SRR Employee Wellness Challenge Ends in 1,200 Pound Weight Loss for Employees

Employee participants competed for a chance to win new exercise equipment while improving their health and fitness as a part of SRR’s Biggest Winner program. While the prize equipment made for motivating incentives, said Patricia Allen, SRR Environmental, Safety, Health and Quality Assurance and Contractor Assurance Director, the results proved far more valuable than the exercise machines.

“The results our employees have achieved in just six months are life altering,” Allen said. “What began as a challenge at work transcended to improving the quality of life for many of the SRR Biggest Winner participants.”

By entering the Biggest Winner challenge, SRR employees committed to losing either five or 10 percent of their total body weight, or maintaining a healthy weight and fitness level over six months. In addition to body weight, SRR evaluated employee’s Body Mass Index (BMI), blood glucose (sugar), total cholesterol and blood pressure. With hard work and perseverance, employees lost a total of 215 BMI points, 1,365 cholesterol points and blood glucose was reduced by 457 points.

From January 2015 to June 2015, participants attended lunch and learn wellness sessions to learn how to improve in areas of diet, exercise and overall health to keep on track throughout the competition.

SRR Lean Academy Teaches AECOM Employees Importance of Change, Continuous Improvement

SRR’s Lean Academy was developed to aid employees from AECOM projects across the DOE complex and in the UK in seeking improvement as a part of their everyday work by identifying and removing waste and challenging current paradigms.

“Two groups of participants had to read a procedure, simulate travel to a materials center for the parts, assemble four Duckbot 5000s (a mythical project for mythical customer) each in 10 minutes and have a quality inspection performed before the product was submitted to the customer,” explained Laurene Rowell, SRR Mission Excellence Manager. “The simulation provided for numerous areas of waste, which were identified and eliminated by the teams.”

Using Lean concepts like visual management, the participants successfully produced eight Duckbot 5000s in less than 10 minutes in a second simulation, proving that waste elimination can make for continuous improvement, which are core principles of Lean.

The SRR Lean Academy is being rolled out to all SRR employees beginning this summer as SRR completes its second year of its Lean initiative. Over 400 SRR employees have experienced Lean in 45 separate events.

Rowell explained SRR has positioned itself at the forefront of AECOM’s Lean enterprise effort by becoming a resource for Lean examples and lessons learned and sharing this experience with other AECOM companies for use at their respective projects.
Christi McWaters, a first grade teacher at East Aiken School of the Arts, reunited with her former first grade student Amy Hayden, a now high school graduate and daughter of SRR employee Dean Hayden, at the SRR Students/Teachers Achieving Results (STAR) Grant and Family Scholarship Reception. McWaters was accepting an SRR STAR Grant when Hayden, who was being awarded an SRR Family Scholarship, spotted her favorite elementary school teacher.

“I couldn’t believe it when I saw Ms. McWaters,” said Hayden. “She is such a memorable teacher, one of my favorites, and it was no surprise to me that she was accepting a grant award to further her student’s education in the classroom.”

The school year ended with many more educational outreach efforts by SRR. Support in the form of scholarships, grants, donations and volunteerism from SRR and its employees demonstrates the Company’s importance of furthering education.

These efforts, said Stuart MacVean, SRR President and Project Manager, are among the most important outreach choices we make during the year.

“Reaching out and being part of education in the districts surrounding the Savannah River Site (SRS) is not only valued by SRR, it is essential,” said MacVean, who is also a board member for the Public Education Partners in the Aiken County School District. “The only way to further education is for us to be a resource in support of helping schools, students and teachers.”

Some highlights of SRR’s education outreach in the 2014-2015 school year include:

- Awarded 11 STAR Grants to area elementary school teachers
- Presented eight SRR Family Scholarships to employee’s graduating students
- Donated a scholarship to the Citizen’s for Nuclear Technology Awareness group
- Supported six local colleges and universities with grants and scholarships
- Donated resources and employee support to the annual City of Aiken’s Earth Day as the presenting sponsor
- Re-signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Allen University to continue helping students prepare for careers, particularly in the areas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Gave job shadow opportunities to high school students in the liquid waste facilities at SRS
- Hired 26 college-age summer interns to work in various areas of the Company
- Supported non-project organizations such as Education Matters, Girls State and Boys State, the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers, Math Counts, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the CSRA Society of Women Engineers

A teacher and student relationship came full circle when Christi McWaters (pictured, left), a first grade teacher at East Aiken School of the Arts, reunited with her former first grade student Amy Hayden (right), a now high school graduate and daughter of SRR employee Dean Hayden, at the SRR Students/Teachers Achieving Results (STAR) Grant and Family Scholarship Reception. McWaters was accepting an SRR STAR Grant when Hayden, who was being awarded an SRR Family Scholarship, spotted her favorite elementary school teacher.