



The Palmetto

**SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

www.myscceec.org

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Hopefully you were able to attend our December Executive Board Meeting. If you were not in attendance, we would strongly encourage you to attend our January 31st Executive Board Meeting. We had the privilege to have Sharon Snyder, Professional Development Coordinator for Berkeley County School District walk us through the development of SCCEC's goal, mission, and beliefs. Sharon brought our National CEC's mission and vision to lay the foundation of our organization and begin the brain-storming. She utilized creative activities to ensure she had input from all the participants in attendance. Our next step in January will be to make strategic goals, discuss strategy for accomplishing the goals, and prioritizing. We look forward to continuing this project with you.

I would also like to encourage your participation with the following:

1. Register now for the Annual Professional Development Conference to be held in Charleston on January 30th & 31st. Kara Merritt has been working hard to make sure that this conference is the best ever. Go ahead and reserve your hotel room, too. You can find all the details at www.myscceec.org
2. Nominate a colleague for one of the many awards that SC CEC offers. There are special awards this year for special education teachers, administrators,

general educators, advocates, paraprofessionals, students, and members. Check out our website for a complete listing of the awards and grants.

3. Participate in your local chapter by attending meetings in your area. Don't know your local contact person? There is a complete list of chapter presidents on our website.
4. If you are on the SC CEC Executive Board, attend your state meetings. The Executive Board is made of chapter presidents, subdivision presidents, elected officers, award chair people, student advisors, and appointed committee chair people. This dedicated group meets four times each year to plan meaningful activities that will promote the vision and mission of SC CEC.
5. Visit our newly designed website often. You'll find everything you need to stay involved with SC CEC at www.myscceec.org

We need your participation for our organization to continue to grow and be the "voice and vision of special education." We thank you for your dedicated work with our students with special needs and hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

KATIE STAPLETON, PRESIDENT

Constitution Update

Check our website at <http://myscceec.org/> to review proposed amendments to the constitution. Members of the representative assembly will vote to approve or reject the changes during representative assembly on January 31, 2009 at our annual conference. The following changes are recommended:

- Lengthen the term of office for recording secretary from one to two years.
- Add a Research and Professional

Development Committee

- Add a state "Yes I Can" Committee
- You may read these changes and the descriptions of the committees on the web. If you have any questions, please contact me at thomassu@berkeley.k12.sc.us or 803-606-5435.

SUSAN THOMAS, PARLIAMENTARIAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
CONSTITUTION UPDATE**



CHAPTER UPDATES



**MEET THE CANDIDATES
TEERING OFF AND MOVING
FORWARD IN TRANSITION**



**SCCEC REPRESENTATIVE
ASSEMBLY**



ATTENTION MEMBERS



**SOUTH
CAROLINA**
Council for
Exceptional Children



**Council for
Exceptional
Children**

SCCEC Chapter 165

On Thursday, November 13, Chapter 165 met at Queenstown Bistro for our bi-monthly meeting. The Chapter members enjoyed a presentation on grants by Gail Widner from the South Carolina Department of Education. Although it was a late night, the information she presented was extremely valuable and we appreciate her hard work on the presentation. She gave us many websites, organizations, and helpful tips for writing successful

grants. We congratulate Al Horne, the winner of the door prize of one SCCEC conference registration. Our next Chapter meeting will be held on January 13th at the Queenstown Bistro. We also look forward to seeing everyone at the Conference in North Charleston at the end of January! Please check out our website <http://165scccecc.googlepages.com>.

SCCEC Chapter 728

On November 13, Chapter 728 had a meeting at the Hamilton Career Center in Seneca, South Carolina. The guest speaker was Dr. Joe Ryan, professor of special education at Clemson University. Dr. Ryan gave a 45 minute presentation on Psychotropic medications. Specifically he discussed what different Psychotropic medications are prescribed for, how they work, and their potential side effects. This was a very informative meeting and very well attended. We had over 50 special educators, general educators and counselors in attendance. One of the highlights of the meeting, beside Dr. Ryan, was the refreshments that were provided by the one of the Transition

classes at the Career Center. Danielle Mathieu, a special education teacher at the Career Center, and her students in the STARS program have started a catering company called "Considerate Catering." The goal of the program is to instruct the students in appropriate social skills and to provide fine dining experiences for any occasion. Needless to say, those who attended had a very fine dining experience provided by some very exceptional students. For more information regarding upcoming meetings please contact Chris Todd at ctodd@oconee.k12.sc.us. Chapter 728 is the designated county for all CEC members in Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, and Greenwood.

