



The Palmetto



**SOUTH
CAROLINA**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thank You!

BY BETH TUTEN, SCCEC PRESIDENT



As this school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your interim president this year. I have enjoyed working with the wonderful group of professionals who make up the SCCEC Executive Committee and Executive Board. SCCEC is in good hands for years to come, and for that, I am very pleased. I can't wait to see and be a part of all the great things SCCEC will do in the future for individuals with exceptionalities and their families and teachers.

Thank you for your dedication, devotion, perseverance, and bravery this year. I have witnessed countless examples of educators, service providers, students, and families going above and beyond this school year to make things work. While things were not as we planned this school year, they have not been all bad. For example, this year allowed my students and me to learn many new things regarding technology and virtual collaboration. While I look forward to returning to a more typical educational environment, I am grateful for the new tools we will have at our disposal as we move forward.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in CEC L.I.V.E. There were hundreds of great sessions and posters, as well as keynote speakers and mainstage presentations. One of the most frustrating things about a typical CEC convention is that I never feel like I can go to all the sessions I want to see. This year changed that! With the virtual convention format, I have been able to access all the sessions I am interested in over several weeks rather than trying to cram them all into a few days. I am enjoying the fact that I can go back and catch sessions that I missed or re-watch sessions using the convention app. This convenience is yet another positive that has come out of this challenging year.

I hope you all will take some time to reflect, rest, and recharge this summer. Prepare yourself for another great year of learning with some of the most outstanding students in SC. We truly are privileged to work with such amazing students, families, and education professionals. Take care of each other. I am thankful for you!

DATES TO LOOK FORWARD TO: JAN. 16 thru 19, 2022 — CEC 2022 CONVENTION — ORLANDO, FLORIDA

FEB. 24 thru 26, 2022 — 2022 SCCEC ANNUAL CONFERENCE — EMBASSY SUITES IN MYRTLE BEACH

2022 SCCEC Conference Quick Update

BY KATIE MARK, SCCEC VICE PRESIDENT

We should be able to hold the 2022 SCCEC Annual Conference in person! We are very excited to be able to plan and host an in-person conference again!

Next year's conference will be held in our normal location of Myrtle Beach and we are hoping to get to include a lot of relevant topics that span from behavior to educator care.

We know everyone is rolling their eyes over the newly-overused

term "self-care," but we want to make sure that our educators' needs are met in a very meaningful capacity at next year's conference.

Be on the lookout for important special education topics as well as "self-care" content in our next conference. We cannot wait to get back together and continue the amazing tradition of networking, learning, laughing, and loving our students! ■

2021 Special Education Legislative Summit Update

BY AMANDA WALKUP, SCCEC GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS CHAIR



Typically held in Washington, D.C., during July, the Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) is an opportunity for educators from across the country to make a difference by advocating for change with Members of Congress. The COVID-19 pandemic will bring the Summit to new heights with a Virtual SELS being held the week of July 19-23, 2021. Registration is free to CEC and CASE members — <https://exceptionalchildren.org/sels>.

Join us to learn all about national education policy and meet with our Congressional Representatives! ■

Representative Assembly & Conference Updates

BY KATIE MARK, SCCEC VICE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee met to conduct our Representative Assembly meeting during our yearly SCCEC conference.

This year our meeting was very unconventional and completely virtual! We had AMAZING attendance and loved that more and more people were able to attend. Almost every Chapter and Subdivision were represented and got a chance to use their voice to help guide the future direction of the SCCEC.

We got the chance to learn about many exciting opportunities that exist statewide for the future of special education. We were so impressed by the turnout and cannot wait to potentially make more meetings available virtually to boost attendance. The pandemic has helped us shift in so many ways and we are grateful to see this chance to grow for the better! ■

Thank You, SCCEC Members

BY MICHAEL SNIPES, SCCEC MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

When we all look back at the past year, many words will probably come to mind. Historic, exhausting, frustrating and long are just a few I've heard.

I've used most of these myself, but as I ponder everything that has happened since last March, I can think of one more word that most of us wouldn't associate with the year of COVID: *appreciative*.

