

W•O•R•C

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES
IN REGIONAL CAREERS

Real Impacts
Real People
Real Jobs





Chungu Sellers

Her advice to others: “Sometimes, if you are not sure what the next step is going to be, it’s good to just take some time out and look at the options. Instead of looking for the job I couldn’t get into, I started looking at the job market. Things are changing and we have to go along with the change.”

When Chungu Sellers moved from California to the Augusta area, her initial plans did not include a career change. Sellers, who has a master’s degree in healthcare management and healthcare informatics, had previously held a successful career in the field and was looking to re-establish the same locally. When her job search was unfruitful, she decided to research the current job market to realign her goals.

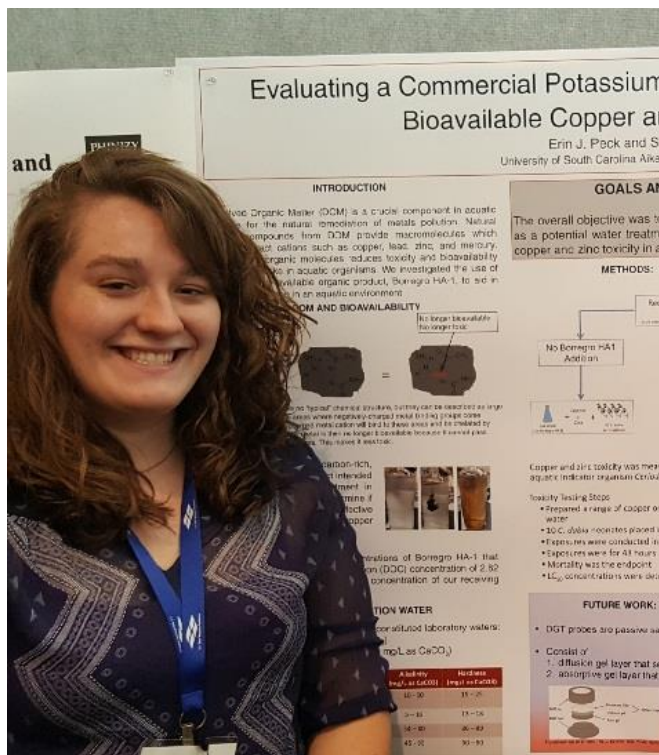
She enrolled in the radiation protection program (at Aiken Technical College) in January 2017 and is a recipient of a \$2,000 Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers Scholarship.

“It has really helped me so much,” she said of the scholarship. “During my first spring semester, there were times where I was working four to five days a week while still coming to school full-time. Now, I can focus more on my courses while balancing work.”

She looks forward to entering the nuclear industry workforce and seeking opportunities to build upon her skills.



Erin Peck

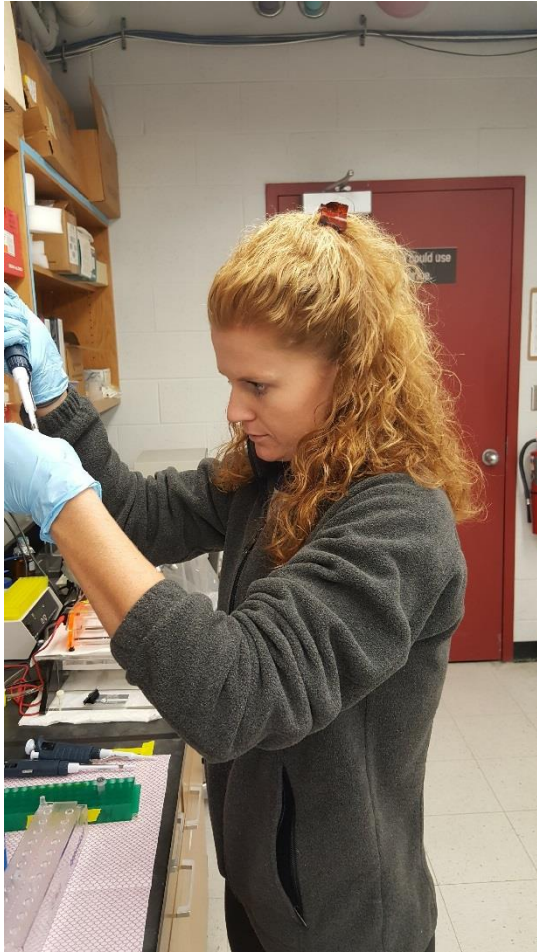


Erin has received ASNR/WORC support since she started at USC Aiken as a freshman. In addition to the scholarship, WORC funds allowed Erin to participate in **two** collaborative summer research projects between USCA with SRNL.

