

Media Contact: DT Townsend
(803) 952-9256
Ellen Heavner, Event Coordinator
(803) 952-8682

For Immediate Release

“Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day,” March 11

Middle-School students learn that engineering can be exciting

AIKEN, S.C., (March 7) – On Saturday, March 11, Savannah River Site engineers will continue to take small steps toward easing the approaching shortage of workers skilled in the engineering disciplines at the sixth annual Introduce a Girl To Engineering Day.

During this day-long event, to be held at USC-Aiken’s Ruth Patrick Science Center, approximately 50 girls from 25 middle schools in the CSRA will interact with SRS professionals, who will teach them more about careers in engineering.

According to Barbara Smoak, Manager, WSRC Educational Outreach Program, the focus on female middle-school students is by design. “Our goal is to provide programs that will generate student interest in careers such as engineering that are critical to the success of SRS and local industries. We have a particular interest in providing this information to female students because traditionally, females are underrepresented in career fields that are science and technology oriented.”

Statistics support Smoak’s concerns. Ten percent of engineers are female, although women make up 46 percent of the country’s workforce. Twenty percent of college engineering students are women, although women make up more than half of the college population.

The day will include games to help girls discover where their interests lie, as well as interactive, hands-on activities to show them how their natural problem-solving abilities form the basis for many engineering skills.

(more)

The WSRC Team:

Washington Savannah River Company LLC • Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. • BNG America Savannah River Corporation
BWXT Savannah River Company • CH2 Savannah River Company

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Page 2

Originally, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day was founded six years ago by a national coalition of engineering groups. Their annual goal is to reach a million girls. This event is also an offshoot of National Engineers Week, which is traditionally celebrated across the country each year in late February.

Last year about 39 girls from CSRA middle schools participated in the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

The CSRA Society of Women Engineers is helping to sponsor the local event, with support from Washington Savannah River Company and its partners (Bechtel Savannah River Inc., BWXT Savannah River Co., CH2 Savannah River Co. and BNG America); USC Aiken - Ruth Patrick Science Education Center; Washington Safety Management Solutions and CSRA – American Society for Engineering Management.

More information about Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day can be found at:
<http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/girlsday.shtml>

WSRC-06-09

Note: Reporters are welcome to attend the event. See attached agenda.