



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DOE/Advisory Board Recognize Service of Student Representatives

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office recognized outgoing student representatives Kasey McMaster and Amira Sakalla at the April board meeting.

ORSSAB is a federally chartered citizens' panel that provides recommendations to the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program, which is responsible for the cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Each year it provides seats for two non-voting student representatives from area high schools. In addition to participating at board meetings, students can be members of the board's working committees.



Students Kasey McMaster, left, and Amira Sakalla were presented plaques by Dave Adler, Department of Energy-Oak Ridge in recognition for their service on the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

senior at Hardin Valley Academy. "It's a gradual process that requires patience, but results in great progress. I plan on going into health care as a pediatrician, and the ORSSAB has helped me make connections between two seemingly unrelated fields. People often focus on how environmental issues affect the earth and overlook how these issues affect humans and their health."

"My experience on the board was extremely interesting and enriching," said Kasey, an Oak Ridge High School senior. "I learned about so many new things involving the environmental wellbeing of the Oak Ridge Reservation I probably would never have known about had I not taken the opportunity to be a student representative. I am thankful that I was given the chance to participate!"

Amira plans to attend the University of Tennessee majoring in chemistry with a concentration in pre-med.

Kasey will attend Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., in the fall, but hasn't decided on a major.

"This is one of the best things this board does - bring in students from the local high schools," said DOE liaison to the board Dave Adler, who presented plaques on behalf of the DOE and ORSSAB. "I want to thank both of you for serving and participating in the board's activities."

Both Amira and Kasey were members of the board's Environmental Management Committee. Amira also served on the Public Outreach Committee and helped the board set up its Facebook page.

"I've really enjoyed my time on ORSSAB. It gave me a taste of how decisions and planning are carried out in the real world," said Amira, a

Two more students from Oak Ridge and Hardin Valley will join the board in May.

For more information about ORSSAB, visit the board's web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab or call 865-241-4583 or 241-4584.

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