



ARRA *at* SRR

SEPTEMBER
2010



French commends Summer Intern mentors for 'Patience and Leadership'

By Timothy Cox

Jim French casually kicked-off a recent meeting with managers from the Savannah River Remediation (SRR) organization by simply saying, "Thank-You."

The President and Project Manager of SRR offered kudos to managers who effectively worked as mentors for college interns employed by SRR this summer.

Student participants or mentees were recruited through the Savannah River Remediation Internship Program – administered by the SRR Human Resources Department.

French commended mentors for positively impacting students, which was demonstrated by their interest in returning next year.

French said the positive student feedback reflects mentor-impact on two levels:

- 1) That students are highly impressed with practicality and pervasiveness of the SRR safety culture, and;
- 2) Students wanted to ensure that their mentors realized how much they were challenged to learn skills that will positively impact their careers.

"Obviously, these students want to return. That's a plus – and it shows the effectiveness of the program," he said.

"It's obvious they realize the significance of learning from high-level managers in a professional environment – while doing real work," said French.

The 2010 mentee class included 42 students, up from 22 students a year ago.

"These students were challenged to learn, perform and contribute to what we do as a company," said French. "They were not here just collecting a pay check," he pointed out.

LaVoris Curry of SRR Human Resources, said the mentors were appreciative of French's kudos. Ebony Perkins, Ms. Curry's mentee, was recently commended by Congressman Jim Clyburn at a scholarship golf event.

French acknowledged mentors' patience and leadership while "continuing to do their daily jobs."

"It's our way of growing our next mentors," he said with a smile.

For more information about the SRR Internship Program call Jacqueline Mack, 8-8945.

Jim French, SRR President and Project Manager, addresses summer internship mentors during a luncheon at 766-H Training Facility.



Safety at SRR

SRR employees commended for injury-free August

By Kevin Smith

SRR Safety and Health Programs Manager

Congratulations are in order!

The Savannah River Remediation American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workforce completed a very hot month of August without an injury of any kind.

Staying hydrated, taking necessary "cool-off" breaks, paying attention to your own safety and co-workers' safety, were all keys to an injury-free month.

Staying injury free for upcoming months means anticipating injury causes before a task begins in addition to planning to minimize injury potential. For example, we know that stinging insects will still be around for a few more weeks. Therefore, each time we reach into an enclosure, open the door of a storage shed, or begin a task near awnings or overhangs, we should expect a wasps nest to be somewhere near.

The ARRA Team:

The SRR ARRA workforce:
506 FTEs as of Sept. 1, 2010.

For more information, contact the SRR-ARRA Public Affairs Department: John Lindsay at 208-6253, Timothy Cox at 208-6073, or log on to www.srrremediation.com.



ARRA in ACTION

Designer's persistence pays off, returns to SRS as Recovery Act worker

By Timothy Cox

One word that would describe Ray Drummond: Persistent.

The Savannah River Remediation (SRR) Senior Plant Designer admits that engineering skills he has learned over three decades are still beneficial.

Specifically, he says his two-year Associate's degree (engineering graphics technology) from Greenville Technical College in Greenville, S.C., has been his step-ladder to success.

"Fresh out of high school, I was taking courses that were very challenging; the types of classes I believed could lead to a secure future," said Drummond, now in his second stint at Savannah River Site.

He first worked at the Site from 2006 to 2008.

"The two-year degree has provided for me," said Drummond, who at age 18, had great aptitude but says he was not prepared for four years of college.

When SRS workforce restructuring occurred in November 2008, Drummond said he figured he'd regain employment in a few short months. It was not to be.

"I repeatedly sent resumes to SRS and other companies. Eventually, I got a call from the Site," he said, noting the significance of the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"The Recovery Act has been a blessing for me, and my SRS experience was beneficial," said Drummond, who returned in April.

He and his wife for 21 years, Jennifer, have two children: Geoffrey, 18, a college freshman, and Leah, 15, a high school sophomore. Drummond, 54, sees his family on weekend commutes to his Richmond, Va. home.

"I had just started getting into my savings and retirement funds, and with two growing children, the timing for the SRS job was absolutely remarkable," said the Grovetown resident.

Drummond works in the Plant Design department to support tank closures safely, efficiently and cost-effectively.

"My job often involves making design modifications to support tank closures, replacing risers and installing new equipment," he said.

Michael Daniel, Plant Design Lead Supervisor, welcomes Drummond's skills.

"It's great to have someone of his experience and caliber back on our team," said Daniel.



Recovery Act 1-Year Review

Safety, Teamwork, Pride, Overcoming Challenges Depict SRR success, says Schmitz



Savannah River Remediation LLC is about to complete its first year of work under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

It's been a year of challenges and rewards that began on September 23, 2009, with the approval by the Department of Energy of a contract modification that directed \$200 million to SRR to accelerate salt waste disposition and sludge waste vitrification as well as deploy infrastructure support for waste tank closure.

The initial challenge facing SRR was to pull together an Integrated Project Team (IPT) comprised of

knowledgeable and experienced professionals who know liquid waste operations. Concurrently, we - along with the DOE-SR Recovery Act staff - needed to define the scope of work we would perform. Each of the more than 27 scopes of work needed detailed project plans. In many instances those plans required procurement of long lead items, such as submersible pumps and large storage tanks.

Performance requires people, and soon hiring the SRR Recovery Act team was under way.

From design engineers to human resource specialists, SRR's ARRA roster began to grow to a projected 500 workers funded by the Recovery Act, focused on engineering and construction labor.

By late spring 2010, planning, preparation and design work transformed into project execution and deployment. The long lead items we

ordered early in the year arrived and are being installed. Infrastructure from decades of liquid waste operations is being replaced. Technologies such as "Tizzy" the robot, the water skid device and bubblers at DWPF are being deployed to accelerate tank waste removal and increase production of canisters filled with vitrified waste. Week by week, Recovery Act projects are progressing and many are completed.

Without doubt, challenges remain and more will arise during this final year of our Recovery Act work. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments to date, the safe manner in which the work has been performed and the consistent professionalism each member of the SRR Recovery Act team has displayed in the performance of our Recovery Act project.

Mark Schmitz
SRR ARRA Program Manager