

Robert Maher Memorial scholarship 2014 recipient announced by CNTA



Valerie Nwadeyi

Valerie Nwadeyi has been named the 2014 Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship award winner.

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) awards the scholarship every year to a deserving student pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) fields.

Nwadeyi is a nuclear engineering student at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, where she is in the honors college as is a Presidential Scholar. Valerie also volunteers as a tutor for engineering, mathematics and science classes.

During the summer of 2014, Valerie interned for the Department of Energy (DOE) at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in Washington, D.C.

She aspires to earn a doctorate degree in radiochemistry or nuclear energy. She wants to pursue a career as a Nuclear Forensic Scientist for either the Department of Homeland Security or DOE.

The Robert Maher Memorial award is a \$5,000 scholarship made possible by Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

SRR sponsors the scholarship to honor the memory of Robert Maher, the late Vice President and General Manager for Strategic and Mission Development for SRS.

Known as the "father of new missions at SRS," Maher served the Site for 48 years prior to his death in September 2002.

CNTA is a local third-party advocate for nuclear information. Its mission is to provide factual information about nuclear subjects in order to improve the public's knowledge of nuclear activities.

SRS is owned by DOE. SRR is a team of companies led by URS Corporation with partners Bechtel National, CH2M HILL and Babcock & Wilcox. Critical sub-contractors for the contract are AREVA, EnergySolutions and URS Professional Solutions.

Nuclear power is an environmental solution

Nuclear power is a green environmental solution. It generates no CO₂. The fuel is cheap and inexhaustible. Green nuclear power can solve the global crises of air pollution deaths and climate change. Cheap energy can help developing nations escape poverty and let industrialized nations improve economic growth. Is it safe? Yes it is! The primary obstacle to nuclear power is misunderstanding of radiation safety.

Misunderstandings:

- There is no safe level of radiation.
- Radiation effects are cumulative.
- Chernobyl killed nearly a million people.
- Nuclear waste is deadly for a million years.

These create public fear, so regulators adopt unnecessary rules to isolate the public from radiation. The excess costs and delays make nuclear power more expensive and impede its benefits to people.

Radioactivity is a count of atom decays. One count per second is one Becquerel (Bq). A banana has beta radioactivity of about 15 Bq from its potassium-40. Smoke detectors have americium-241 made in nuclear reactors, with alpha radioactivity of about 30,000 Bq. Radiation dose is the energy transferred from radiation to body tissue. A one-millisievert (mSv) dose is 0.001 watt-second of energy per kilogram of tissue (x20 for alpha particles).

—Facts provided by CNTA



WSI-SRS has proudly provided security services at the Savannah River Site since 1983.

The Company's core functions of People, Safety, Professional Excellence and Customer Focus are the driving forces of our organization. We are also committed to conducting our National security mission in a safe, environmentally conscious and cost-effective manner.

We join in the celebration of National Nuclear Science Week and in recognizing the many contributions of the nuclear science industry and those who work in it every day!

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