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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNL's Dr. Brenda García-Díaz Honored for Research Excellence

AIKEN, SC (March 31, 2015) -- The Savannah River National Laboratory's Dr. Brenda García-Díaz has been honored by the South Carolina Governor's office as the recipient of the 2015 Young Researcher Award for Excellence in Scientific Research.

The award was presented March 25 by South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster in a program at the state capitol.

Dr. García-Díaz joined SRNL in 2007 after receiving a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of South Carolina. Prior to moving to South Carolina, she received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.

During her time at SRNL, her wide-ranging research assignments have included modeling and experimentation for safe storage and closure of high level waste tanks; materials research for alternate and renewable energy; accident tolerant nuclear fuel research; hydrogen storage research, and other materials-related activities.

Most notably, she has served as a lead investigator on an



SRNL's Dr. Brenda Garcia-Diaz (center) is flanked by, from left, Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster; USCA's Dr. Bill Pirkle, selection committee chair; and, Bill Mahoney and Bill Blume of the South Carolina Research Authority.



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# News from Savannah River National Laboratory

SRNL-led team (working with the Universities of South Carolina and Alabama) that won a three-year research grant through the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, a national effort to make solar energy more cost-competitive. The project is identifying how new, corrosion-resistant materials and strategies can contribute to a higher efficiency solar energy carrier system.

In his official letter of nomination, SRNL Director Dr. Terry Michalske referred to García-Díaz as "an exceptionally strong research engineer with high-impact accomplishments."

"Within her short seven years at Savannah River National Laboratory, she has made a strong impression on other researchers and the SRNL management team through the breadth and technical quality of her work, earning the respect as a team lead from both our junior staff and senior technical staff," said Michalske. "Her engaging and gregarious personality brings excitement to our research staff. She has a record that proves her to be an effective technical researcher and manager, and an emergent leader in our laboratory. She is clearly deserving of this recognition."

In addition to her research activities, García-Díaz has taken an active role in mentoring and counseling high school and college students who are interested in science and math. She currently serves on the external advisory boards for the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of South Carolina and is the local chapter president for ASM International, a professional society for materials engineers.

The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a multi-program applied research and development laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy. SRNL applies state-of-the-art science and engineering to provide practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions for our nation's environmental cleanup, nuclear security and clean energy challenges. Visit us on the web at <http://srnl.doe.gov>