in a nuclear weapon. NNSA will manufacture plutonium pits at the quantities needed to support military requirements using a two-site strategy. SRPPF will provide robust, large-scale production of plutonium pits in strategic resiliency with the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. "We're excited that a new front of construction is beginning with the SRPPF project," said Siva Nadarajah, Fluor deputy project director. "But for the purpose of today's ceremony, I suggest that the principle of teamwork is on ample display. With teamwork, collaboration and transparency, we will deliver in 2032."

SRTE Celebrates the Completion of the new TFF Warehouse

Submitted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions



Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) recently conducted a ribbon-cutting celebration to commemorate the opening of the new Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF) Warehouse, which will be used to support the replacement of the H Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM) facility.

SRTE Senior Vice President, National Nuclear Security Administration Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting, along with Deputy Field Office Manager, National Nuclear Security Administration Savannah River Field Office Jeff Allison and Federal Projects Director for Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) and TFF Kevin Buchanan commended the team for achieving a significant operational milestone.

“Tangible steps of progress like this warehouse completion are essential steps on the path toward to completing the TFF project,” said Allison. “This critical modernization will ensure that the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and SRTE remain well-positioned for continued reliable Tritium shipments to the nation’s warfighters for decades to come just as the Site has done without fail for more than 70 years.”

The team managed to expedite the work scope six weeks ahead of schedule in order to meet this key milestone. Additionally, they successfully reduced the total project cost by more than \$3 million — keeping it well under budget. “SRTE is the only facility in the nation capable of preparing tritium for the nuclear weapons stockpile, and TFF is critical to this enduring mission,” said Epting. “This achievement, completed both on time and under budget, reflects SRTE’s commitment to addressing our aging infrastructure and getting the job done.”



The new warehouse will house the materials from two other warehouses scheduled to be demolished which lie in the footprint of the future TFF process buildings. “The completion of the TFF Site Prep showcases our ability to successfully manage a project, keeping it under budget and ahead of schedule,” said Buchanan. “This TFF Project Team has done an outstanding job on making significant efforts to achieve this milestone.” Following the ceremony, attendees were able to tour the new warehouse and visit the site of the new electrical feeder that is also part of the TFF site prep. The construction of the warehouse is a part of a long-term strategy to replace HAOM, which has been directly supporting the nation’s nuclear deterrent by processing gas transfer systems since 1958. NNSA has authorized a replacement facility for HAOM, the Tritium Finishing Facility. The funding for final design and construction of the TFF process building project has been delayed, but the site preparatory work needed to facilitate process building construction was fully approved, which included the construction of the warehouse.

Augusta Technical College celebrates inaugural class of Production Operator Apprentice Graduates at joint ceremony with SRS

Submitted by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions



Augusta Technical College (Augusta Tech) and members of the Savannah River Site (SRS) Apprenticeship school recently held a joint graduation ceremony for 20 new graduates of their inaugural class of Production Operator Apprentices, who will now enter the workforce as nuclear operators at the Savannah River Site (SRS). “We are excited to see this next class of nuclear operators enter the SRS workforce,” said Edwin Deshong, SRS Deputy Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy. “With increasing and enduring missions at the Site, it is imperative to create a pipeline of trained workers ready to go to work. This program is a benefit not only to the Site, but to the students who choose to take part.”

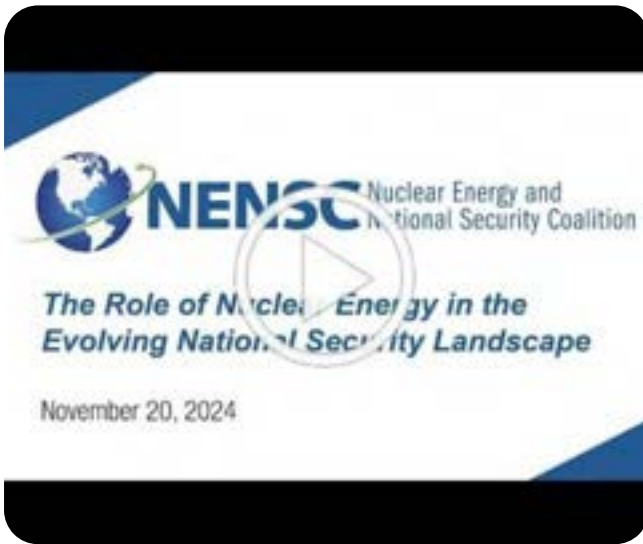
According to Augusta Tech President Dr. Jermaine Whirl, the inaugural production operator apprentice cohort from Augusta Tech was a huge success. “Augusta Tech is thrilled to have joined this program and to be celebrating these graduates on this historic occasion,” he said. “Thank you to the SRS Apprenticeship School for working closely with these graduates to ensure their success but thank you most of all to the friends and families who supported them through the program. They and future graduates will help make a positive impact to our region.” Augusta Tech graduates will either go to work for SRNS Environmental Operations at SRS or for the Savannah River National Laboratory.

