Faces of nuclear

Alandria Johnson

Alandria Johnson is one of the faces of an ongoing education partnership between Aiken Technical College (ATC) and the Savannah River Site (SRS). SRS provides internship opportunities to ATC students graduating from the Radiation Protection Technology Program, a program where students can earn an associate's degree, on-the-job experience, and oftentimes a full-time job after completion.

Johnson

Alandria started as an intern at Savannah River Remediation (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at SRS, in June 2015. Her degree, workplace training, and hard work landed her a permanent job two months later.

"The SRR internship provided a wonderful experience at H Tank Farm, where I was able to observe work in the field and understand the weight of my responsibilities," Alandria said. "I believe my studies at Aiken Tech, as well as passing national testing (Nuclear Utilities Fundamentals and Department of Energy Core Exam) and position-specific field experience, made me a valuable candidate when SRR began hiring for Tank Farm radiological control inspectors."

As a radiological control inspector, Alandria is responsible for protecting workers, the environment, and the public by monitoring and controlling radiological exposures. She is passionate about her job, and this passion fuels her desire to inspire the next generation of nuclear workers.

"I love my current job and want to build on my experiences in the field with a higher education degree that will allow me a role in training future Radiological Control Inspectors," she said. "I enjoy the sense of pride I get when I think about the complex work we do to keep our community safe, now and for future generations."

Alandria often encourages others to enter the nuclear field, noting, "This is a career field with longevity, growth opportunities, and great potential pay."

Kristin Brant

Kristin Brant is another face of the Aiken Technical College school-to-work partnership with the Savannah River Site (SRS). She has been a radiological control inspector for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the management and operations contractor at SRS, since May 2014.

Brant

Kristin is in the nuclear business to keep her coworkers, her community, and the environment safe.

"Knowing that my job is helping keep people safe and making sure the environment stays contamination-free is the best part of my job," she said. "I am proud to be on the front lines of radiation protection, because what we do truly makes a difference."

Her career aspirations include advancing in the industry.

"I would like to progress in my field to a first line manager position to better support my family," she said. "Who knows, maybe one day I'll progress into a facility manager or area manager. There are multiple areas for progression in the RadCon field."

A job in the nuclear field is one of challenges and fulfillment, according to Kristin, and there is always something new to learn.

"New studies are being performed every day, and the nuclear field provides assistance to all different forms of agencies, such as NASA," she said. "It's a very rewarding field to work in and you know that you're always making a difference and being as safe as possible."

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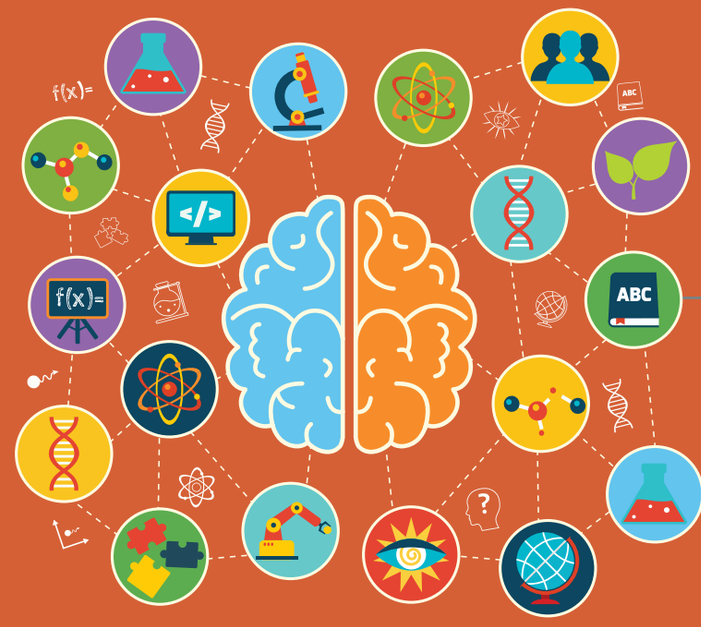

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