



# The Palmetto


**SOUTH  
CAROLINA**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## 2020 Conference wrap-up

BY SAM PRICE, SCCEC PRESIDENT



We had an amazing time in Myrtle Beach for our 2020 Conference and hope you did too! We wanted to send a quick thank you for all of the great connections made, memories created, and laughs shared.

Let's recap the week. Why not? I'd love to relive it again! (And for those of you who didn't attend, we hope to see you next year!)

First — we finally saw the SUN! Our weather was great. It was perfect for

walking on the beach, but who had time for that with all the great sessions going on.

Thursday's pre-sessions were great. SC Partnerships for Inclusion and TeachTown hosted a wonderful session on "The Meta-Play Method and Dynamic Behavior Theory of Autism." DADD hosted Dr. Carol Page as she presented on "Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication to Enhance Social Communication and Academic Engagement of Students with ASD and ID." SC Partnerships for Inclusion and SC School for the Deaf and Blind co-hosted "Pyramid Model Practices to Support Young Learners Who are Deaf-Blind."

Friday's keynote speaker, Brooks Harper, was fabulous. Friday was our first official day of sessions. Mr. Harper got our morning started off on the right foot. It was great that everyone showed up for the opening session. Sessions that day covered the PAALS program (the

pups working in schools), The Integration of School Health Supports within a PBIS model, Co-teaching, Co-reaching: Meeting the Needs of All Students, Live Podcast with Education Rockstars (thanks again for participating!), Peer Mediated Interventions and Supports in the Post-Secondary Setting for Students with ID/DD and The Successful Teacher's Handbook written by our own Pat Hensley. We also had a great time at College Night — poster sessions were on point, speed interviews were great and the networking was very informative.

Saturday's sessions started off with a bang (or should I say a fire drill), and great job for exiting the building so quickly. Sessions that day covered Maggie's Friend Otis — A Young Lady's Battle with OCD, Project Search and how to implement it in your district, Child Trauma and Building Student Resilience, Unifying School-based Enterprise, Advocacy 24/7/365, Policy Panel and Closing Comments.

President's Reception with TeachTown was a blast. The Awards Dinner was wonderful; it allowed us to celebrate the wonderful people in our state who support our students.

Remember, if there are any sessions you'd like to look over again, the link <http://bit.ly/37F63RA> is listed in your conference booklet on page 4. Thanks again for a great week!

Next year's conference will be Feb. 19-21, 2021 at Embassy Suites by Hilton North Charleston.

*P.S. Browse through our pictures on our Facebook page and feel free to tag yourself! Send us any conference photos you may have. We'd love to post more!*

## Conference evaluation

BY LISA HALTER

A big thank you to all of the conference attendees who took the time to complete the Conference Evaluation. We received some valuable feedback that we can use to make next year's conference even better! If you did not have a chance to fill out the survey, you can still access the link here: <https://forms.gle/bhcSGVBuvHaHGNdi8>

Out of the 64 responses, the overall consensus is that this year's conference was one of the best. Here's a snapshot of some of the feedback we received:

### ► PROGRAMS — EXCELLENT

Comments: Utilize an electronic format, offer access to program materials earlier.

### ► KEYNOTE SPEAKER — EXCELLENT

Comments: Entertaining, motivational, engaging

### ► FACILITIES — EXCELLENT

Comments: Awesome, clean, needed more space in sessions, parking could be better

### ► BREAKOUT SESSIONS — EXCELLENT

Comments: Informative, nice variety, would prefer classroom-style sessions, would love more special education law sessions, many sessions were full and could not accommodate everyone who wanted to attend

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## CONFERENCE EVALUATION cont'd.

A reoccurring theme in the "Other Comments" section was related to having the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. In years past, we have had an Awards Luncheon on Friday and even a breakfast way back in the day. Many conference attendees were not able to attend because

of the change and suggested that we present awards at an earlier time/day in the conference schedule.

The 2021 Conference Committee, along with the SCCEC Executive Board, will be using your comments and suggestions to make next year's conference the best ever!

Thank you so much for your support of our organization, and we look forward to

seeing you next year! As a reminder, here are the details for the conference:

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
2021 SCCEC CONFERENCE  
February 19-21, 2021  
Embassy Suites by Hilton  
North Charleston  
5055 International Blvd.,  
North Charleston, SC 29418**

## Welcome to our new Executive Committee members

BY AMANDA WALKUP

At Representative Assembly, your chapter and subdivision representatives elected a new Vice-President (4-year term) and Recording Secretary (2-year term). The new officers begin on July 1, and we look forward to working with them!

### ► VICE-PRESIDENT: KATIE MARK



Katie was born and raised in Aiken, South Carolina, and received her dual Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Special Education from USCA.

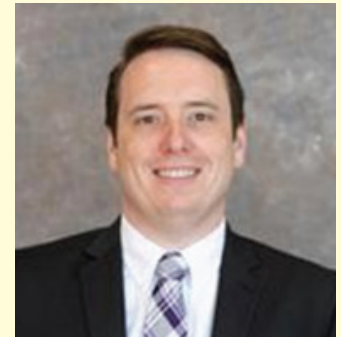
Over the past six years she has served students in grades three through five in special education. During that time, her

passion was to help implement school and district-wide behavior programming with an emphasis on building relationships with those students who needed it most.

