



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Oak Ridge High School Student Gets a Career Head Start from Advisory Board Service

Participating as a student representative on a local environmental management advisory board had a two-fold benefit for Oak Ridge High School student Claire Campbell. She was able to apply what she learned on the board in class and it gave her some real world insight on a career choice.

Claire just completed a one-year term as a student representative on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB), a citizens' panel charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Environmental Management program on its cleanup of contaminated land, groundwater, and facilities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.



Oak Ridge High School senior Claire Campbell proudly displays the plaque she received from members of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board for her service as a student representative on the board.

“Being on the board has been an incredible experience for me,” says Claire. “I learned several lessons through the presentations to the board. With Oak Ridge High School’s emphasis on sciences in the classroom I was able to apply what I learned from many of the projects I was exposed to and turn them into real world examples.

“Plus, I plan to explore environmental policy as a career and being on ORSSAB solidified my decision that I want to make a difference through environmental policy and management. This experience gave me a huge head start.”

ORSSAB is one of eight similar boards across the nation, but the only one that has student representatives. One student is always selected from Oak Ridge High School. The other is chosen on a rotating basis from a number of high schools in the Oak Ridge area.

Miranda Clower from Kingston representing Roane County High School participated on the board with Claire.

At their last meeting Claire and Miranda were recognized with presentation of plaques for their service. “We have really enjoyed their participation,” said Dave Adler, the DOE liaison to ORSSAB. “They were both members of the Environmental Management Committee and were actively involved with the K-25 and ponds issues at East Tennessee Technology Park. We really appreciated their ideas and their energy. I think student involvement is one of the best things about this board.”

While the students don’t vote, they do participate in activities at the board and committee levels. “Miranda and I had a blast as co-issue managers for an Environmental Management Committee update on the K-25 Building demolition and the ponds remediation project at East Tennessee Technology Park,” said Claire. The students also trade off duties each month handling the public comment period at the board meetings by introducing those who wish to speak.

“What I enjoyed most was the inside look at the Oak Ridge Reservation and how environmental management works,” said Claire. “I especially enjoyed the tours of the various facilities and the chance to truly understand why Oak Ridge is as important as it is.

“I also enjoyed the discussions on recommendations the board made to DOE. The most important thing I’ll take away from my year on the board is the realization that the public really can make a difference in environmental cleanup.”

After graduating Oak Ridge High School in May, Claire will participate in an internship this summer through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Environmental Sciences Division. In the fall she plans to attend Furman University in South Carolina.

ORSSAB will seat two new students at its May meeting.

ORSSAB meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge. The meetings are open to the public. For information, call (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584, or see www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.

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