

# Southeastern Summer Nuclear Institute (SSNI)

Twenty-one middle and high school teachers from Georgia and South Carolina took time out of their busy summer schedules to participate in the Southeastern Summer Nuclear Institute from July 15th to 17th. The Institute was designed to promote nuclear education and workforce development in the southeast. It was hosted by Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) and was directed to teachers who have an interest in learning or sharing more knowledge about nuclear technology applications. The ultimate goal was to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and related careers.

The agenda for the Institute included a tour of Georgia Power's Vogtle nuclear power station in Burke County, GA, with visits to the Vogtle 3&4 construction sites, simulator exercises, and meetings with nuclear power reactor personnel. It also featured a tour of the Savannah River Site (SRS), including waste management facilities and briefings on activities at the Savannah River National Laboratory.

Classroom workshops on the mornings of July 16th and 17th, held at the University of South Carolina, Aiken, (USCA) emphasized atomic and nuclear fundamentals, power generation fundamentals, nuclear technology applications, risks (real vs. perceived), and nuclear workforce opportunities. Hands-on activities were used to illustrate important technical concepts and scientific principles which the teachers can use in

their classrooms.

Attendees received educational resources including a DVD with the workshop presentations and reference materials, teacher guides and outreach materials from the American Nuclear Society (ANS), a certificate of completion and \$50 in gift cards. All meals were provided and on-campus housing was available for those attending from outside the local area.

In addition to CNTA, sponsoring partners of the SSNI included Georgia Power/Plant Vogtle, the SRS Community Reuse Organization, ANS -SR (Savannah River), AREVA, USCA, SUN-RISE Universities, and EnergySolutions.

Follow-up with the teachers is planned during the school year to assess the lasting impact of the Institute and the value of the materials provided to the teachers. Based on the initial teacher evaluations, they were nearly unanimous in their rating of the overall high value of the Institute (4.89/5.00) and the likelihood of recommending it to other teachers (4.84/5.00). Their comments were consistent with these high ratings. Several suggested three full days next time. Also, they were impressed with the collaboration among schools, industry, and business and the strong community involvement. Based on this very positive response, planning for the second SSNI during the summer of 2016 has begun. Contact "Nellie, ISOM" <nellie.isom@areva.com> if you want to be placed on the mailing list for SSNI-2016.



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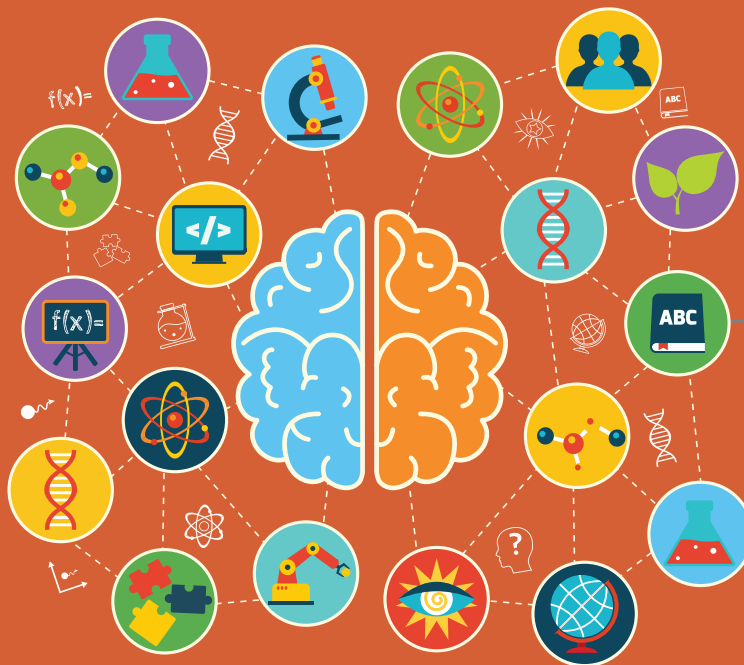


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