



The Palmetto


**SOUTH
CAROLINA**

The voice and vision of special education

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome Back to Another School Year!



CONSTANCE MAYS
SCCEC PRESIDENT

Greetings to my colleagues and friends.

I would like to take this time to welcome each of you back as we take off on another school year of adventure! Although it appears as if school just ended for most of us, I trust that each of you have had a restful and relaxing summer! Where did the time go? As President of the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children (SCCEC), it gives me great pleasure to serve with you as we work together in identifying and addressing all our students' educational needs across the state of South Carolina.

The SCCEC Executive Board and Executive Committee have already begun working

this summer, planning informative and exhilarating events for the 2019 SCCEC Conference.

REPORT FROM NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE (LTI)

This summer, I was privileged to attend CEC's National Leadership Training Institute (LTI) in Alexandria, VA. The opening session keynote speakers, Vickie R. Deal Williams and Arlene Pietranton from ASHA, shared lots of great information on how their organization focused on building a more diverse, inclusive board and organization. In 1997, the initiative began with the establishing of a Multicultural Affairs Board. As the group began to formalize and collect data, the Multicultural Affairs Board was deemed essential to the organization in revising how they recruit membership.

In 2017, the ASHA Membership was 92% white and 5% Latino and Hispanic, with a retention rate of approximately 96%. In review of this data, ASHA decided to develop a diversity index on race and gender, which called for a closer look at the diversity of its new members. Pondering over ASHA's presentation, I thought to myself, "what a great way to set the tone for LTI training." The National CEC Board held a session entitled: "A New Vision for the Future," presented by Mikki Garcia and Sharon Rodriguez.

The National CEC is currently working with a company called Mariner Management to assist CEC with a Strategic Plan. A key question asked was, "what are some of the challenges for the Association?" A few of the responses: (1) maintaining membership; (2) generating and increasing participation; (3) attracting volunteers; (4) competing while building the capacity to think and act strategically; (5) a culture of candor; (6) respect and inquiry; and (7) an appetite for continuous learning and improvement. In view of these challenges, I'd say that our National CEC Board is off to a great start!

As units and subdivisions, we are encouraged to review our Principles for Good Governance. Boards with professional staff should: (1) maintain a strategic focus on advancing the mission, strategic plan and relationships, and (2) investing the authority in appropriate individuals or groups to execute the plan.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Is it time for a vision exam?

Is your board four-sighted? (oversight, insight, foresight and hindsight)

What have we learned from the past?

How do we measure success?

Moving the membership and why now?

Based on the questions mentioned above, we have a lot to think about as a unit and subdivision.

Our National CEC Board established several committees in 2016, one of which is the Leadership Development Committee. CEC's purpose is to intentionally identify, cultivate, recruit, and orient competent and diverse leaders. The current committee consists of nine to 11 members with three-year terms.

OTHER TIDBITS FROM SESSIONS

TIPS: CEC's National Board provided various tips on better ways to market your unit/subdivision such as identify, reach, and connect.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND ENGAGEMENT: Engage, Engage, Engage! Meetings; phone calls; happy hour; coffee; U.S. postal mail; electronic communications, Zoom, and Go-to-Meetings/webinars are all ways that can be used to reach lapsed members, inactive members, and attract new members.

FINANCE: Assurance forms and tax obligations for U.S. units and all divisions — Craig Evans and Bryan Reynolds presented.

DOCUMENTS TO KEEP ON FILE: Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Form 990 Returns (past 7 years), IRS Determination Letter, Whistleblower Policy (larger organizations may want to consider staff), Conflict of Interest Policy (may need for vendors), insurances, annual audit, online operation guide, and financial challenges.

This year's National CEC LTI training was a success with great information. Thanks to the SCCEC Executive Board and Executive Committee for allowing me to attend.

In conclusion, I challenge each of you as we begin this year's adventure by continuing to network with other professionals and position yourselves for favorable outcomes that will enhance you both personally and professionally. Remember: "Teaching is the profession that teaches all of the other professions" (author unknown).

