SRR Signs Agreement with Denmark Technical College to Facilitate STEAM Opportunities

Savannah River Remediation (SRR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Denmark Technical College (DTC), one of South Carolina’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to help students prepare for their future careers.

DTC provides a two-year program that allows for a mix of traditional and non-traditional students to attend programs that help them achieve their educational and career goals. SRR committed to helping DTC by signing an MOU, outlining its commitment to the school.

SRR is charged with remediating over 35 million gallons of radioactive liquid waste stored in 43 one-million-gallon capacity storage tanks and operationally closing the waste tanks. The highly technical work to accomplish the SRR mission requires a workforce that is educated in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM).

Technical schools like DTC are an asset to SRR because they offer STEAM-related programs, such as Computer Technology, Welding, and Engineering Technology, among others, which give graduates the skills for future employment.

SRR plans to facilitate opportunities for students per the agreement by hiring students into its summer intern program, comparing various DTC program curriculums to industry needs, providing mentoring opportunities, and identifying students to be considered for SRR jobs.

As an advocate for STEAM-focused education, SRR President and Project Manager Tom Foster signed the MOU on behalf of SRR.

“Education is one of the best ways a person can improve his or her quality of life,” Foster said. “By facilitating educational and career advancement opportunities, we are helping members of our community reach their potential, while ensuring SRR continues to lay the groundwork for future work opportunities.”

SRS Contractors Continue to Earn Industry Safety Recognition in 2019

SRR continues to earn significant safety recognition for performance excellence in 2018 and 2019. The company earned the National Safety Council’s (NSC) Occupational Excellence Achievement Award and The Industry Leader Award for ranking in the top five percent of the NSC members that have qualified for the 2019 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.

SRR earned the 2019 Innovation Award from the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants’ Association (VPPPA) for efforts to protect workers from mercury vapors. Also, the SRR construction workforce surpassed 31 million hours without an injury that caused an employee to miss a day from work.

“These awards are tangible evidence of a team that values safety as the key part of every operation and works together, in their own organizations and across company lines, to achieve safety excellence at SRS,” said Patricia Allen, SRR Director for Environmental, Safety, and Health, QA&CA. “The true reward for working safely today is being able to come back safely tomorrow.”

SRR construction employees have worked more than 31 million consecutive work hours without a missed-day due to injury, achieving a new safety performance milestone in 2019.
With a membership that has grown to 60 people, SRS employee resource group Women@LiquidWaste (W@LW) is celebrating one year of professional development, networking opportunities, and membership growth.

Since September 2018, SRR’s W@LW has been helping employees enhance professional knowledge and experiences to strengthen leadership skills.

Membership in W@LW is open to employees of SRR.

The group provides information, resources, and networking opportunities for women who aspire to be in leadership; desire to strengthen leadership abilities; and express interest in discussing workplace challenges for women.

“The vision of Women@LiquidWaste is to leverage the knowledge, expertise, and diverse perspectives to further encourage women into leadership or positions of influence to align with SRR’s goals of diversity and inclusion,” said Stephanie Franklin, SRR’s equal employment opportunity and employee concerns program compliance manager, and a founding member of the group.

Franklin says W@LW reinforces diverse perspectives in the workforce and makes SRR a stronger employer.

SRR Women@LiquidWaste Group Celebrates Year of Growth, Success

SRR Recognized for Cyber Security Excellence

For the fifth consecutive year, SRR has been recognized by the National Cyber Security Alliance as a National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champion, representing those dedicated to promoting a safer, more secure, and trusted Internet. Read more about NSCAM at https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/.

Spotlight on Young Professionals

SRR is shining a light on some of its young-career professionals who are performing important tasks every day at SRS.

Check out this video with Azikiwe Hooker, a young SRR engineer whose job as a Process Safety and Regulatory Senior Engineer is extremely important to the company’s overall mission of dispositioning high-level radioactive waste.

The video can be found on the SRS Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SavannahRiverSite/?ref=bookmarks.

SRS Contractor Rewards Employees Through New Innovative Application

SRR engineers at the Savannah River Site have developed and implemented new technology to recognize and reward employees promptly for positive behaviors, actions, and attitudes.

Through the innovative application called RAVE (Recognizing Achievement of Values and Expectations), SRR employees can nominate peers who demonstrate specific behaviors and attitudes that reinforce SRR’s values of safety, integrity, continuous improvement, teamwork, and ownership.

After a nomination is approved by management, the nominee picks up a gift card as a token of appreciation.

One of SRR’s expectations of teamwork is to recognize co-workers for exceptional performance, and RAVE is a simple and meaningful way to do that, according to SRR Chief Engineer Phil Breidenbach.

“Our RAVE winners don’t just remember the gift card — that is simply a perk,” Breidenbach said. “What makes the most impact is knowing that your co-worker or manager took the time to acknowledge your performance and hard work. That speaks volumes.”

Thanks to the automated system, the mean time from when a nomination is submitted to when the nominee receives the gift card is 41 minutes.

“One of the keys to effective positive reinforcement is timeliness,” Breidenbach said. “Positive reinforcement works best when it is immediate or as close to when the actual behavior occurred as possible. The quick turnaround time for employees to be recognized for their behaviors helps make this new program a big success and improves the effectiveness of positive reinforcement.”

Since the app’s launching in June 2019, almost 200 nominations have been awarded through RAVE.