In 2016-2017, Katie was named Douglas Elementary School's teacher of the year. Additionally, her passion to build relationships with families has been shared through parent developments and has allowed her to work with families to advocate for their children. She is currently navigating the general education world as a 3rd Grade teacher with her focus on making sure that all students are seen and successful. She strives to empower her students to advocate for their own education by creating an environment that allows their creativity and independence to grow.

During her free time, Katie likes to read books, listen to podcasts, and take naps. She is ready to bring her passion for exploring academia and building relationships with her students to our organization and can't wait to change the world!

### ► RECORDING SECRETARY: MATT COLLIER



Matthew is a former public school special education teacher with 10 years of experience in the field. He has lived in Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, and now South Carolina. He has a B.A. in English from Mississippi State University, an M.A. in Special Education from Belmont University, and a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. He has worked as an Assistant Professor of Education at Lander University since 2018.

Congratulations to both of these folks, and thank you for your service to SCCEC!

## Love first, lead second

BY DR. ANN MARIE TAYLOR

As a new building-level leader, I have seen a lot this school year! We had a faculty member pass away the first day teachers reported back, a school lockdown event this fall, several employees let go for various reasons, and now a global pandemic with overnight "remote" classrooms. I could have never imagined! It has not been easy, but nothing fabulous is ever easy, is it?

I have learned a few things about school leadership throughout the process. Here goes...

Create norms and expectations as a

school team. Allow for buy-in. Create where you are going together. Doesn't everyone want a voice? No one knows where you are going if you don't tell them. Create the vision and direction together too.

Let people really see you. Give up the ego and stop trying to be the all-knowing leader. Make mistakes and admit them. Teachers will follow when you are real.

Don't make decisions in isolation. Bring teacher leaders in and ask for feedback, get their thoughts and ideas. Lead together.

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## LOVE FIRST, LEAD SECOND cont'd.

Be flexible and re-create the idea of leadership in your building. What does a flexible schedule really look like? What do flexible positions look like? Dream big.

Just because it hasn't been done, doesn't mean it's not great! Our system needs more flexibility and big dreams. Our profession is dying without it. Do it!

Love first, lead second. Just like in the classroom, the kids will not learn if their

teacher does not really care about them. Leadership is no different. Love them first.

Love what you do. When you love what you do, others notice.

# Congratulations to the 2020 SCCEC award winners

BY JULIE MACKER

SCCEC would like to again congratulate this year's award winners:



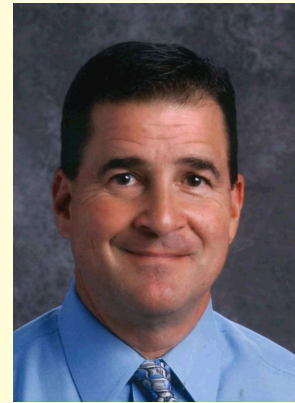
The **SCCEC Mini-Grant Award** went to Stephanie Huggings from Chesterfield County for her project entitled Sensory Exploration.



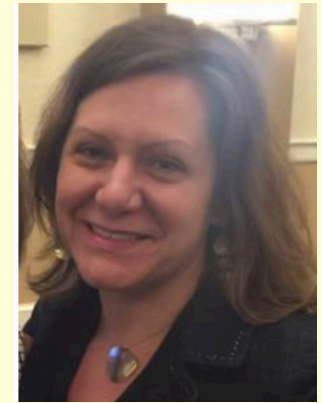
The **Rookie Teacher of the Year** was presented to Sara Burke from Lexington-Richland Five.



The **General Educator of the Year** was given to Scott Rhymer from Greenville County.



The **Principal of the Year** went to Dr. David Basile from Lexington Two.



The **Advocate of the Year** was presented to Susan K. Beck of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.



The **ParaEducator of the Year** went to Muntaquima Miller from Colleton County.



The **Student Member of the Year** was given to Bryson Southard from Lander University.



The **Betty Brown Training Grant** and the **Yes! I CAN Awards** were BOTH presented to Ny'Ree Baker from Chesterfield County.



The **Exceptional Educator of the Year Award** was presented to Jeannae Edwards of Lexington-Richland Five.



Special Olympics also presented their **Basics of the Champion award** to Sam Price, who is the Area Director for Area 2.

We are SO proud of everyone who was nominated and were very pleased to offer this year's recipients their awards.

The awards presentation would not be possible without the hard work of the Awards Committee! Special thanks to this year's committee members: Laura Deckle, Faith Felice, Larry Fisher, Lanette Garriss, Tracy Haigler, Hayley Hoover, Friggita Johnson, Barbara Johnson-Williams, Andrew Preston, and Nicole Uphold.



## Advocacy for our students doesn't stop

BY AMANDA WALKUP



Nothing (including a pandemic) will stop us from advocating for our students!

**Go to CEC's Legislative Action Center to keep abreast of current issues and get information on how to contact your representatives:**  
<http://cqrcengage.com/cek/?0>

## Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who played a part in planning and carrying out Conference! Especially, a huge thank you to two of our favorite attendees! (above left: Ms. Marjorie Paals; above right: the youngest and cutest attendee)

## Student speed interviewing at Conference

BY AMANDA WALKUP



This year, our student members participated in a Speed-Interviewing session. They met with district representatives across the state in 3-minute increments. When the timer went off, they moved to the next district. We hope that connections were made, and even some contracts signed!

## 2020 SCCEC Conference Poster Session