REMINDER: Our conference theme this year is "Instruct; Invest; Inspire; Your Next Big Adventure." Let us strive to be good teachers who light a candle that consumes itself to invest and inspire others.

Best wishes to each of you for an extraordinary school year!

2019 SCCEC Elections

BY LISA HALTER

This year SCCEC will be electing a new Vice-President (4-year term) and Treasurer (3-year term) at our Annual Conference in March.

Serving on the SCCEC Executive Committee is a rewarding experience and a great way to make a positive impact on our profession here in South Carolina. I encourage each of you to

start thinking of someone awesome you could nominate for one of these leadership positions. Keep in mind, that awesome person could be **YOU!** More information will be shared in the October newsletter; however, here are some dates to keep in mind:

▶ October 5, 2018— call for nominations

- ▶ November 30, 2018 — deadline for nominations
- ▶ March 2, 2019 — elections held at Representative Assembly (Annual Conference)

If you have any questions, please email Lisa Halter at halterl@wlgos.sc.gov.

Special Education Legislative Summit

BY AMANDA WALKUP



Our 2018 Special Education Legislative Summit team in Washington, DC.

Six representatives from SCCEC attended this year's Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, in July. They were Amanda Walkup (Greenville), Dr. Mitch Yell (USC), Dr. Laura Mohr (Columbia), Sarah Tew (Darlington), Lynette Jordan (Darlington), and Michelle Dunn (Clemson).

Organized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), over 265 special and gifted education and early intervention advocates participated in the 2018 Special Education Legislative Summit from July 8 through 11.

"For me, the highlight of the summit was meeting with Members of Congress and their staff," said Amanda Walkup. "There are important policy issues before the U.S. Congress, which can have a positive impact on the outcomes for children and youth with exceptionalities. Those of us in the field have a duty to bring these policy issues to the top of Congress' to-do list."

While on Capitol Hill, the South Carolina team of advocates presented all nine of our Senators and Representatives with four issues currently challenging the field of special education and early intervention. In unison with the 265 advocates at the summit, advocates from South Carolina asked the men and women of Congress to:

- ▶ Fund special education and early intervention programs.
- ▶ Protect public funds for public education.
- ▶ Address the shortage of special education teachers and early intervention providers.
- ▶ Provide support to ensure social and emotional learning, positive school climate, and mental health supports.

"The teacher shortage in our field of education is especially troubling," shared Mitch Yell. "Our elected officials here in South Carolina and in Washington D.C. have the power to address this problem. I feel energized that my voice was heard on Capitol Hill, and I hope that it makes a difference in the outcomes of the children and youth we work with every day."

Another highlight of the Summit was a rally held on the Capital lawn with Senator Cory Booker. He has sponsored the STRIVE Act, which stands

for Supporting the Teaching Profession through Revitalizing Investments in Valuable Educators Act.

This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide qualifying teachers with a new, incremental loan-cancellation program. Specifically, with respect to a 12-month period, the Department of Education (ED) must cancel a specified portion of a borrower's qualifying Federal Direct Loan Program loans if the borrower: (1) has made 12 consecutive on-time monthly payments, (2) is employed in a qualifying teaching position at the time of such cancellation, and (3) was employed in a qualifying teaching position during the period in which the borrower made the 12 payments. After a borrower has received such partial loan cancellation for a specified number of years, ED must cancel the borrower's eligible loans in full.

The bill also increases and extends funding for teacher training; makes changes to the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education grant program, including increasing annual award amounts and making early childhood teachers eligible for such grants; requires ED to award grants to states to subsidize teacher certification and licensing fees for low-income individuals who have entered the teaching profession; expands the teacher quality partnership program to include early childhood educators; and increases the tax deduction for school expenses and extends the deduction to early childhood educators.

The SCCEC team also met briefly with Representative Tom Rice from SC's 7th District. He was very receptive to and interested in information regarding mental health supports in SC's schools.