The Production Operator Apprentice program started as a partnership between SRNS, Aiken Technical College, Apprenticeship Carolina™ (AC), and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. The eight-month program simultaneously allows for students to complete their classroom work and on-the-job training by allowing them to alternate between taking classes at the technical college and training on Site, while earning a competitive scalable wage. At the end of the program, participants will have earned a certificate in nuclear fundamentals and will have a portable credential from the Department of Labor.

“Since its inception, the Production Operator Apprentice program has seen over 420 graduates,” said Deshong. “We have vital national security and environmental cleanup missions to complete and congratulate our new operators in their roles that will help make the world safer.”

US Leadership in Global Nuclear Energy is Vital to US National Security

Submitted by CNTA Member



On November 20th, the Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition (NENSC) hosted a webinar titled "The Role of Nuclear Energy in the Evolving National Security Landscape." Former Commander of USSTRATCOM Admiral Richard Mies, USN (Ret.), Former Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, and Former Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman shared their perspectives on the critical intersection of nuclear energy and national security. Mies and Poneman serve as NENSC's Co-Chairs, while Gordon-Hagerty is a member of the NENSC Expert Council. The one-hour webinar can be viewed at nensc.org/webinar.

The speakers emphasized that nuclear energy is at an inflection point. Historically, the U.S. has led the industry worldwide through research and development, construction, operations, safety and security protocols, and the prevention of nuclear material proliferation. This leadership has significantly benefited national security and energy security. Currently, over 20% of U.S. electricity comes from nuclear reactors, which provide more than 50% of carbon-free energy and are the only weather-resilient 24/7 baseload energy source. Globally, U.S. leadership has promoted safe and secure construction and operational standards.

However, China, through its Belt and Road Initiative, and Russia are challenging the traditional nuclear order. The world risks shifting to a new nuclear order dominated by these nations, which would affect fuel availability, waste management, safety and security standards, nonproliferation protocols, research and development, and the U.S. industrial base. Such a shift would weaken U.S. military and commercial power, which depend on these critical elements.

Last year, Congress passed a bipartisan bill (96-3) with measures to improve and restore U.S. leadership in nuclear energy. However, much more needs to be done by both the government and the U.S. nuclear industry. Strengthening leadership in this sector is vital for national security and energy security.

Thank you to our Individual Members!

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Jeffrey Allender, Henry Bolen, Paul E Ebel, Ben Kinlaw, Jesus (Zeus) Mancilla, Chris Noah, David Olson, Ed Sadowski

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Management Solutions Team Hurricane Recovery Efforts

Submitted by Management Solutions Team



Management Solutions considers community service outside of the office a core value of its employees. We also believe that actions reveal a lot about character, and we are constantly amazed at our teammates' large hearts and dedication to their communities.



Team members immediately jumped in to help before the waters subsided from Hurricane Helene. In Cocke County, TN, team member [Sydney Hogston](#) ventured to downtown Newport, TN to assist businesses in clean up after the storm. In Aiken, SC, team members Kyle Kilroy and [Douglas Woodward](#) added value to their communities by assisting with cleanup and providing hot meals.

We continue to pray, donate, and help people and communities affected by Helene's devastation.

Highlighting CNTA's Lasting Impact: A Remarkable Encounter

Submitted by CNTA Member

At CNTA, we strive to make complex nuclear concepts accessible and engaging for everyone, regardless of their background. While we don't always see the immediate effects of our outreach, moments like this remind us of the lasting impact of our work.

Ken, a dedicated CNTA member, recently shared a heartwarming story from a Lifelong Learning class he was teaching. While covering neutron activation—the process by which an intense beam of neutrons can make a non-radioactive element radioactive—Ken asked, “Do any of you know what neutron activation is?”

To his surprise, a 94-year-old woman raised her hand and said, “I do. I took one of the classes CNTA teaches for Lifelong Learning some time ago.” She then provided an excellent definition of the concept and added: “The CNTA people have a talent for taking a complex subject and putting it into language anybody can understand, yet they do it in a way that is not condescending to non-nuclear people.”

This interaction is a powerful reminder of the value of CNTA's mission to educate and inspire. Moments like these affirm that our efforts resonate and leave a lasting impact, even when it's not immediately visible.

Thank You to our Business Members!

DIAMOND

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

PLATINUM

Amentum

Savannah River Mission Completion

GOLD

Arthur W. Rich, PC

Battelle Savannah River Alliance/SRNL

Centerra-SRS

HII-Nuclear

Fluor Mission Solutions

SILVER

BWXT

BRONZE

Applied Research Center

Atkins

Bechtel

Burns & McDonnell

Merrick & Company

North Wind Group

Orano Federal Services

Souther Nuclear-Plant Vogtle

BUSINESS

AvanTech

Carolina Burglar & Fire Alarm

Domingues-Persons JV

Economic Development Partnership

Edgewater Technical Associates

IONEX

Longenecker & Associates

Management Solutions LLC

Munns Advisement LLC

Omega Technical Services

Parvati Government Services

Security Federal Bank

SRS Museum

SRS Community Reuse Organization

UniTech Services Group

Waseyabek Federal Services

WesWorks LLC

Information on Business Membership & Individual

Membership to CNTA is available online at:

<https://cntaware.org/join-us/>

All memberships help CNTA be the grassroots organization dedicated to the truth on nuclear matters! Let us know if you have questions.

