

ANS NCSD Newsletter Fall 2025

Member Highlight- Brittany Meriwether Williamson

Brittany works for Spectra Tech, Inc. as the Criticality Safety Lead at the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility. She has a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of South Carolina. She is a licensed professional engineer in South Carolina. Brittany has spent most of her 18-year career in criticality safety at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina supporting H-Canyon, K-Area, and criticality safety training. She also spent a short time at BWXT in Lynchburg, VA. Brittany has published over a dozen papers on topics ranging from spent fuel dissolution to incorporating criticality safety into design and behavioral economics.



Brittany has been involved with ANS since 2002 in the Georgia Tech student section, where she served as president. She has served on the Executive Committee and as treasurer of the NCSD. She currently serves as chair of NCSD's Bylaws and Rules committee and vice-chair of ANS's Bylaws and Rules Committee. Brittany is a working group member of three ANSI/ANS standards (8.7, 8.20, and 8.26). Brittany recently served as co-general chair of the NCSD 2025 topical meeting in Austin, TX.

In her non-existent free time, Brittany enjoys playing flute and piccolo in her local professional orchestra. She also enjoys traveling and nuclear tourism. She would love to tell you about her experiences in Chernobyl and Fukushima or playing at the Shanghai International Arts Festival or snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef. Brittany currently lives in Aiken, SC with her husband, 4 kids, and labradoodle.

The NCSD 2025 Topical Meeting Wrapped!

The NCSD 2025 Topical Meeting held in Austin, Texas, between September 14th and 18th, was a great success! The theme 'Many Missions, One Goal: Collaborating for a Safer Tomorrow', was fully embraced, with over 100 presentations delivered on an expanse of criticality safety topics. Check out these stats:

Number of attendees: 198

Number of countries represented: 11

Number of companies represented: 78

Number of students in attendance: 16

Number of young members in attendance: 38

Number of papers submitted: 108

Number of exhibitor tables: 10

Number of workshops: 3, with 108 attendees in total

Attendees also got the chance to vote for Best Paper and Best Lightning Talk!

Best paper: Using Machine Learning to Aid in Developing Nuclear Criticality Safety Evaluations, Anneli Brackbill

Best Lightning Talk: Effects of a Composite Water-Steel Reflector on k_{eff} for Fast Metal System, Michael McDonald

Thanks to all who contributed and made the conference such a success!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Trainings/Classes:

- Variance Reduction with MCNP6 at LANL (Dec 1-5, 2025)
- Managers/CSO Course at NCERC (Dec '25 date rescheduled)
- Two-week CSE course at NFO/NATM and NCERC/SNL (Jan 26-Feb 6, 2026; Aug 3-14, 2026)
- Introduction to MCNP6 Online (March 9-13, 2026; June 8-12, 2026)
- NDA Holdup Measurements Training at ORNL (March 30-April 2, 2026)
- Managers/CSO Course at SNL (April 13-17, 2026)
- Intermediate MCNP6 at LANL (April 13-17, 2026)
- Criticality Calculations with MCNP6 at LANL (May 4-8, 2026)

Meeting Reminders:

- NCSP Technical Program Review FY26 (TBD, ORNL)
- WANDA 2026 (Feb 9-12, 2026, Arlington, VA)
- EFCOG N&FS workshop (Feb 23-27, 2026, SNL)
 - NCS Community of Practice on Feb 23
- ANS Student Conference 2026 (Apr 16-18, 2026, College Station, TX)
- PHYSOR 2026 (Apr 19-23, 2026, Turin, Italy)
- 38th WPEC Meeting (May 26-29, 2026, Boulogne-Billancourt, France)
- ANS 2026 Annual Conference (May 31- June 3, 2026, Denver, CO)
- 13th ICNC (Autumn 2027, U.K.- more details TBA)