



The Palmetto

SCCEC Newsletter

March 2024

Jamia's Farewell

This year, the conference theme is Exploring a SEA of Possibilities: Reimagining Special Education with a focus on Special Education Advocacy (SEA). As I stated in my closing remarks, strong and vocal advocates are needed to address inequities in our school systems, compensation for educators, mental health of students, staff, and faculty, and so much more. SCCEC has several opportunities in which you can serve. This is a great way to begin advocating for special education! Here is a list of committee opportunities available:

Awards Committee

- To provide for recognition of state level awards such as Outstanding Member, Outstanding Student Member, Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year, Advocate Award, Mini Grant, Betty Brown Training and Assistance Grant, Paraeducator Award, Laura Mohr Scholarship for Student Preparing to Teach Special Education, General Education Teacher of the Year, and General Administrator of the Year
- To promote nominations for national CEC awards such as Teacher of the Year, Wallin Award, CEC Leadership Award, and "Yes I Can" Awards.

Bylaws Committee

- To receive and review proposed amendments by petition and to refer such proposals to the Executive Board with recommendations.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Board for other changes, which may be needed in the Bylaws.
- To interpret the Bylaws to the Federation and to local chapters and subdivisions.
- To publicize proposed amendments to the Bylaws at least thirty (30) days prior to the Representative Assembly during the annual Conference or any specially called Representative Assembly.

Conference Committee

- To be responsible for the planning and implementation of the annual SCCEC Conference according to the Conference Planning Document to include financial, facilities, programming, and publicity.
- The Conference Committee will work in collaboration with the Research and Professional Development Committee in program planning.
- To coordinate Conference planning and implementation of the Conference Planning Document with the Executive Committee.
- To conduct planning for future Conference sites with an appointed Conference Liaison.

Finance Committee

- To monitor SCCEC finances with the Treasurer and review audited financial reports.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Committee to assist in the development of the SCCEC budget.
- To monitor the fundraising activities for SCCEC.
- To make recommendations related to fiscal management.

Governmental Relations Committee

- To develop a legislative program under the direction of the Executive Board and/or Representative Assembly.
- The chair serves as CAN coordinator.
- To disseminate information pertinent to national and state programs.
- To keep the Federation, chapters, and subdivisions informed of legislation regarding exceptional persons and to make recommendations concerning necessary action, letters, or responses.

Membership Committee

- To maintain an active list of current CEC members in the state.
- To maintain an active program of recruitment for new members..
- To support CEC Headquarters staff in membership renewals.

Nominations Committee

- To prepare an annual slate of candidates for officer vacancies, which will occur at the end of the administrative year.
- To present this slate to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Representative Assembly held at the annual Conference.

Communication and Publications Committee

- To review the publications structure of the Federation and recommend policies and procedures.
- To recommend to the Executive Board the publications to be issued.
- To publish a minimum of two (2) newsletters per year.
- To work with the Executive Board in promoting the activities of the organization through media and promotional tasks.
- To promote the purpose of the organization by working with chapters and subdivisions to encourage promotional activities.

Resolutions Committee

- To be responsible for giving expression to the basic issues with which the SCCEC may be concerned in order to carry out its purposes and ideals for the welfare of persons with exceptionalities.
- To extend such courtesies as seem appropriate for the occasion to all members of CEC and SCCEC in order that SCCEC may express its pride, interest, best wishes, or sympathy.
- To recognize persons by way of a resolution who have given exemplary service to SCCEC.
- To present all resolutions to the Representative Assembly for adoption.

Research and Professional Development Committee

- To be responsible for ensuring that all content related publications and programs meet the requirements of scientifically based or peer reviewed research.
- To work collaboratively with the Conference committee and Teacher Education Division to ensure high quality professional development at the annual conference and other professional development events.
- To recognize evidence-based practices within our state and acknowledge these practices through an annual publication.

Yes I Can Committee

- To provide recognition of state level accomplishments of students with disabilities in the following areas: academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extra-curricular activities, and self-advocacy.
- To nominate the state winner for the International Council for Exceptional Children's Yes I Can award.

I wish you great success as you continue to diligently work in our beloved field of special education in whatever capacity throughout the year. It has been my honor to serve as the SCCEC president this year. I look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful organization in the future.

Let's stay connected and committed to our profession and to those we serve!

Jamia



2024 AWARDS



Principal of the Year

Mary Alice Laubach

Placement Chair

Dutch Fork Middle School

School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties



SOUTH CAROLINA



Mary Alice Laubach is a Placement Chair at Dutch Fork Middle School in School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties. She serves as the liaison between special services and the school, encouraging best practices in providing special education services. Her nominator stated that “Ms. Laubach has such a strong knowledge of special needs and how best to engage our students in the public education system. She has shown compassion and patience and wants the best possible education for our students. She is always their advocate and will work hard to collaborate with the general education teachers. She has enriched our school with creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment for our students and helps our staff meet the needs of our students with encouragement and collaboration. I’ve never worked with a Department Head that will go above and beyond to work with students with special needs to help them transition into regular general education classes. She will support them and meet to make sure that the student is successful in the classroom.”