Our Committees

Communications Committee

Ensures accurate, timely communication with media, stakeholders, and the public while aligning with CNTA's goals. Handles press releases and publishes the annual Nuclear Science Week Insert in the Aiken Standard.

Education Committee

Promotes public understanding of nuclear technology's benefits and uses. Oversees education outreach, the Educator Grants Program, and the Essay Contest.

Young Professionals Committee

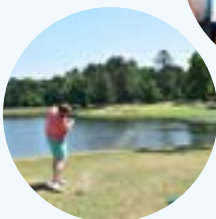
Recruits and engages young professionals through mentorship, professional development, and free membership for those under 40. Hosts the fall fundraiser and Tap Into Nuclear series.

Membership Committee

Develops initiatives to attract, retain, and provide value to members.

Golf Tournament Committee

Plans CNTA's largest annual fundraiser, including raffles, marketing, and logistics. Volunteers support both planning and event-day operations.



About CNTA

Mission

CNTA serves to educate the public by providing objective information on the value of nuclear technology with respect to our health, economy, environment, and national security.

Values

Through inclusiveness and engagement, CNTA and its volunteers create a voice to provide the public with factual and objective information on nuclear subjects, while also providing opportunities for its members' personal and professional growth.

Vision

CNTA will become the recognized avenue for all the collective engagement of its members in increasing the awareness and support of nuclear technology and its benefits to the public.

Board of Directors

Dr. Forest Mahan - Board Chair
Jesus 'Zeus' Mancilla - Vice Chair
Charles Hansen - Treasurer
Steve Sheetz - Immediate Past Chair

Aherial Polite
Azi Samadi
BooBoo Roberts
Charles Munn
Daren Timmons
Dean Campbell
Fred Humes

Jeff Allender
Jhivaun Freeman-Pollard
Joel Leopard
Joyce Hopperton
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Susan Ferrara
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James Corley
Walt Joseph

Directors Emeritus

Clint Wolfe
James Marra

CNTA Staff

Allison Hamilton Molnar - *Executive Director*
James Marra - *Nuclear Technology Advisor*
Shelby Henstra - *Communications Assistant*

Membership Options

Business Membership

Diamond: \$25,000 or more
Platinum: \$10,000—\$24,999
Gold: \$5,000—\$9,999
Silver: \$2,500—\$4,999
Bronze: \$1,000—\$2,499
Business Member: \$500 to \$999

Individual Membership

Champion: \$500.00 or more
Advocate: \$250.00
Benefactor: \$125.00
Patron: \$70.00
Supporter: \$35.00
Young Professional: (Under 40) / K-12 Educators / Student Memberships is free. Same benefits as supporter level.

Membership Information is available online at:
<http://cntaware.org/join-us/>

All membership levels include invitations to breakfasts/ dinners, other events, quarterly newsletters and opinion letters/editorials. Benefactor and Member Plus also receive one free private reception ticket and one free Teller Lecture banquet ticket when dues are current.

Your dues support public outreach:

Federal ID# 57-0953103

How You Can Help

As a charitable, non-profit organization,
CNTA can ALWAYS use help.

Opportunities Include:

Donate Items for Raffles/Auctions:

- Donate to Our Community Gift Card Program!
- Donate to CNTA as a charitable non-profit (<https://cntaware.org/about-us/>)

Volunteer Your Time:

- Get involved with a CNTA Committee (committee information on page 18)
- Help CNTA expand their reach on social media
- Volunteer to help in our Office (there is always work to be done!)
- Be an event-specific volunteer
- Be an education committee contest judge or outreach volunteer

Sponsor a 2025 Event or Education Outreach!

For information, email Allison at office@cntaware.org

CNTA 2025 Calendar

- **January 23, 2025:** Tap Into Nuclear- AYP Kickoff with the Aiken Chamber of Commerce. 5:30-7pm at the SRS Museum. 5:30-7 at the SRS Museum. All Young Professionals are welcome to join us at this event!
- **February 19, 2025:** Up & Atom- TBA! 7:30am at Newberry Hall in Aiken SC.
- **March 20, 2025:** Up & Atom "CNTA Membership Appreciation Breakfast & Annual Meeting." 7:30am at Newberry Hall in Aiken SC. Attendance is free for all current CNTA members.
- **May 4, 2025:** DIG STEM Festival in Williston SC. CNTA will have our education outreach volunteers exhibiting from 11am-4pm.
- **May 9, 2025:** 23rd Annual CNTA Charity Golf Tournament. Houndslake Country Club. 8:30am Shotgun start. Banquet to follow play.
- **June 5, 2025:** "Night at the Ballpark. Join CNTA at the Augusta Greenjackets. 7:05pm first pitch.

Visit Us

www.cntaware.org

@cntaware on:

Facebook
Instagram
LinkedIn
YouTube

Contact Us

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