This year's Legislative Summit was a huge success, with 46 of 50 states attending. We definitely "Stormed Capital Hill!"



From left to right: Amanda Walkup, Sarah Tew, Lynette Jordan, Michelle Dunn, Rep. Tom Rice, Dr. Laura Mohr, Dr. Mitch Yell.



Sen. Cory Booker takes this selfie with Sarah and Lynette.

Conference 2019: "Instruct, Invest, Inspire"

BY SAM PRICE



Mark your calendars for February 28–March 2, 2019 for our Annual Conference. We are excited to be back at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort. Please check out the group web page to see room options, and to go ahead and make your hotel reservations at <http://community.cec.sped.org/>

<https://goo.gl/3E6yvi> or Kingston: <https://goo.gl/qCnvYx>

You can also call the hotel Reservations Department directly at 800-876-0010.

REGISTRATION

Visit <http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/conference> for registration information.

This year we have added a discounted Early Bird registration price (Dec. 15, 2018 deadline).

To qualify for the discounted room rate, you need to get your registration in before January 28, 2019.

Conference attendees may register by mailing in the registration form with a check, emailing a purchase order, or by accessing the EventBrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sccec-2019-annual-conference-registration-47038149371>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Do you want to present at this year's conference? Do you know someone who would put together an awesome session for the

conference? We want to hear about all of the wonderful educational practices happening around our state! Please submit your proposals for SCCEC Annual Conference sessions using the following link: <https://goo.gl/a75PyV>

Deadline for proposals to present at the 2019 SCCEC Annual Conference is Monday, October 31, 2018.

PRE-CONFERENCE

Pre-conference sessions, sponsored by the subdivisions, will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2018. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. Keep in mind that registration (as well as payment) for the pre-conference is SEPARATE from the registration/payment for the conference. Visit <http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/conference> for updated information on these sessions.

AWARDS

Please nominate fellow colleagues and students for one of our many awards! See <http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/awards/new-item4> for more information.

In Step with SCDCDT

BY JULIA MARTINELLI, PRESIDENT

SCDCDT recently finalized our new officer list for 2018-2019. Since naming the new officers, we held two very engaged meetings. We expect great opportunities for South Carolina students in transition.

A new Employability Credential is being introduced in South Carolina which is changing the face of Transition and the future for many students with disabilities. Recently, Research to Practice was held July 16-19, 2018. Many of the attendees found this specific year to be very helpful as they prepare for the changes in their classrooms. Our own Transition Alliance offered relevant topics: The SC High School Credential: Transition Assessment and IEP/Goal Development, Breaking Down Core Content to Develop Curriculum and Instruction and Developing Work Based Experiences. Some other topics included: Improving Preschool Outcomes, Improving Achievement Outcomes, Improving

Social-Emotional Outcomes, Improving Post-Secondary Outcomes and Technical Guidance.

We have continued our collaboration with the Transition Alliance of South Carolina. On September 30, 2018, The Interagency Transition Conference will take place in North Charleston, SC. To recognize contributors in Transition, SCDCDT is seeking nominations for awards.

The National DCDT conference will take place the week of October 22, 2018 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We are planning on sending a representative on behalf of the organization. This is a great venue for idea sharing as well as an informative and enriching opportunity. Additionally, we are engaging in the early stages of planning to host a strand of the SC CEC Conference. This session will take place on February 28, 2018 in Myrtle Beach, SC.

We are always looking for new members! Please visit us at facebook.com/SCDCDT

KEEP IN TOUCH ON OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

SCCEC has made finding us on the web easier and better. Visit <http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/home>

We're also on Twitter at @MySCCEC, or you can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaCEC/>



Leadership Training Institute

BY LISA HALTER

Thank you to all of our members, subdivision representatives and chapter representatives for attending SCCEC's Leadership Training Institute. It was an information-packed afternoon for our organization with the awesome opportunity to network with other professionals.

