



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Advisory Board Says “Thank You” to Outgoing Student Representatives

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) thanked its two outgoing student representatives, Ashlyn Hall, Oak Ridge High School, and Hubert Gibson, Oliver Springs High School, for their one-year service to the board at its April meeting.

ORSSAB is a federally chartered citizens’ panel that provides the Department of Energy-Oak Ridge with advice and recommendations on the department’s environmental cleanup program. ORSSAB is one of seven similar advisory boards across the nation, but is the only one to have student representatives.



In addition to receiving plaques for their service on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, student representatives Ashlyn Hall and Hubert Gibson were honored with a special cake at their last board meeting in April.

Ashlyn and Hubert were presented plaques for their service by Steve McCracken, the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge manager for the cleanup program. “I appreciate the participation of these two fine young people on our board for the past year,” said McCracken. “Our student representatives bring a fresh view to what we do and we hope they will take with them what they have learned and apply it other settings.

“One of the best communication strategies we have is through our young people,” he said, “to teach them what it is we do and then have them take that knowledge and pass it on to others.”

Ashlyn and Hubert were active participants on several of ORSSAB’s committees. Ashlyn was a member of the Stewardship Committee and Stewardship Education Subcommittee. She helped make revisions to the Stewardship Education Resource Kit, which is used by area educators to teach students about stewardship of land that has been contaminated by hazardous or radioactive wastes.

Hubert was a member of the board’s Environmental Management Committee, the Oral History Subcommittee, and the steering committee that organized a public meeting on the preservation of the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park. He also participated in an oral history workshop that led to the formation of the Oak Ridge Oral History Steering Committee.

“I learned a lot about how government works and how the public works with the government,” says Ashlyn. “It was interesting to see how it’s done. It was something of a civics lesson.

“I also really enjoyed working on the Stewardship Education Subcommittee and the Education Resource Kit. It’s good the kit has been developed to help educate students about what was accomplished in Oak Ridge. I don’t think kids have as much appreciation for what went on here as in years past. The kit helps teach them about that.”

Ashlyn has been accepted to attend Belmont University in Nashville where she’ll study journalism and environmental science.

Hubert plans to study the sciences, perhaps either chemical engineering or environmental science. He’ll begin his college career at Pellissippi State Technical Community College and then transfer to either the University of Tennessee or Tennessee Tech.

“It was a great experience being on the board,” he says. “I learned a lot about the cleanup program and the specific issues. I was especially glad to participate on the planning committee for the K-25 public meeting. I feel strongly that a portion of the K-25 Building should be preserved, so I was glad the board passed a recommendation to save part of it.”

Two more area students will join the board in May.

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