



Erin Peck shows off her summer research at a recent conference.

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# WORC is working

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

College and University students in the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization region have been awarded more than 450 scholarships through the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers (WORC) Program during the last two years.



Chungu Sellers

The scholarships have been awarded in 27 fields of study through local colleges and universities to encourage education and training relevant to nuclear workforce needs.

More than 102 of the WORC program students have participated in summer internships in the nuclear industry and over 54 students have moved into full-time positions at the Savannah

River Site (SRS) since the program began in 2016.

WORC is reaching students from all walks of life. For example, Chungu Sellers moved to the region from California and learned about career opportunities in the nuclear industry. She enrolled in the Radiation Protection Technology program at Aiken Technical College and is a recipient of a WORC scholarship.

Erin Peck enrolled in the Environmental Remediation and Restoration Program at USC Aiken. WORC funds allowed Erin to participate in two collaborative summer research projects between USC Aiken and the Savannah River National Laboratory. Erin recently graduated and plans to work

full-time at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

Kara Norris is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Kara received the WORC scholarship at USC Aiken and recently graduated. Kara is now a Radiological Control Inspector with Savannah River Remediation.

Brooke Stagich continues working as a limited service employee at the Savannah River National Laboratory. Brooke was part of the WORC program while she was enrolled in Augusta University's Nuclear Science Program. She graduated from Augusta University and is working on her Master's Degree in Health Physics at Clemson University.

WORC was established to strengthen the local workforce pool needed to support Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) missions, particularly in the SRS region. WORC builds on the DOE-EM funded Advancing Nuclear Skills Regionally (ANSR) Program that established new nuclear training certificate and degree programs in the SRS region from 2011 – 2016. The WORC Program includes student scholarships, student retention strategies, student outreach and promotion of relevant education and training programs, including those developed through ANSR.

The WORC grant is funded by DOE-EM and NNSA at SRS. WORC academic partners in the state of South Carolina are: Aiken Technical College, USC Aiken and University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. WORC academic partners in the state of Georgia are Augusta Technical College and Augusta University. The SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) serves as the fiscal agent and provides coordination of regional efforts for the WORC Program. For more information, visit [www.srscro.org](http://www.srscro.org) and click on the Nuclear Workforce Initiative tab.



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Kara Norris, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, received the WORC scholarship at USC Aiken and recently graduated.