SCCEC Chapter 877

CEC 877 held an online meeting on November 11, 2008. The topic was about Online Professional Development Opportunities and Homework (Should we give homework or not?). We were also visited by a general education teacher from New York who has an inclusion class. Lisa talked about how Christine (the Special Ed teacher) and she are successful with their elementary school students. You can listen to the replay of the meeting at <http://flashmeeting.e2bn.net/fm/4dc463-4322>. It was really interesting and we had a lot of fun. If you get a chance to come

to our meetings online, we would love to have you! All you need is an internet connection. If you have a webcam and/or microphone, you can use them also but if not, you can just type in your side of the conversation. It may be a little scary at first but it really is painless. Meeting this way is great because it doesn't cost you any gas to get to the meeting and you can pop on a computer wherever you are and join us! Our next online meeting will be in February. If you would like to be added to the notification list, please email Pat Hensley at loonyhiker@charter.net.

SCCEC Chapter 936

Our holiday meeting was held on December 4th at On the Border in Mount Pleasant. We had a great turnout at the meeting with raffles and two wonderful guest speakers. Our first speaker was Shana Meyer, a wonderful advocate for students with disabilities. Mrs. Meyer has successfully started a disabilities awareness program at Daniel Island School in Berkeley County. She was on hand to give a quick overview of the program and she was also on hand to answer any questions anyone may have had about starting up a similar program at their own schools. If

you would like to know more information about this Kindness Counts program feel free to contact Leigh Whitaker at Daniel Island School. All questions will be forwarded to Mrs. Meyer. We also got a chance to hear Ingrid Dukes speak, last year's SCCEC Administrator of the Year. Mrs. Dukes provided some valuable insight on working with students with special needs, from an administrative perspective. Thank you Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Dukes for taking time to meet with us all and for making differences in the lives of students with special needs. Chapter 936 would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday!!

Meet the Candidates

SC CEC has one nomination for the position of Vice President: Barbara Johnson Williams.

BARBARA JOHNSON WILLIAMS has been an active member of SC CEC since 1979. She has served in many roles including President of Chapter 757, Corresponding Secretary for the SC CEC Executive Committee, Coordinator of the Betty Brown Training Grant, and SC's representative for the Children's Action Network. Barbara has worked in Orangeburg as a Learning Disabled Resource Teacher/Department Chairperson/District Special Education Liaison at Orangeburg Wilkinson, High School since 1986. She has also taught at SC State University as an Adjunct Professor since 2003 where she has influenced countless students who want to pursue a career in Special Education. She makes a difference in her community by volunteering her time to work with various organizations and school groups

Two wonderful CEC members have been nominated for the position of Recording Secretary: Robert Compton and Sandy Simpson.

ROBERT COMPTON is a National Board Certified Teacher as an Exceptional Needs Specialist and earned his M.Ed. degree in special education at Winthrop University in 2004. In addition to SC Certification in generic, EMD, and TMD special education, he also holds SC Certification as an elementary and secondary supervisor and principal. Born in South Carolina, Robert currently lives in Rock Hill, SC with his wife Martha, a teacher for students with

moderate cognitive disabilities and autism. Robert and Martha are proud parents of a 10 month old baby girl named Campbell.

Through his professional career, Robert has taught students with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities and autism at both the elementary and secondary level. In his eight year in special education, he currently serves as the Autism/Cognitive Disabilities Specialist for Richland School District Two in Columbia, SC. He enjoys consulting and presenting on the topics of autism, behavior, and visual/physical structure at the local and state level. Through his involvement in the Council for Exceptional Children, Robert currently serves as the president-elect of Chapter 165 (Central Carolina) and is on the Executive Board for the SC CEC where he serves as the editor of SC CEC's Palmetto. Finally, he serves on the Professional Development and Professional Standards Committee for CEC's Division on Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

SANDY SIMPSON earned a BS in Business Administration from the College of Charleston in 1986 and an MAT from the University of Charleston in 1995. She has spent most of her career teaching adolescents with behavioral disorders, working in public schools, in clinical day programs, and in residential settings. Sandy is National Board Certified as an Exceptional Needs Specialist. She is a Past President of the SC Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders and currently serves as Treasurer for that organization. She has served for two years as Corresponding Secretary for the SC Council for Exceptional Children.

Teeing Off and Moving Forward in Transition

The Division of Career Development and Transition jointly sponsored the 2nd Annual Transition Conference with the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children on November 19th-21st. The conference kicked off with the sparkle of a Miss America crown as the participants were treated to the inspirational story of Heather Whitestone Macallum, Miss America 1995. Heather was the first person with a disability to wear the crown. Her five-point message for self-empowerment provided the challenge for the educators, agencies and parents attending the

conference to work collaboratively for youth with disabilities.

Individuals coming a day early to the conference were able to learn more about writing appropriate transition IEP's through the detailed information provided by Mrs. Kelly Wulf, a special education coordinator with Berkeley County School District. In the second pre-conference workshop, Dr. Richard Luecking, President of TransCen, Inc. in Maryland, offered practical steps to identify the best attributes of individual youth to plan for the job search, recruit and

Continued on Page 4

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Teeing Off continued

retain employer partners, and to insure that workplace supports are effective for both the youth and the employer.