Erin graduated on May 9, 2018 and will begin work as a full-time laboratory technician at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in June.



Kara Norris



Kara is a non-traditional student and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Kara received the WORC scholarship at USC Aiken and she participated in WORC-funded research activities at USC Aiken for two years.

She graduated with a BS in Biology in May 2017. She is currently a Radiological Control Inspector with Savannah River Remediation at the H Tank Farm on Savannah River Site.



Evaleigh Bell

Before completion of my sophomore year my father passed away and I had no other family that could support me through school. To complete my degree and manage my fiscal responsibilities, I was working three to four jobs, working 60 to 90 hours a week and still going to school full time. But at the beginning of my senior year I was unable to keep up with my financial obligations and school commitments simultaneously. I thought I was going to have to drop out in my senior year. Receiving the WORC Scholarship has given me my future back and allowed me to stay in school and complete my Bachelors in Physics at Augusta University.

In addition through that scholarship I was funded and given an amazing opportunity to work for the Savannah River National Laboratory as a summer intern, where I worked on benchmarking dosimetry codes. Within the year thanks to that opportunity I was hired on as a LSE Employee through the Savannah River National Laboratory to continue that project.

Thanks to receiving the WORC Scholarship not only did I make it to graduation, but I also have experience, connections and a career in the field of my study.



Alejandro Serrano



Alejandro Serrano, a native of Blackville SC, is a recipient of the WORC scholarship in Fall 2017. He has enrolled in engineering courses at USC Salkehatchie during the academic year 2017-2018 and has been successfully completing his academic work.

Alejandro says that he is interested in Mechanical Engineering because he likes to design and build things. He says, “I am interested in doing projects that involve designing things that are important in today’s society. Mechanical Engineering catches my interest because they design and build products that are important and relevant to machines that simplify human effort.”

Alejandro says the financial aid provided through the WORC program allows him to focus on his studies, “If the aid was not available for me ahead in college it will be difficult to study and work to pay for my school expenses.”

