



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Knox County Student Recognized for Contribution to Oak Ridge Advisory Board

Oak Ridge, Tenn. - May 30, 2003 - Environmental cleanup of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Oak Ridge Reservation wasn't exactly on David Johnson's course list when he started his senior year at Karn High School, but now, a year later, he probably knows more about it than most Knox County residents.

That's because David has just finished his term as a student representative to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB)—an independent citizens' panel chartered to advise DOE on environmental cleanup at its Oak Ridge Reservation.

David was awarded a plaque of appreciation at a recent SSAB meeting for his contributions to DOE and the board. The plaque was presented by Gerald Boyd, DOE-Oak Ridge Manager.

"We appreciate David's taking the time to participate on the SSAB," Boyd said. "Oak Ridge is the only SSAB across the country to have student representatives, and I think it's wonderful that our local high school students have this type of educational opportunity."

David said that being part of the board was a great learning opportunity. "I really enjoyed my experience on the board. There's a lot of bureaucracy in government, and there are a lot of environmental problems in Oak Ridge that need to be fixed. But it's good to see that citizens have been able to guide DOE in the cleanup."

The SSAB student membership program began in 1999 with one student. The program was then expanded so that one student would be selected each year from Oak Ridge High School, and another would be chosen on a rotating basis from one of the high schools surrounding Oak Ridge. Although the students do not vote, they study cleanup issues and participate in meetings and other activities just like voting members.

Two new representatives, Barbara Kosny of Oak Ridge High School and Atur Sheth of Farragut High School, were appointed in May 2003.

Dave Mosby, SSAB Chair, summed up the board's view of students this way. "The legacy of DOE activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation will be with us for a long, long time, so it's crucial that the next generation, as well as those that follow, be informed, active participants in

remediation decision-making. We owe it to them to teach them, and they owe it to themselves to take responsibility for the world they are to inherit.”

With David’s tenure on the SSAB now complete, at least one Knox County student has taken an important step in that direction.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Karns High School graduate David Johnson displays the plaque of appreciation he received from DOE-Oak Ridge Manager Gerald Boyd at the April 9 SSAB meeting. Jenna Carignan of Oak Ridge High School was also honored.

