

The Palmetto



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**SOUTH
CAROLINA**

The voice and vision of special education

Two students...three words...and a buzz around SC that is undeniable!

BY JENNIFER AINSWORTH, 2015 SC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Being named SC Teacher of the Year was a bit overwhelming. I often thought of myself as the Special Education teacher who worked well behind the scenes, worked her fanny off to create opportunities for her students, and all too often felt many saw her job description as a glorified babysitter.

This year, the journey became clear. My students, Savannah and Ezra, would join me as we traveled around the state to spread three words: acceptance, awareness and respect — and not just say the words; the audience had to feel them.

We often had 30 minutes with groups of middle and high school students. Our challenge: make our world visible, tell our personal stories of how we are all truly more alike than different, and ultimately change hearts one at a time. It worked! After giving what has become my “teachermony” and following the presentation with my students singing, “I Believe I Can Fly,” a standing ovation or two always seemed to follow. But it wasn’t just the applause; students wrote us letters — yes, handwritten letters, telling us how their lives were changed by two inspirational students. We set out to tell “our story” and soon realized that “our story” was becoming an important part of “their story.” The R word became RESPECT in those precious moments with our audience.

My students taught me this year that we must reach beyond the four walls of our classroom; our personal stories must be told and we must create opportunities for change. We only need to grab that microphone for our students, advocate for them, and let them fly!



Save
the
Dates!

- ▶ July 17 Executive Committee meeting
- ▶ July 18 Leadership Training Institute (LTI)
- ▶ August 7 Champions for Young Children Symposium
- ▶ February 4-6 SCCEC 2016 Conference, Myrtle Beach

**MEANWHILE, HAVE A
GREAT SUMMER!**



Chapter Update

Chapter 165 News

BETH TUTEN, CHAPTER 165 PRESIDENT

Chapter 165 recently awarded three summer scholarships to very deserving students. Jermaine Holloway from Spring Valley High School will use his scholarship toward Camp Sunshine. Ashley Workman from River Bluff High School will use her summer scholarship toward Camp Joy. Alexia Lumpkin from Richmond Drive Elementary will use her scholarship toward swim lessons this summer. Congratulations to all winners! Chapter 165 hopes you have a wonderful summer!



Congratulations also to the new officers for Chapter 165. The 2015-2016 officers are:

- Secretary — Julie Macker
- Treasurer — Jody Pittman
- Vice President — Mary Kennedy
- President Elect — Dawn Patterson
- President — Lisa Halter
- Past President — Beth Tuten

Awards Update

Interested in being an Award Chair? Award Chairs put in hours of hard work and expertise to find the best candidates to represent our state. Chairs need to be organized, communicate well with others and be able to network. So if you are interested in becoming an Award Chair please contact Sam Price, SC CEC Corresponding Secretary correspondingsecretary@southcarolinacec.com or srprice@chesterfieldschools.org.

Chapter Host for the 2016 SCCEC Conference

SCCEC is looking for a host chapter for the 2016 SCCEC conference. If chosen to be the host chapter/subdivision, your group will receive a percentage of the total conference profits. You will receive a minimum of \$2,500. If profits exceed \$25,000, you will receive 25% of the total. If profits are less than \$25,000, you will receive 15% of the total.

The host chapter/subdivision will be responsible for the following:

- Providing 2 people to monitor the breakfast line, including taking tickets
- Providing 1 person per session to pass out handouts and assist the presenter as needed
- Providing assistance at the registration table at the beginning of each day (2-3 people)
- Providing 1 person at all times at the Silent Auction table, including during set-up and take-down times each day
- Providing a SCCEC officer (to be named) with a contact number for the overall person in charge of arranging these volunteers
- Providing a SCCEC officer (to be named) with a listing of volunteers and their assignments

Please complete this form if you are interested in being the host for the 2016 conference and email it to Amanda Walkup at awalkup@greenville.k12.sc.us. The deadline for proposals is July 17th.

Chapter/Subdivision Name and/or Number: _____

Person in Charge of Arranging Assistants: _____

Contact Number: _____

Number of Active Members Who Would be Responsible: _____

EXPANDING THE TRANSITION ALLIANCE OF SC: Creating a System of Support to Build Capacity in Local Communities

FROM THE CENTER FOR DISABILITY RESOURCES (UCEDD), UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Center for Disability Resources at the University of South Carolina, in partnership with the Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC), the statewide interagency transition team, has initiated the development of an infrastructure to support local interagency transition teams as they increase their capacity to collaboratively and effectively serve young adults with disabilities transitioning from high school to adult-life. The initiative began on May 2, 2014 with a one-day transition planning institute that was held in Columbia, SC and was followed-up by a Statewide Interagency Transition Conference in November of 2014.

