

CNTA's mission is education

For more than 25 years, CNTA's primary mission has been education. At CNTA's inception, it was realized that the public needs objective information to make informed judgments regarding nuclear energy and nuclear technologies. The nuclear industry is plagued with misconceptions and stereotypes, and CNTA's mission is to provide objective, factual information on all things nuclear.

CNTA fulfills its education mission through a number of initiatives. They include:

Essay contest

Each year, regional high school juniors and seniors (including home-schooled students) are eligible to submit an essay based on a list of pre-selected nuclear topics. Winners receive \$1,000 and their schools receive \$500 to be used for science-oriented field trips or materials. In the 11 years since the contest's inception, CNTA has awarded \$58,500 to the student winners and their schools across the CSRA.

Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship

In concert with promoting student excellence in science and engineering fields related to the nuclear enterprise, CNTA also administers the competition for the annual Robert Maher Memorial Scholarship. This corporately sponsored \$5,000 prize is awarded to a college junior or senior with a meritorious academic record. Candidate applications are solicited from all eligible colleges and universities within South Carolina and Georgia. Applicants must be majoring in a nuclear science field or one that is linked to nuclear science. To date, scholarships totaling \$75,000 have been awarded in honor of Robert Maher, a champion of Savannah River Site capabilities and future missions in the 1980s and '90s.

CNTA Video Contest

The most recent student educational initiative, the Video Contest, was launched in 2016 with a goal to capture the current interest among young people in the video medium. The contest involves teams of students developing videos to "bust Nuclear Myths." The winning teams receive a GoPro® camera and accessories for their school.

Bringing Nuclear Into the Classroom

Perhaps the best approach to enhancing awareness of nuclear science and its opportunities was to offer a seminar for middle- and high-school teachers. "Bringing Nuclear into the Classroom" was first presented in March 2010. This one-day seminar continues to be offered with the help of many volunteers, sponsors and partners, including the USC Aiken Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC), the American Nuclear Society and several corporate donors. The seminar closes with a summary of the regional nuclear businesses, the career opportunities they offer, and a projection of upcoming needs in each job category. The program has reached more than 350 teachers and counselors in Georgia and South Carolina. To further aid teachers, volunteers have developed science kits that reside at the RPSEC and can be used on loan by teachers.

Southeastern Summer Nuclear Institute (SSNI)

A further evolution of the teacher seminar concept came in 2015 with the development of the two-day SSNI, which expanded the classroom opportunity by adding tours of Plant Vogtle and SRS. This program generated so much enthusiasm that it was expanded to three days in 2016 with the inclusion of a tour on nuclear medicine at Augusta University. It is developed and organized by volunteers, and the cost is covered by corporate and non-profit organization sponsors. SSNI was most recently held in June 2017 with overwhelmingly positive reviews.

Up and Atom breakfasts

On a monthly basis, CNTA holds Up and Atom breakfasts. The breakfasts feature speakers on nuclear-related topics of interest and provide an ideal opportunity for CNTA members and guests to network and stay current on key issues.

Speakers' Bureau

Upon CNTA's creation, it became quickly obvious that a public outreach program needed to be developed that offered knowledgeable speakers to address concerns and misinformation in public forums. Thus, the "Speakers' Bureau" was created, and it remains a cornerstone of the CNTA education outreach initiatives. This group provides easily accessible information and a resource of knowledgeable speakers on many nuclear topics to the general community. They present and discuss issues at local group meetings ranging from area Chambers of Commerce to church and social groups. The Speakers' Bureau has been recently reinvigorated and there are over 25 presentations on nuclear topics available for presentation to the public.

Lifelong Learning

In 2017, CNTA conducted classes as part of the Lifelong Learning Academy at USC Aiken. In the spring, a series of presentations on current and future missions at SRS were provided. In the fall, topics regarding nuclear fundamentals, nuclear energy and perceived risk were discussed.

Other public outreach

CNTA also helps to educate the public through factual public testimony at regional meetings and official hearings, as well as through editorials and articles for local and regional publications. Often focused on a topic of national importance, some of these pieces have been published by national newspapers such as the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*.

Despite our nation's, and the Southeast's, indisputable leadership in the area of nuclear science and technology, the need for thoughtful communication with and education of the public is as great today as it ever was and has become more multifaceted. To address this need, CNTA will continue to grow and nurture its educational outreach program. CNTA is committed to ensuring a clean, bright, safe nuclear future for us all.

Celebrate Nuclear Science Week 2017

A series of events will be held to celebrate the 2017 Nuclear Science Week – A Celebration of Our Nuclear History.

The Robots Are Coming

"The Robots Are Coming" will be held Oct. 12-21 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Savannah River Site Museum, 224 Laurens St. Discover the robots that once worked at Savannah River Site. With actual robots in place, visitors will learn all about the important role they played at the Site.

On Oct. 16-21 from 5 to 7 p.m., students from across the region will showcase their robots. Visitors are also encouraged to check the progress at the SRS museum while discovering the Site's history on display.

Atoms in the Alley

Atoms in the Alley will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 5 p.m. in the Alley. This fun, family-friendly event celebrating Aiken County and the surrounding area's nuclear history. Events will include science-related demonstrations, live music, vendors and a movie.

At 5 p.m., there will be a ribbon cutting at the Fall-Out Shelter exhibit on Park Avenue between Laurens and Newberry streets.

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., enjoy live music by The Kool Katz and a vendor fair in the Alley. At 8:30 p.m., bring your lawn chair for a screening of "Blast From the Past."