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For Immediate Release

SRS Engineers Reach Out to 5,000 CSRA Students

AIKEN, S.C. – April 9, 2010 – Fifty-six Savannah River Site (SRS) engineers will soon be working with over 5,000 seventh grade students from 23 Central Savannah River Area schools for a period of three weeks, beginning April 12.

Known as “teach-ins,” these volunteers will be conducting interactive scientific demonstrations to promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the classroom.

The long-term goal of this effort is to provide area students with a better understanding of engineering, prompting these young minds to consider the field of engineering as a potential career path.

The schools participating in this Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) outreach program are from Aiken and Edgefield Counties in South Carolina, Richmond and Columbia Counties in Georgia.

“We are pleased to provide the teach-ins as a part of National Engineers Week,” said Barbara Smoak, Manager, SRNS Education Outreach Programs. “Time and again, participating engineers express how rewarding it is to reach out and work with these kids. From their perspective, they’re planting and watering the seeds of many ‘budding’ future engineers.

“Although SRNS, through the Department of Energy, offers other programs that support STEM topics, area school counselors have affirmed that this is the right time to re-enforce the importance of engineering and how critical it is in our world today,” said Smoak.

The success of the teach-ins program is often attributed to hands-on activities that help reduce students' fears of math and science courses needed to pursue careers in engineering.

SRS engineering teach-ins will conclude on April 30.

"We believe business, industry, government and the education community must work together as partners to improve the educational opportunities for all students in our region," said Smoak.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Northrop Grumman 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.

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