



The Palmetto



**SOUTH
CAROLINA**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome back!

BY BETH TUTEN, SCCEC PRESIDENT



Hello, SCCEC family! I hope this newsletter finds you happy and healthy. I am Beth Tuten and I am excited to return as SCCEC President for the 2020-2021 year.

This school year is sure to bring unprecedented challenges like none of us have experienced before, but I hope it also brings unprecedented opportunities for growth and innovation as well. Know that SCCEC is here for you as you navigate these uncertain times; we want to support you and encourage you as you work

to meet the needs of your students.

We have another excellent team of leaders working for you this year. The executive committee for 2020-2021 is:

President — Beth Tuten

President-Elect — Ann Marie Taylor

Vice President — Katie Mark

Recording Secretary — Matt Collier

Treasurer — Darlene Stowe

Immediate Past President — Constance Mays

Corresponding Secretary — Lisa Halter

Parliamentarian — Jennifer Watson

Membership — Michael Snipes

This summer our executive committee put together a virtual Leadership Training Institute (LTI) for our officers, chapters, and subdivisions. All information from LTI can be accessed at this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wRMvHqznGsfnsnuiL2oKmsEu9Z3w9Na?usp=sharing>

If you were not able to make LTI or are just interested in the information that was shared, I encourage you to check out all of the useful information that is available in that folder. We do need to hear from all chapters and subdivisions with their updated officer lists and bylaws, so please be sure to get those to us as soon as you can.

The executive committee made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person professional development conference scheduled for February 2021 due to the continued precautions being recommended to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Instead, we will be having a FREE virtual conference! Be on the lookout for more details about what this will look like. We are looking at this as an opportunity to provide more resources to more people, and we are excited about the possibilities! Our conference theme this year will be *“Stronger Together,”* and we truly believe that we can come through all of the challenges the 2020-2021 school year will bring as stronger professionals if we work together.

COVID “Back-to-School” may be harder for teachers

BY ANN MARIE TAYLOR, SCCEC PRESIDENT-ELECT

I am a Lead Learner for a school of 800 in Aiken, SC. I teach daily too — a group of 9th graders. We are learning about criminology.

I was so excited to return to school. We are a week in, and I am still just as excited. Masks are hard, but still worth it. Cleaning/disinfecting is hard, but still worth it. Managing COVID numbers and communicating with our families is hard, but still worth it. Flexibility, grace, patience . . . I have all those things most of the time. What I was not expecting is how hard back-to-school was for teachers.

Why is back-to-school during COVID hard for teachers? The fear and worry regarding COVID is not enough; now we have additional concerns. Here is why I think this is happening:

- Teachers’ normal schedules are greatly impacted because of COVID.
 - Teachers typically get time throughout their day for collegiality and fellowship with their peers.
 - This sense of isolation creates additional anxiety for teachers.
- I wish I had all the solutions for this new

COVID issue for teachers, but I do have a few ideas to help:

- Listen to the teachers — they need to be heard. Everyone wants to have a voice. Most people want some control.
 - Allow time for reflections and processing of these new emotions — it is hard to make time, I know.
 - Create some space when people need it or ask for it. If they are not ready to talk or share, allow them that needed time.
- Stay safe. Stay well — physically and mentally!

2021 SCCEC upcoming elections

BY CONSTANCE MAYS, PAST PRESIDENT



SCCEC has several members who are unsung heroes, who have given their time and efforts to make our organization better. Now is your chance to give back!

This year SCCEC will be electing a new Vice President (4-year term) and Treasurer (3-year term) at our Annual Conference in February. What a perfect opportunity to contribute to our organization by serving on the Executive Committee and Board! How rewarding would it be for someone, or even you, to provide leadership and your expertise to impact education in South Carolina! We encourage you to consider someone who embodies the spirit of

serving as a deserving candidate.

More information will be shared in the October newsletter; however, here are some dates to keep in mind:

- October 17, 2020 — call for nominations posted
- November 30, 2020 — deadline for nominations
- February 20, 2021 — elections held at Representative Assembly (at Annual Conference)

If you have any questions, please email Constance Mays at maysconstance@gmail.com.

Award nominations coming soon

BY LISA HALTER, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Nominations for the 2020-2021 SCCEC Awards will open at 12:01AM on September 1, 2020, and close at 11:59 PM on December 15, 2020. Updated information for each award are available on the website (<http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/awards>).

Nominations will be submitted electronically again this year through the nomination form located here: [https://](https://forms.gle/7acEWWxUkJHymERv9)

forms.gle/7acEWWxUkJHymERv9.