Exceptional Educator
of the Year

Brennan Allen

Carolina Forest High School

Horry County Schools



SOUTH CAROLINA



Brennan Allen is a teacher of students with disabilities at Carolina Forest High School in Horry County Schools. Brennan serves as the department chair of the Special Education Department. He coordinates professional development for teachers, meets with all transfer students with IEPs, and attends all transitional meetings held at the middle school. His nominator stated “The trademark of his teaching is his natural ability to form meaningful relationships with students, which leads to high engagement and achievement. He effortlessly creates a sense of community in his classroom where students feel they belong and want to achieve their very best. The relationship he builds with his co-teacher propels the academic rigor to a different level for all students, not just those with special needs.”



Paraprofessional of the Year

Rebecca Yon

Nevitt Forest Elementary School
Anderson School District 5



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**SOUTH
CAROLINA**



Rebecca Yon is a paraprofessional at Nevitt Forest Elementary School in Anderson School District 5. Her nominator stated “Rebecca works tirelessly to support our students with a variety of disabilities. She has worked both with individual students and small groups. Rebecca also helps to make activities for various stations, anchor charts, and monthly classroom displays. Another nominator stated “Rebecca’s brain seems like it is always creating something new for our students to try. They have loved the centers and other activities that she has made for them.”



Laura Mohr Scholarship

Stephanie Snyder

Junior
Coastal Carolina University



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Exceptional
Children

**SOUTH
CAROLINA**



Stephanie Snyder is a junior at Coastal Carolina University. Her recommender stated “Stephanie can be characterized as hard working, thoughtful, and deeply committed to the betterment of both her own teaching practice and to the field of special education at large. Stephanie is actively involved in the chapter of the CEC at Coastal Carolina University as social media manager. Stephanie communicates important details about key events and makes connections across cohorts and with students in other programs to forward the chapter's goals of supporting inclusive education for students with disabilities.” Another nominator stated “Stephanie’s engagement with course materials goes deeper than merely a shallow reading of text and regurgitation of facts. Instead, Stephanie considers contextual factors, psychological theories, and evidence-based frameworks as she synthesizes knowledge to create strong lesson plans, effective materials, and incredible suggestions for inclusive education.”



Very Important President (VIP) Award

Congratulations to SC Teacher Education Division (TED), the recipient of the 2023 VIP award. We encourage all Chapters and Subdivisions to apply for this prestigious award. Please see the criteria on our SCCEC website.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Welcome New Officers!

It is with great pleasure that we introduce to some, and present to others, our newly elected Executive Committee and Board Winners:

**Vice President: Ms. Carla Clardy, Anderson School District Five
(SPED Resource Elementary Teacher & Current President of Chapter 728)**

**Recording Secretary: Ms. Randi Aubry, Carolina Forest High School
(SPED Self-Contained Teacher)**

Congratulations to you both! I wish blessings for inspired, innovative, and favorable years as you serve in these positions!

Special thanks to the Nomination Committee: Dr. Laura Mohr, Mrs. Karen McKinney, and Mrs. Barbara Johnson-Williams. It is always a joy to work with such a great committee.

Constance Y. Mays



SILENT AUCTION

By: Constance Y. Mays, Past President

On behalf of the SCCEC Executive Committee and Executive Board, I would like to thank everyone who provided items for our Silent Auction this year (Vendors, Entrepreneurs, Chapters/Subdivisions and School Districts). The proceeds will go toward the Betty Brown Teacher Training and Assistance Grant. Your donations and the bidders are what made the Silent Auction a success! It is always so much fun watching as various attendees come by to check and ensure that they are not out bid! It's a true joy! Because of your generous heart of giving, we raised \$1,500.00 (which includes one anonymous donation of \$249.00). This total almost tripled what we raised last year.... Hooray!

Silent Auction Donations and Winners:

1. Nuvo Family Vann Art Portrait (Family Certificate), Charleston, SC- Winner-Kathy Maness
2. Nuvo Family Vann Art Portrait (Couple Certificate), Charleston, SC -Winner -JoAnn Decossas
3. Kingston Resorts, Myrtle Beach, SC Gift Certificate for two Consecutive Night Stay. Ocean view Accommodations (for 2 people) Winner-Jennifer Watson
4. Canopy Adventures, Asheville, NC-VIP PASS Zipline Tickets- (2) Winner-Dana Bennett
5. Kate Spade Tote Bag-Winner-Jane Bolten
6. Co-Designs Wreaths by Latoya Adams- Clemson Wreath- Winner-Tiffany Hollis
7. Co-Designs Wreath by Latoya Adams- USC Wreath-Winner-Cloye Woods
8. Chapter 728- Baby Essentials Bundle-Winner-Angel Adkins
9. Chapter 728-Reusable hot/cold Starbucks Cups and Sassy Syd's Suds soap- Winner Tiffany Hollis
10. Tri-County Chapter 451- Relax and Meditate Spa Basket-Winner-Sonya Sims
11. SCCASE -Spring Teacher Toolkit- Winner- Maria Jimenez
12. SCTED 3 Piece Throw Sock Set- Winner- Sonya Sims
13. SC TED- Winter Nap Throw and Salt/Pepper Set- Winner-Kim Shelton
14. SC TED -Pendleton Teal nation Stadium Blanket in a bag-Winner-Cloye Woods
15. Allendale County School District- Annual Review Survival Kit- Winner Rajendra Prasad
16. Mothers Against Gun Violence (MAGV) by Jacqueline Garrett-Holly Jolly-Winner-Beth Tuten
17. CARTER HEARS-Tote Bag with Insulated cup set-Winner-Kim Shelton
18. Amy Clausen- Safe Space Plaque- (Cross Stitched) Winner- Jasper McCall
19. CSM Special Education Consultant/Compliance, LLC (Constance Mays)- CG Couture Gems Scarf, Hat & Glove Set. Winner-Valarie Johnson
20. CSM Special Education Consultant/Compliance, LLC (Constance Mays)-Scarf, Hats &Gloves. Winner-Valarie Johnson
21. CSM Special Education Consultant/Compliance, LLC (Constance Mays)- Disinfecting UV Light-Winner-Terry Buckallew
22. *Anonymous Donor

VP'S CORNER

Now that the SCCEC conference has come to a close and we've all settled back into our work routines, can I just say what a great time I had and I hope you all did as well. I want to thank Tiffany Hollis and the entire conference planning committee for putting together a special event. It was great seeing old friends and making some new ones. As we look back on a great conference, we can now start looking forward to next year as we move back to Greenville. As I assume the role of President-Elect, it is my job now to try and put on as great a conference as Tiffany and her team did. We are already talking about some great changes and additions that we hope will make the conference even better. Be on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer and be part of making this event happen. More information will come out later as we begin the process of planning.

We had a great turnout for this year's conference with over four hundred attendees. This shows that we still have an active and vibrant membership here in the SCCEC. My challenge to you, our members, as we look forward to next year is to become more involved in your local chapters. We have several chapters that have gone quiet and need to be revitalized. We would love to see these chapters make a return to holding regular meetings and being involved in their communities. Your Executive Committee is here to give you all of the support you need to make this happen. We'll be reaching out to members in all of our chapters in the coming months to see what we can do to help you get the most out of your membership. In the meantime, if you are interested in taking a more active role in your local chapter, or if you just have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at michaelsnipes72@gmail.com, or you can reach out to any other member of your Executive Committee. We're here to serve you. Thanks again for a great conference and I'm looking forward to next year. **See you in Greenville!**

*Michael Snipes

SC TED NEWS

SC TED had a successful conference with several TED sessions that were well-attended. SC TED is planning a **free professional development** event to be presented this summer. It is planned to be a virtual workshop for general education teachers as well as special education teachers. The focus of the workshop will be on behavior. Participants will come away with knowledge about the functions of behavior and strategies for addressing behavior in the classroom. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

GOODBYE CONFERENCE!

On behalf of the organizing committee, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your participation in the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (SC CEC) Conference. Your presence contributed significantly to the success of the event, and we hope you found the experience informative, inspiring, and engaging.

Throughout the conference, we were privileged to witness engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and valuable networking opportunities. Your active participation and contributions enriched the learning environment and fostered collaboration among attendees.

We sincerely hope that the knowledge gained, and connections made during the conference will continue to benefit you in your work within the field of special education and education in general. Your commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for students with exceptional needs is commendable, and we are grateful for your dedication to the advocacy and empowerment of students and parents.

As we reflect on the conference and look towards the future, we welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have for improving future events. Your input is invaluable in shaping our efforts to better serve the needs of the special education community.

Once again, thank you for your attendance and meaningful contributions to the SC CEC Conference. We look forward to the possibility of future collaborations and continued engagement with you. Please save the date and stay tuned for the newsletter as it will contain an overview of the conference. Please be sure to also save the date and location for next year. February 27th-March 1st, with pre-conferences taking place on February 27th.

Conference Materials

Session materials from the conference will be available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bSqHBydSF4T6ApKKH8mDF2RoLk2kPSc6?usp=sharing>
until May 10, 2024. Materials are still being uploaded so please continue to check for updates.

THANK YOU AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN
GREENVILLE IN FEBRUARY 2025!