Forty-two transition teams, each representing one local school district, participated in the November conference. In addition to attending content sessions, participating interagency teams engaged in facilitated strategic planning sessions using the Planning Alternatives to Tomorrow with Hope (PATH) tool. All of the strategic plans were structured to include action items around the following domain areas, which are cited in the literature as supporting positive post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities: (1) Community Based Work Experience; (2) Interagency Collaboration; (3) Professional Development; (4) Student Engagement; (5) Parent Engagement; (6) Leadership, Administration, and Policy; (7) Transition Planning and Assessment; and (8) Career Curricula.

Strategic planning is a key component of the infrastructure that guides this work. However, effective implementation of evidence based practices is the gateway for success. As such, the Center for Disability Resources is partnering with the SC Department of Education, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, the SC Developmental Disabilities Council, and other Alliance partners and consultants to coordinate and deliver the resources needed for the local teams to effectively implement the individual goals they prioritized on their strategic PATH plan. Specifically, three levels of support and assistance (i.e., general, moderate, intensive) are being provided to local teams via training, technical assistance, and the provision of additional resources (e.g., Curriculum). All teams are

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EXPANDING TRANSITION ALLIANCE *continued*

automatically included in the general assistance category, but teams responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be considered for moderate and intensive assistance.

The Transition Alliance staff and partners consider this merely the beginning stage of the construction of a novel, yet highly functional, progressive, and replicable method of building support for local communities from the top (state-level) down (community-level) and perhaps more importantly, across local teams and practitioners/stakeholders.

WE WANT YOU!

The 2nd Annual Interagency Transition Conference will be held September 20-22, 2015 at the Hilton in Greenville. Teams that attend this conference will have the same opportunities afforded to them as were offered in the spring of 2014. We anticipate providing a minimum of three statewide training opportunities to all participating teams, moderate assistance to approximately fifteen teams, and intensive assistance to three teams.

Once again, to gain access to this assistance, teams will need to have at least one representative attend the Interagency Transition Conference in the fall. So talk to your administration and local partners, and plan to participate. Registration materials will be sent prior to summer break. For additional information or assistance in getting community involved, email Joy Ivester, E-TASC Director (joy.iverster@usmed.sc.edu).

E-TASC QUICK FACTS

■ **Grantee/Organizer**

The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). Since 1963, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) have worked towards a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision.

■ **Staff**

Joy Ivester, M.Ed., Program Director
Kinsey Carlson-Britting, MSW, MPH, Program Assistant Director
Leah Cordoni, Program Coordinator

■ **Funding Agencies**

SC Department of Education
SC Developmental Disabilities Council, Office of the Governor
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Center for Disability Resources, USC School of Medicine

■ **Partner Agencies (Transition Alliance of South Carolina)**

Able SC, SC Assistive Technology Program, SC Commission for the Blind, SC Department of Education and Workforce, SC Developmental Disabilities Council, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, SC Department of Education, Family Connection of SC, Francis Marion University, SC Department of Mental Health, PRO Parents of SC, USC Department of Educational Studies, SC Vocational Rehabilitation, and Walton Options.

[See flyer elsewhere in this newsletter]

Community Resources for Families in SC

South Carolina educators have amazing community partners! Here are just a few that want to partner with you, your school, and your families! Headings below are for each agency listed:

COMMUNITY OPTIONS, INC.

We are a national, non-profit organization expanded over 9 states. The services that we provide and offer are our School To Employment Program (S.T.E.P.), Extended Employment Services program, residential services, and other employment supports and community-based day programming.

Phone: 803-750-8998, 803-727-3207
Website: www.comop.org

SOUTH CAROLINA AUTISM SOCIETY

The South Carolina Autism Society is the only state-wide organization advocating for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and their families. SCAS provides Targeted Case Management, Parent School Partnership, Information and Referral, Training and Workshops, Advocacy, and Social-Recreational events to improve the lives of individuals affected by autism. Every dollar that SCAS raises stays in South Carolina to ensure that the nearly 70,000 individuals living in South Carolina with autism spectrum disorder have opportunities to achieve a quality of life comparable to their

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Research to Practice 2015 Registration Now Available

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), Office of Special Education Services (OSES), is pleased to sponsor the Research to Practice Professional Development Institute (RTP) July 13-17, 2015, at River Bluff High School located at 320 Corley Mill Road in Lexington, South Carolina. This institute, with over 144 sessions, is hosted through the collaborative efforts of multiple offices and divisions within the SCDE. Participants will be able to earn either course renewal credits or certificate renewal credits. The OSES asks that you share this information broadly, provide links via your webpages if possible, and encourage individuals to attend.

