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SRNL Scientist Receives Governor's Award

AIKEN, S.C. (May 5, 2016) – A materials scientist and geochemist at the Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) won the 2016 South Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. The award was given April 29 in Columbia, SC by South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster.

Dr. Carol M. Jantzen was recognized for her development of process models that operate the control system at the Savannah River Site's Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF), the nation's only, operational, high-level waste vitrification facility.

"I am appreciative of the Governor's award committee for the recognition of my technical and innovative accomplishments in the safe disposal of high-level waste," said Jantzen. "I am even more appreciative the award committee recognized how I took ideas from one discipline, my background in geology and geochemistry, and applied these concepts to develop waste processing models and other engineering solutions."



Award recipient Dr. Carol Jantzen (left) with SC Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster and SRNL Deputy Director Sharon Marra.



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Jantzen is considered one of the world's experts on waste forms by the International Atomic Energy Agency and she is an active member of the American Standards & Testing Materials organization, contributing to standards used around the world for the nuclear industry and high-level waste geologic repositories.

“This award speaks directly to the quality of work that Dr. Jantzen performs,” said Sharon Marra, SRNL Deputy Laboratory Director. “She’s a researcher dedicated to innovation and new opportunity. Her work at DWPF is just one example of how her research has made a significant impact.”

Jantzen has extensive knowledge of glass, ceramic, mineral, cement, geopolymer, and hydroceramic waste forms and served on the National Academy of Science and the National Research Council. Her expertise in thermodynamics and geochemistry has been integral to providing know-how to DWPF’s processes to transform high-level nuclear waste into glass for safe disposal.

“I always say I will try to find a way to solve the problem and I constantly question how I can make it work or how can I improve on this model or that practice,” said Jantzen.

The Governor’s Award was established in 1985 by the Drug Science Foundation to honor specifically an individual or team within the state whose achievements and contributions to science in South Carolina merit special recognition and to promote wider awareness of the quality and extent of scientific activity in South Carolina.

“SRNL is proud of Carol for receiving this recognition, and thankful to her for her hard work,” added Marra.

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>