How in the world can you be thankful during these times many will ask? It's actually pretty easy.

During the past year I've learned to appreciate my own family more as we were forced to spend time just being together without outside influences. I've learned to appreciate those times that my whole family gets to be together, something that was always just "routine" before. I know now that I have always taken those times for granted and will cherish them much more.

The same can be said for my closest friends. As I type this, I'm looking forward to a camping trip Memorial Day that my old college buddies and I have been taking for 26 years now; a trip that my own kids now look forward to each year. I haven't seen these guys in two years and it feels like an eternity.

COVID has made me appreciate those people in my life that much more. Having lost some people who were close to me to COVID has made me appreciate my health and the health of others a great deal more.

I had a stroke last April and none of my family was allowed to visit while I was in the hospital. Lying in the hospital alone, I promised myself that I will never take my own health for granted and put my loved ones in that position again. So, yes, after this past year I have a lot to be thankful and appreciative for.

One of the things I am most appreciative of is you, our members. This past year has been tough on most of the organizations in our state and SCCEC is no exception.

The cancellation of last year's conference and holding a virtual conference this year has put a huge financial strain on our organization. The state and local mandates limiting in-person gatherings necessitated the use of virtual meetings to conduct business and hindered our usually very social chapter meetings. Fundraisers were all but eliminated and our budgets took a beating.

Yet, despite all of this, you stuck with us. With all of the stress and uncertainty brought

on by COVID, SCCEC membership has remained constant and against all odds, has even grown.

This says a lot about our members and their commitment to not only the individuals with exceptionalities we serve each day, but to each other. Your unwavering support and continued membership has allowed us to continue our mission uninterrupted. Not a week goes by that I don't get an email from someone asking what they can do to get new members in their chapter, or reinvigorate their chapter or even start a new chapter. That is huge during a year when all of the odds have been stacked against us.

I don't write many articles, but I felt like it was important to let you all know just how much we appreciate each and every one of you, our members. You are what make us great and let us continue the important work that we do.

So thanks again from myself and the entire Executive Board and Committee; we are here to serve you and support you any way we can. There will be an end to this, the light is at the end of the tunnel, and we just have to push on through. As always, we're Stronger Together. ■

PD Corner

BY DAWN PATTERSON, SCCEC RESEARCH AND PD CHAIR

It is an exciting time of year for seniors all over our state! It is a time for cap and gown pictures, proms, and graduations!

Some students will enter the military, some will join the workforce, and others will continue their education and training. The following article discusses the importance of teaching self-advocacy skills for students heading to post-secondary institutions.

As special educators, we understand the importance of this skill for ALL students as they leave the four walls of our high schools. While there are many supports in place at the college level, the responsibility of those services is in the hands of the students to ensure they are met.

As special educators, we are charged with teaching our students so that they

understand the law and how to self-advocate for services! Students still need our support in teaching them how to do things, such as where they should go on campus to seek out student services and emailing a professional email to their college professors.

For more information, see:

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/support-students-disabilities-they-head-college>

Beginning with the End in Mind: Norms!

BY ANN MARIE TAYLOR, SCCEC PRESIDENT-ELECT



When we are thinking about setting up the culture and climate in our school or in our classroom next fall, we MUST start with developing norms.

Norms are collectively agreed upon expectations that move the entire team in a direction of mutual respect with a focus on relationships and reaching our full potential as learners (learners include everyone that is connected to the team that is creating and benefiting from the

norms) (Taylor, 2021).

Norms, also called Social Norms, are rules or standards of behavior shared by members of a social team. Norms are more specific than values or ideals: honesty is a general value, but the rules defining what is honest behavior in a particular situation are norms.

As the facilitator of the team, you should ask yourself, "Does the team understand what is expected? What evidence tells me that the team understands and values the norms? Or, is the team presenting evidence that the norms are unclear? If so, how can the team regroup and reestablish norms?" This is a normal part of the norm setting process and will be necessary from time to time.