Nominations will be accepted for the following awards:

- ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR
- BETTY BROWN TRAINING GRANT
- EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
- GENERAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
- LAURA MOHR SCHOLARSHIP
- MEMBER OF THE YEAR

- INSTRUCTIONAL MINI GRANT
- PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
- PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
- ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR
- STUDENT MEMBER OF THE YEAR
- YES! I CAN AWARD

If you have any questions about award criteria or the nomination process, please contact Lisa Halter at correspondingsecretaryscccec@gmail.com.

SCCEC historical highlights: "Reflections on Diversity"

BY LAURA L. MOHR, Ed.D.

As I was recently reading the updated (April, 2019) CEC's Mission Statement and CEC's Policies on Diversity, I began to reflect on SCCEC's history of ethnic and multicultural diversity, particularly with regards to SCCEC's leadership through the years. Our challenge is to look at and recognize the contributions of many persons of diversity in leadership, be more intentional with continuing to have appropriate diverse ethnic and multicultural representation in SCCEC leadership today and in the future, as well as having SCCEC's Mission Statement to appropriately reflect its value of diversity.

CEC's Mission Statement on the Core Value of Inclusiveness states that such is demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals. In the 1980s when I was SCCEC's representative to the

CEC Board of Governors, few minority representatives were there. However, several years after CEC established the Board of Directors, a representative for Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups was added. Today, in looking at the CEC Board of Directors, more diverse representation is present.

Taking a "walk" through SCCEC history, SCCEC actually began in 1952 as a division of the SC Education Association (SCEA). In April 1961, SCCEC received its charter from CEC and became a State Federation of CEC. At the same time, The Palmetto Education Association (an organization of Black Special Educators) existed until 1967, when the two groups merged as part of SCCEC. In 1967 Dr. Bernice W. Stukes (Dr. Bernice Stukes-Mose), a long-time and well-respected advocate and professor of special education at SC State University,

served as the first SCCEC Governor to CEC Board of Directors, and later served as SCCEC President in 1969, beginning a legacy of many other African-American special educators serving in SCCEC leadership positions. Recognizing some of the other early African-American persons in leadership roles would include Mrs. Susan Freeman, a long time employee of Richland One Special Education, who served as SCCEC's Representative on the CEC Board of Governors in the late 1960s and as SCCEC President in 1974. During Mrs. Freeman's tenure as SCCEC President, the first SCCEC State Convention was held in Columbia at A.C. Flora High School under the co-leadership of the SC Department of Education, Office of Programs for the Handicapped. The first annual College Bowl at the SCCEC Conference was organized

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

"Reflections on Diversity" CONTINUED

in 1995 under the leadership of Bettie Chisholm Stringfellow from Fairfield County. In 1998-2000, Flora Ratliff from Greenville had the distinction of being only the second SCCEC President to serve two terms, and she also served in 1999 on the Planning Committee for the National CEC Conference in Charlotte, NC, which was co-hosted by SCCEC and NCCEC. In 2000, Flora Ratliff and Beverly Neal from Columbia, who served as President-Elect and Convention Chairperson, celebrated SCCEC's 25th Convention Anniversary. During our more recent history of the 2000s, serving as SCCEC Presidents have been Barbara Johnson-Williams from Orangeburg, Wendy Richardson from the Charleston area, and Constance Mays from Orangeburg and Allendale Schools, with each of these having had the honor of being named as a SCCEC Member of the Year prior to their terms as an officer and also having served in many other roles on the Executive Committee, Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and in their local chapters.

There are certainly many other African-American persons who have served in Executive Board leadership roles as officers of the Executive Committee, chairpersons of committees, or in local chapter or subdivision leadership roles. However, recognition should be extended to Dr. Robert Short and Carolyn Short from Laurens for their more than 40 years of service in special education, support of, and involvement in, CEC and SCCEC. Dr. Robert Short served as the long-time Director of Special Education (by any other title) in Laurens County, and I think may have attended every SCCEC Conference during those years, and Carolyn Short has been a special education teacher/consultant and has served as a local CEC chapter leader and as chairperson on many SCCEC committees even as most recently in 2020.

One other recognition of a person of diversity of Asian-American background is Patricia Hensley from Greenville, who has served CEC and SCCEC faithfully for over 40 years in many local, state, and national leadership roles beginning as a college student in special education. Pat Hensley has been a member of CEC since 1977. She was on the CEC Board of Directors as the Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural



BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS



PAT HENSLEY



WENDY RICHARDSON & BARBARA JOHNSON-WILLIAMS



Groups representative from 2003-2009. As technology was coming into its use as a means of communication for groups, Pat Hensley was the SCCEC web designer from 2000-2006, and as a longtime leader since 2000 and President of SCCEC Greenville Chapter 877, established the first in the state — maybe even in the country — online chapter meetings. From 2000-2006 and 2016-2020, she served as the SCCEC Exceptional Children Child and Adolescent Network (CAN) Coordinator keeping SCCEC members up to date on legislative and other governmental issues. She has served in these leadership roles when she was a teacher for more than 30 years in Greenville County and more recently a professor of education at Furman University. She is the editor of the website successfulteaching.net and just published a book, *The Successful Teacher's Handbook*. Pat has received multiple teaching awards, including District Teacher of the Year, SCCEC Special Education Teacher of the Year and Member of the Year, as well as being a National Board Certified Exceptional Needs Specialist.

