



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Roane County Student Recognized for Work with Oak Ridge Advisory Board

Prior to serving on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB), Miranda Clower didn't fully understand the significance of the work being done on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation or the magnitude of the environmental cleanup currently underway there. Now she knows quite a lot.



Roane County High School senior Miranda Clower 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.

In April Miranda completed her one-year term as a student representative on ORSSAB, a citizens' panel responsible for providing advice and recommendations to DOE's cleanup of contaminated soil, groundwater, and facilities on the federal reservation.

"I became more aware of the enormity of what is taking place in Oak Ridge and its importance to the future of East Tennessee," she said. "Another important lesson I learned is the necessity of preserving the history of what took place there, be it written, oral, or whatever. And from the Stewardship Committee members I learned that it is our responsibility to take care of *now* for the sake of the future."

ORSSAB is one of eight similar boards across the nation, but the only one that has student representatives. Serving this past year with Miranda was Claire Campbell, a senior at Oak Ridge High School.

At their last meeting Miranda and Claire 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 active members of the Environmental Management Committee, and Miranda worked

with the Public Outreach Committee and spoke at Hardin Valley Academy where we will get one of our next students.

“We really appreciated their ideas and their energy. I think student involvement is one of the best things about this board.”

Although the students don’t vote, they do participate in activities at the board and committee levels. The students also trade off duties each month handling the public comment period at the board meetings by introducing those who wish to speak. “Claire and I worked as co-issue managers, with help from board member Tim Myrick, for an Environmental Management Committee meeting on the K-25 Building demolition and the ponds remediation project at East Tennessee Technology Park. That was a great experience because I got to see what goes on ‘behind the scenes’ before a committee meeting. And I had the opportunity to work with board member Bill Bass at Hardin Valley Academy in Knoxville to talk to the students about the board. After Mr. Bass’ presentation, I gave the class my perspective concerning what it means to be a student representative for the board. That was a great experience and the students asked a lot of questions.”

Miranda feels her experience as a young board member was productive as well as educational. “All of the board members made us feel welcome. We were encouraged to give our opinions and work along with the other members. I felt like an important part of something when working with the board.

“Being a student member has been a great experience,” she said. “The board helped me grow in my awareness of what is happening around me and what will happen in the future for Oak Ridge.”

After graduation this spring, Miranda plans to attend Maryville College. “I haven’t decided on a major yet, but I know that whatever I choose, my term on the board is experience which may well influence my decision.”

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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