The RTP Catalog with a table of contents that includes descriptions for each session is available on our web page: <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ccr/Special-Education-Services/>.

■ **AWARENESS** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-rtp-awareness-registration-16861044839>

■ **BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-rtp-behavioral-supports-tickets-17029990159>

■ **COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-rtp-communicative-competence-tickets-17032965057>

■ **INCLUSION/CO-TEACHING** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-rtp-inclusionco-teaching-tickets-17033111495>

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SCCEC?

Visit our website for ongoing activities and updates at <http://community.cec.sped.org/SC/home/>



WEBSITE:
www.southcarolinacec.com

facebook

SEARCH FOR:
**South Carolina Council for
Exceptional Children**

twitter

GO TO:
@MySCCEC

COMMUNITY RESOURCES *continued*

peers. The organization was chartered by the State of South Carolina in 1972. For more information on autism or SCAS, please visit www.scautism.org.

Contact us at 803-750-6988 or scas@scautism.org.

Website: www.scautism.org.

BRIGHT START — HELPING FAMILIES TODAY, REACH GOALS FOR TOMORROW

What does Bright Start provide?

- Home visits
- Developmental assessments
- Referrals to community resources and services
- Infant and child massage instruction
- Service coordination
- Family training
- Play groups

The mission of Bright Start is to provide quality comprehensive services to individuals with special needs and developmental delays so that children and adults can achieve their greatest potential. Located in the Midlands and Upstate of South Carolina, Bright Start offers Early Intervention, Service Coordination and Speech Therapy to people who have intellectual disabilities and special needs. Bright Start provides services in the following counties: Aiken, Chester, Greenville, Lancaster, Lexington, Kershaw, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg and York counties of South Carolina. Bright Start is proud to be the first private provider in the state to offer early intervention services to children with disabilities and special needs.

Phone: 803-665-5133

Email: Beckypeters@brightstartsc.com

Website: <http://brightstartsc.com/>.

SC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (SCATP)

We provide trainings, device demonstrations, and device loans of assistive technology for students with intellectual disabilities and learning differences. For information, contact Carol Page.

Phone: 803-935-5301

Email: carol.page@uscmcd.edu

Website: www.sc.edu/scatp/

REACH - COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

The REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) program at the College of Charleston is a four-year, fully-inclusive certificate program for students with mild intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The REACH Program promotes the advancement of knowledge and skill in the areas of academics, socialization, independent living, and career development, and has been nationally recognized for

its commitment to full-inclusion and self-determination.

Phone: 843-953-4849

Email: REACHProgram@cofc.edu

Website: <http://reach.cofc.edu/about-reach-program/index.php>

THE COMET (CENTRAL MIDLANDS TRANSIT)

Public Transportation/Travel Training

Phone: 803-255-7133 ext. 5

Email: Brittany.Higgins@catchthecomet.org

Website: www.catchthecomet.org

PRO-PARENTS

Parents Reaching Out to Parents of South Carolina, Inc., PRO-Parents, is a private, non-profit organization which provides information and training about education to families of children with all types of disabilities throughout South Carolina. PRO-Parents provide free workshops to parents of children with disabilities to prepare them to make decisions about their child's education. PRO-Parents also help train professionals in education and related fields.

Contact: 803-772-5688

Website: www.proparents.org

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

We are a statewide nonprofit organization that links families of children with special healthcare needs and disabilities with resources, support and education. We provide support to parents with a child or family member with any special healthcare need. Our support for families includes a family-to-family network, statewide offices and a host of programs to educate, inspire and empower families and their children to live rich, fulfilling lives in spite of many challenges.

Phone: 1.800.578.8750

Espanol: 1.888.808.7462

Website: <http://www.familyconnections.org/>

THE ARC OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Arc of SC is the oldest statewide advocacy organization for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our local, state and national organizations advocate for the passage of legislation with and on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At the heart of our mission, we provide person-centered statewide case management services. We hold weekly inclusive recreational opportunities through our Rec-Connect / Arc Works program, positive sexual health trainings through our Life Lessons curriculum, and Statewide Health programs through our community based walking group club, Walk this Way. We also provide first responders trainings through our ALEC initiative, which has been nationally recognized by FEMA. We are proud of

our agencies self-advocacy group, People on the Go and all of their accomplishments and self-determination. The Arc of South Carolina is the host site coordinator for the three Best Buddies programs at various colleges across the state. This initiative promotes friendship development with students.