As we recognize these persons of diverse ethnic and multicultural backgrounds who have been leaders of CEC and SCCEC, our challenge is to move forward with a commitment to be more intentional in encouraging SCCEC leadership positions for persons of diversity, which can have an impact on how we better understand students of such diversity in our educational system.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



SCCEC WEBSITE:
<http://community.cec.sped.org/sc/home>



SCCEC FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaCEC/>



SCCEC TWITTER:
[@MySCCEC](https://twitter.com/MySCCEC)

2020 SCCEC Virtual Leadership Training Institute

LINK TO GOOGLE FOLDER

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wRMyHqznGsfnisnuIL2oKmsEu9Z3w9Na?usp=sharing>

FILES

2020-2021 Dates to Remember — These are important dates for the 2020-2021 year.

Bylaws Submission — Please upload a copy of the Bylaws for your Chapter or Subdivision. This form does require a Google sign-in. If you don't have a Google account, you can create one for free.

Contact Information 2020 — There is a Google Form and a Spreadsheet. You may use either. If you download the spreadsheet and fill it out, please email it back to Katie Mark at kmark@hcacs.net.

Planning Document 2020-2021 — Use this document to keep up with what SCCEC will be doing throughout the year.

SCCEC Executive Committee & Board — List of all current members of the SCCEC Executive Committee and Executive Board. Please note that we are still seeking the following positions:

- Archives Committee Chairperson
- Research and Professional Development Chairperson
- Yes, I Can Chairperson
- Resolutions Chairperson
- Liaison for Chapter Presidents and Subdivisions

Please contact Beth Tuten, btuten@Lexington4.net, if you or someone you know are interested in serving.

SCCEC Officers, Committee

Chairpersons, Presidents — View this presentation to see the roles and responsibilities of SCCEC officers, Committee Chairpersons, and Chapter/Subdivision Presidents.

SCCEC Updated Bylaws — These are our most current Bylaws. We will be reviewing these Bylaws for needed updates this year. If you are interested in serving on the Bylaws committee, please contact Jennifer Watson at jhwatson98@yahoo.com.

Social Media/Internet Presence — Use this information to access our social media or website. You are encouraged to send updates and pertinent information to our Publications Chairperson, Amanda Walkup, at sccecpublications@gmail.com for inclusion on our website and/or social media pages.

FOLDERS

Annual Awards — See the PowerPoint for general information on awards that will be given this year. The 2020-2021 SCCEC Awards Information Sheets folder has specific information about each award. Note that the Laura Mohr Scholarship award has been updated to allow for greater access and easier application.

Be an Advocate — Great information provided by Amanda Walkup, our Governmental Relations Chairperson and CAN Coordinator, about what is currently going on in our government and how you can be an advocate for your students and our profession.

Bylaws Submission — This is the folder where the Bylaws will be stored. You need to upload the bylaws through the form in the main folder. You can view the Bylaws in this folder, but you won't be able to add directly to the folder.

Conference — This folder contains updates on this year's SCCEC conference. We will have a virtual conference this year rather than an in-person conference. We will have a process for proposal submissions and presentations by adults professionals and students. The virtual conference will be asynchronous and launched on February 20, 2021. Stay tuned for more information!

Membership — Please review the presentation put together by our Membership Chairperson, Michael Snipes. Membership matters!

SCCEC History — Thank you to Dr. Laura Mohr who put together information about SCCEC's history especially as it pertains to our diverse leaders through the years. There are several pictures to enjoy as well!

VIP Award Criteria — Check out these presentations from our Past-President, Constance Mays, as she explains the criteria for the VIP award. The VIP award is available to all Chapter and Subdivision presidents.





2020-2021 Dates to Remember

Executive Board Meetings

August 15	10:00 a.m.
Oct. 17	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 20	11:00 a.m.
April 17	11:00 a.m.

Executive Committee

August 14	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	9:30 a.m.
Feb. 20	9:30 a.m.
April 17	9:30 a.m.
June Workday	TBD

Newsletter Submissions

August 21
October 24
February 27
April 24

Conference

February 20	SCCEC Asynchronous Virtual Conference
-------------	---------------------------------------

Important Deadlines

October 31	Proposals for SCCEC Asynchronous Virtual Conference Due
November 30	Nominations for Officers Due
December 15	Award Nominations Due
January 15	Submit names of representatives for RA
January 31	Virtual Presentations Due
February 1	RA Reports Due to Representative
February 20	Representative Assembly