

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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2025 SRMC Science Scholarship Awarded to Gardiner

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) have announced University of South Carolina (USC) student Zachary Gardiner as the winner of the 2025 SRMC Science Scholarship.

The \$10,000 scholarship is sponsored by SRMC, the liquid waste contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Gardiner, a senior from Hummelstown, PA, is pursuing a bachelor's degree at USC in chemical engineering with a minor in nuclear engineering, energy concentration. CNTA Executive Director Allison Hamilton Molnar said CNTA is proud to award this scholarship to such a deserving student.

"Zachary is an exceptional student who understands nuclear and all that it can do to improve our world," Hamilton Molnar said. "CNTA is pleased to present him with financial support to continue his education. No doubt he will be an exemplary addition to the nuclear industry's future."

This past school year, Gardiner served as the vice president of the American Nuclear Society student chapter at USC, as well as the president of the American Chemical Society student chapter.

Through these positions, he said he was able to discuss ways to connect students with nuclear industry professionals, as well as how to conduct educational outreach programs to explain the positives of nuclear energy in the world today.

In his studies at USC, he conducted research by contributing to, growing, and obtaining data in support of the Molten Salt Thermal Properties Database, a joint project between USC and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to develop an easily accessible database that assists in modeling nuclear fuel behavior and interaction at various temperatures and concentrations in a molten salt reactor.

Following assisting in this project, he conducted more experimental thermodynamic measurements in the laboratory supporting molten salt corrosion and phase behavior research for projects with multiple DOE laboratories.

Over the Summer of 2025, he participated in an internship program at the Savannah River National Laboratory working in the Hydrogen Isotope group on tritium technology.

Gardiner's career goal is to obtain a degree in chemical engineering, and to enter a nuclear engineering or related PhD program. He added that he wants to obtain a PhD so that he might be able to work in nuclear-related research following graduation, whether at a DOE laboratory, a university, or in the industry.

The SRMC Science Scholarship is a joint project of CNTA and SRMC.

The annual scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior at a college or university in South Carolina or Georgia who demonstrates an outstanding academic achievement in nuclear science/engineering or a directly related field, such as chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, environmental science, materials science, etc., with applications to 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 email at office@cntaware.org.



Caption: USC Senior Zachary Gardiner is the 2025 SRMC Science Scholarship Recipient