Margie Williamson, Executive Director

Phone: 803-748-5020 ext. 5

Email: margie@arcsc.org Website: www.arcsc.org

ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA

Able South Carolina is a Center for Independent Living (CIL) that assists people of all ages with all types of disabilities to reach their highest level of independence. At Able SC we have five core services, one of which is providing transition-related services to young adults with disabilities. Able SC serves 23 counties in South Carolina and promotes the concept of empowerment vs. enabling.

Phone: 864-235-1421 ext. 103

Email: Rachel.Kaplan@able-sc.org

Website: <http://www.able-sc.org>

THE BABCOCK CENTER

Babcock Center is a private, non-profit organization that serves adults with lifelong disabilities. Primarily serving residents of South Carolina's Richland and Lexington Counties. We provide a range of services to include: residential services, vocational training, supported employment, WOW (Welcome on the Weekend), respite, and HASCI. Our mission is to empower people with lifelong disabilities to enjoy life by promoting abilities and respecting choice.

Phone: (803) 799-1970

Email: ayoung-smith@babcockcenter.org

Website: babcockcenter.org

THE ARC OF THE MIDLANDS

The Arc of the Midlands is a member of the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving all children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We provide statewide supported employment services and will launch residential services in Spring 2015 in the Columbia area. We also provide numerous community inclusive activities and programs including Wings for Autism, Project SEARCH, Specialisterne, Mixed Greens, Kick it Karate and much more!

Phone: 803-693-5746

Email: melinda@arcmidlands.org

Website: www.arcmidlands.org



CHAMPIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM



Growing together for better beginnings.

FRIDAY AUGUST 7th, 2015

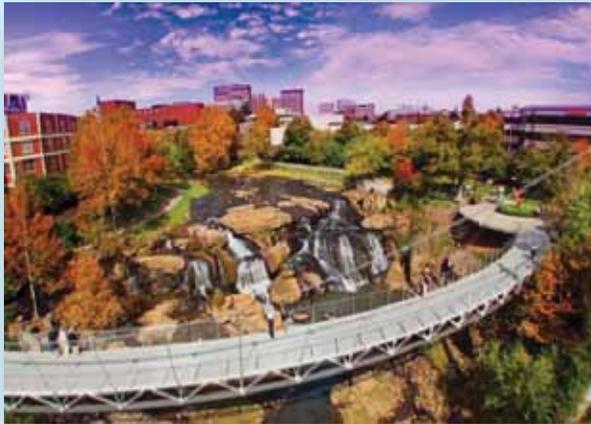
Theme: Social and Emotional Development

- Be inspired and empowered to promote the social and emotional well-being of young children
- Learn evidence-based strategies you can use with the young children in your lives
- Network with other champions of young children in South Carolina

This summit is designed for families and practitioners tasked with supporting the growth and development of young children (birth-5).

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.jotformpro.com/Famcon/Champions2015



2nd Annual SC Interagency Transition Conference

SAVE-THE-DATE *
Sept 20-22, 2015

The 2015 Interagency Transition Conference will be an event focused on interagency teaming, strategic planning, cross agency networking, and the implementation of evidence-based practices in secondary transition for youth with disabilities.

At last year's conference, held in Charleston, SC, over 250 attendees participated on more than 42 local interagency transition teams from across the state. The interagency teams were diverse in size and makeup, representing both urban and rural counties. We look forward to re-engaging last year's teams, but we also look forward to expanding the event to include new teams.

Participation in this conference will again open up the opportunity for follow-up training and technical assistance coordinated by the Center for Disability Resources at the University of South Carolina and funded by the Developmental Disabilities Council as well as the South Carolina Department of Education.

As a conference participant, you will have the opportunity to learn how to improve outcomes for youth with disabilities while you work with colleagues and other transition stakeholders from various entities (e.g., DDSN, SCVRD, ILC's, Family Organizations, Non-Profits, Parents) to create or develop a strategic plan for transition program improvement in your own community. The conference will include both breakout sessions and team planning time. A Sunday evening event, which is a new addition to the agenda, is also being planned.

*More detailed information about the registration process
will be sent in the next few weeks!*

Conference Location: Hilton Greenville / 45 West Orchard Park Drive, Greenville, South Carolina, 29615

Organizer Contact Information: Transition Alliance of SC / transition@uscmed.sc.edu