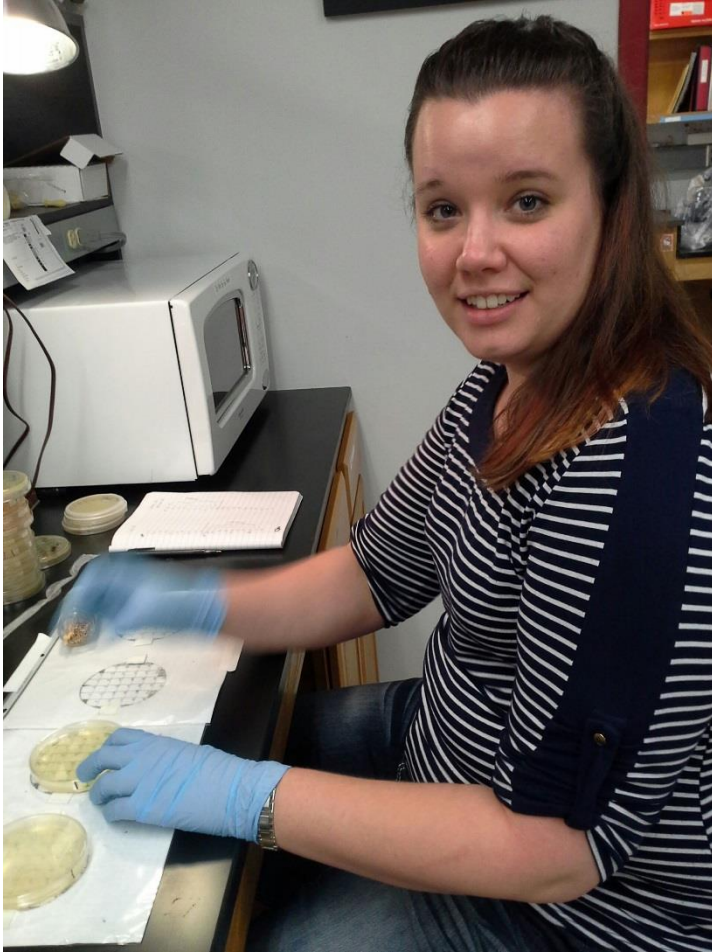


Stephen Noel

“The Nuclear Engineering Technology Associates program at Augusta Tech (a WORC Program of study) has provided me with the tools necessary to enter the nuclear industry workforce. While the focus of the program is geared towards a commercial nuclear power plant, many of the concepts still apply to a wide variety of positions at the Savannah River Site. This not only allowed me to have a greater knowledge base than most of the other new employees but also exempted me from about six months of fundamental training at the site. I took a position as an Operator at the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise shortly after completing the program and could not be happier with the outcome of this experience.”



Alaina Bodie



Update on a former USCA student:

Alaina was one of the original Environmental Remediation and Restoration Program (ERRP) students who was funded under the ANSR grant at USC Aiken. She was a single mother who had returned to college. She graduated in 2015. I received the following email in February 2017:

“Hey Dr. Harmon,
I want to let you know that I have been offered and accepted a job with SRS as a senior lab tech...I am also getting married April 8 of this year! I am so excited!!”

Just a reminder that the ANSR and WORC programs have a lasting impact on the strength of the local workforce pool for years to come.



Mary Lamb

Mary started college at USC Aiken in 2011, but was soon forced to reduce the number of courses she could take after the sudden death of her parents left her with no means of financial support. Mary took one or two classes per semester until she was able to return to full-time studies in 2015 with the support of a the ANSR/WORC scholarships.

Extra Note: Mary needed one final class in summer 2017 and was planning to sell her car to get the \$1600 for tuition. We were able to use WORC funds to pay for this final class.



Brooke Stagich

Brooke is working as a limited service employee at SRNL and also working on her Masters Degree in Health Physics at Clemson University. Brooke is a first generation college graduate from Augusta University's Nuclear Science Program and received support from the ANSR and WORC grant programs.

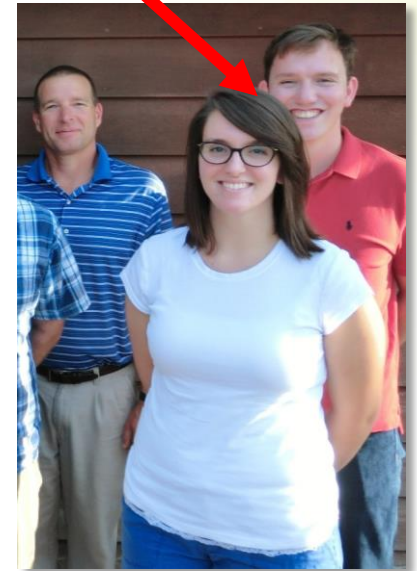
“My favorite part about working in the nuclear field is that there is always more to learn. This field has so many different areas involved in it that it is hard not to find something that would interest you.”

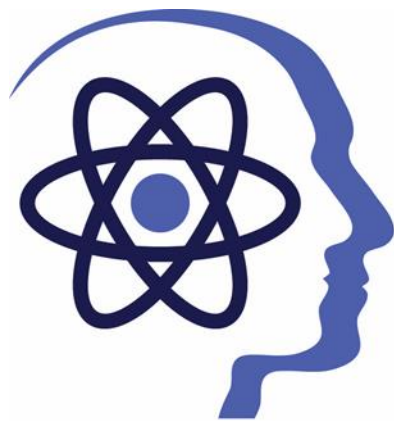
“I am the first author on a paper that will be published in the Health Physics Journal soon.”

“Augusta University set me up for success in my career by providing me with information that is not normally found in an undergraduate program. It also prepared me for what I would encounter in a professional or educational laboratory.”

“Without the nuclear program, I would not have found my true calling or my true potential. It gave me experience through an internship at the Savannah River National Laboratory. I was able to work at SRNL through this program for two summers in a row. I've also been able to meet many people in this field not only through the internship, but through the many events I have attended in order to speak on behalf of this program.”

That's Brooke





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