The facilitator should use the following quote as a driving force in this work:

CLEAR IS KIND

UNCLEAR IS UNKIND (Brene Brown in *Dare to Lead*)

What are the steps to establish Norms for your school or building?

1. The facilitator explains norms.
2. Collectively establish norms.
3. Collectively discuss explicit examples of each norm.
Example: "Our first norm is 'Be respectful' — what does that look like?"
4. The facilitator commits to publicly and privately affirming norms. "I love that you are maintaining eye contact with me when I am speaking." "Thank you for adhering to our norms." Ideally, each norm should receive two affirmations per gathering.
5. Norms are a part of the daily language and are flexible and evolving.

"My Why" for Norms

We are bleeding teachers — is anyone paying attention? Very few college students are going into teaching, and new SC teachers don't stay in the profession. Veteran teachers are burnt out and frustrated.

Teachers want a voice and a choice. They want to have a say in what happens in their building and district. When I traveled the state a few years back with PSTA, teachers all over SC told me that the reason they leave is lack of administrative support. How long must we wait to offer real solutions?

I have spent the last 10 years of my professional career learning how to support teachers in a meaningful way. Once I was able to make real change in a school building, I did. Norms is where I started doing something different. Beginning with the end in mind begins with Norms. ■

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH NORMS!

WHAT ARE NORMS?

NORMS ARE COLLECTIVELY AGREED UPON EXPECTATIONS THAT MOVE THE ENTIRE TEAM IN A DIRECTION OF MUTUAL RESPECT WITH A FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS AND REACHING OUR FULL POTENTIAL AS LEARNERS (LEARNERS INCLUDE EVERYONE THAT IS CONNECTED TO THE TEAM THAT IS CREATING AND BENEFITING FROM THE NORMS). (TAYLOR, 2021)

NORM, ALSO CALLED SOCIAL NORM, RULE OR STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR SHARED BY MEMBERS OF A SOCIAL TEAM. ... NORMS ARE MORE SPECIFIC THAN VALUES OR IDEALS: HONESTY IS A GENERAL VALUE, BUT THE RULES DEFINING WHAT IS HONEST BEHAVIOR IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION ARE NORMS.

ROLES OF THE FACILITATOR

AS THE FACILITATOR OF THE TEAM, YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF, "DOES THE TEAM UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED? WHAT EVIDENCE TELLS ME THAT THE TEAM UNDERSTANDS AND VALUES THE NORMS? OR, IS THE TEAM PRESENTING EVIDENCE THAT THE NORMS ARE UNCLEAR? IF SO, HOW CAN THE TEAM REGROUP AND REESTABLISH NORMS?" THIS IS A NORMAL PART OF THE NORM SETTING PROCESS AND WILL BE NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME.

Norms @ HCA

Be here and be present
Value and honor everyone
Give grace and show compassion
Be supportive
Flexibility for the WIN!
See a need, fill a need!

DRIVING FORCE FOR NORM SETTING

THE FACILITATOR SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING QUOTE AS A DRIVING FORCE IN THIS WORK.

Clear is kind.
Unclear is unkind.

(BRENE BROWN, 2018)

NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION!



1. THE FACILITATOR EXPLAINS NORMS. (SEE DEFINITION ON THE FRONT)
2. COLLECTIVELY ESTABLISH NORMS (SEE HCA'S EXAMPLE ON THE FRONT)
3. COLLECTIVELY DISCUSS EXPLICIT EXAMPLES OF EACH NORM. EXAMPLE- "OUR FIRST NORM IS 'BE RESPECTFUL,' WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?"
4. THE FACILITATOR COMMITS TO PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY AFFIRMING NORMS. "I LOVE THAT YOU ARE MAINTAINING EYE CONTACT WITH ME WHEN I AM SPEAKING." "THANK YOU FOR ADHERING TO OUR NORMS." (IDEALLY, EACH NORM SHOULD RECEIVE TWO AFFIRMATIONS PER GATHERING.)
5. NORMS ARE A PART OF THE DAILY LANGUAGE AND ARE FLEXIBLE AND EVOLVING.