A special thank-you to Dr. Laura Mohr for taking the time to present our history. South Carolina CEC has quite the legacy of professionals committed to the vision of this organization!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Michael Zachary & Cassandra Luttrull

BY ANN MARIE TAYLOR

Michael Zachary and Cassandra Luttrull have worked hard to change the future for the better for STHS students in Edgefield County, South Carolina.

Michael serves as a lead mentor for the district and he supports and mentors other special education teachers across the district while teaching full time in our District Occupational Diploma Program/SC Credential Program. He is a master teacher who puts the needs of his students first and he re-worked the DOC/Credential program into a program that has been showcased state-wide. He is the total package — a STAR teacher who works hard to make his program better each and every day, he is a leader who inspires others to be their best self, and he is a world changer and visionary always putting the needs of students with disabilities first.

Cassandra has single handedly created a full time out-to-work program with a local business to showcase the talents and beauty of our students with disabilities. She has built relationships, encouraged students and adults, and been recognized state wide for her efforts. She has changed the course of history her her students - giving them a reason to find success and build their futures. Her work at the National Wild Turkey Federation is one of a kind, and her students can not say enough about her dedication and high expectations for each of them!



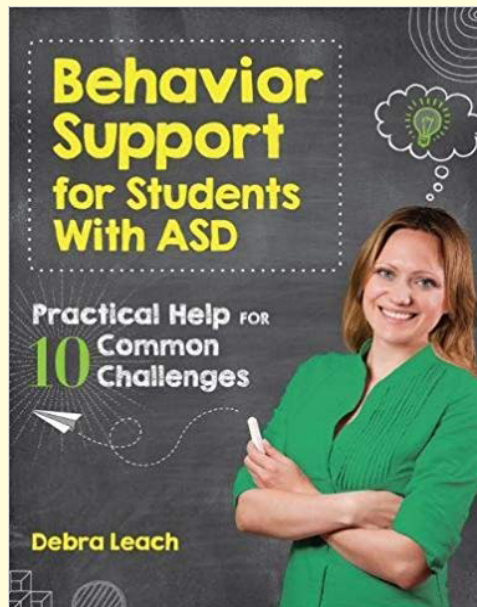
From left to right: Michael Zachary (Special Education Teacher and Lead Special Education Mentor), Seleste (student with a disability at STHS and graduate last year), and Cassandra Luttrull (Job Coach/Special Education Teacher at STHS).

Behavior Support for Students with ASD

Join SCDADD in Myrtle Beach for an informative SCCEC pre-conference session on February 28th with Dr. Debra Leach, author of the new book, *"Behavior Support for Students with ASD: Addressing Ten Common Behavioral Challenges."*

When students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) engage in challenging behavior, how can teachers best respond? Dr. Leach will show you how to address ten of the most common classroom behavior challenges—from following directions to handling transitions—with skill, insight, and compassion.

This is a full day session, and attendees must register for this separate from the normal SCCEC registration process. The cost is \$70, and this includes a copy of the book that goes along with the presentation. Register at the following link: <https://goo.gl/ywuMaA>



Donations Needed for Silent Auction

SCCEC is seeking donations for the Silent Auction to be held at the Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach on March 1-2, 2019. Proceeds from the Silent Auction are used to support the Betty Brown Training Grant.

We would like for all chapters and subdivisions to donate at least one item to the Silent Auction. Individual members may donate items as well. If you have any questions, contact Lisa Halter at halterl@wlgos.sc.gov. Thank you in advance for your donations!



In Memoriam

BY CONSTANCE Y. MAYS

On a very sad note, it is with SCCEC's deepest sympathy that we send our condolences to the family of one of our greatest pioneers in Special Education, Dr. Bernice Well Stukes-Mose, who passed away on June 18, 2018. She served as Professor/Coordinator of Special Education at S.C. State University for 42 years. Dr. Stukes-Mose worked tirelessly in the field

of education ensuring that all students who crossed her path were well equipped to serve as a Special Education teacher.

Dr. Stukes-Mose, was a soror and member of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated (DST). We will forever remember the numerous lives that she touched. To know her was to love her!