After two days of excellent presentations from exemplary school district and DDSN transition programs to improving employment outcomes for youth with disabilities, the conference ended with a humorous and sincere presentation by Sarah Helena Vasquez, a young lady from New Jersey with a disability. Sarah spoke about the teachers who stood beside her during her high school years to support her quest to attend and graduate from college. She shared her humorous side about her over-protective, but supportive family and how she dealt with gaining her independence despite issues with cerebral

palsy. Sarah had the luncheon audience laughing and crying with her motivational story!

Despite the economy, budget cuts and travel constraints, everyone attending the three day conference left with a renewed sense of commitment to improve the lives of the youth with disabilities and make sure that when they exit our educational system, they are well-prepared to face the adult world.

DR. CINDI NIXON,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
FMU TRANSITION CONSULTANT FOR THE
SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
OFFICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN



Keynote speaker and 1995 Miss America Heather Whitestone sharing her crown with Dr. Cindi Nixon, Transition Consultant for SC Department of Education.

South Carolina's Council for Exceptional Children Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly of the SC Council for Exceptional Children will hold its annual meeting at the state conference in North Charleston on January 31, 2009. The Representative Assembly is SCCEC's general legislative body. During the Representative Assembly, officers of the Executive Committee are elected and other business is presented.

Information for registration will be mailed to each chapter and subdivision president in December. Any chapter or subdivision in good standing is entitled to one vote. When the membership exceeds fifteen members, one vote for each additional fifteen members is granted. The deadline for registration will be January 7, 2009.

1. Each representative must personally report to the Representative Assembly registration table. Registration times will be posted in the conference program. Each representative must present a valid CEC membership card.
2. Members at large (unaffiliated with a local chapter) may hold a caucus immediately prior to the Representative Assembly for the purpose of electing representatives. The SCCEC

- Membership Chairperson shall chair the caucus. There shall be one representative for each twelve members present at the caucus. There shall be at least one vote representing these members provided a minimum of one current member attends the caucus.
3. Each unit eligible to elect a representative shall provide for the election of alternatives up to an equivalent number of representatives.
4. All representatives must sit in the area designated by their chapter or subdivision signs during Representative Assembly.
5. The Vice President will inform the group of the total number of validated votes for each chapter or subdivision during Representative Assembly.
6. Representatives desiring to address the convention relative to a motion, nomination, or resolution should print the information on the Official Action Form to be recorded in the minutes of the Representative Assembly. The form must have the signature of the person recommending the action.
7. Each representative who speaks from

- the floor must state his or her name and the chapter or subdivision represented.
8. Anyone may address the Representative Assembly. Observers are welcome and will be seated in a designated area.
9. Only representatives are allowed to vote on issues. Representatives and Executive Committee members may discuss an issue. In the event that an Executive Committee member is a representative of a chapter or subdivision, that person may also vote.
10. All representatives must be registered prior to the Representative Assembly and must be seated before the meeting is called to order. Any representative arriving late will be admitted to the observer's area and all voting privileges will be forfeited.

Any questions or concerns about the procedures for Representative Assembly should be directed to:

Susan R. Burkett, Vice President
2629 Caney Branch Road
Leesville, SC 29070
sburkett@lex3.k12.sc.us

Are your students' challenging behaviors getting you down?

COME TO NORTH CHARLESTON FOR THE

**SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN (SCCEC)
STATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

January 29th – 31st, 2009

Register at www.myscceec.org

THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS (SCCCBD) IS PROVIDING A STRAND OF PRESENTATIONS:

- Behavior Management Strategies for Elementary School Teachers
 - Classroom Management and Tough Kids
- Tips on BIPS: Examples and Strategies for Developing Effective Behavior Intervention Plans
 - Appropriate and Effective Use of Timeout
 - Free Resources for Behavioral Interventions

www.scccbd.com

Come early to the Pre-Conference Workshop
Thursday, January 29th, 2009 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORT SCRIPTS: WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO SAY, AND WHEN TO SAY IT
W. Kent Parker, Ph.D.

Cost: Onsite: Student CEC Member \$35.00 ~ CEC member \$45.00 ~ Non-Member \$50.00
Pre- registration: Subtract \$10

Contact: Sandy Simpson, SC CCBBD Treasurer
620 S. Laurel St. Summerville, SC 29483
ssimpson@dorchester2.k12.sc.us to register

Attention!

CHAPTER & SUB-DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

You will need to submit your "Representative Assembly Report" to Katie Stapleton by Friday, January 9th, 2009. The letter and report were emailed on December 11th, 2008. If you did not receive the information, please contact Katie as soon as possible.

SCCEC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

The following is a list of our next Board Meetings. Please make plans to attend. An agenda and directions will be emailed two weeks prior to the meeting date.

- Saturday, January 31st (see conference program for time) Charleston Convention Center & Embassy Suites
- Saturday, March 21st at 11:00 am Christus Victor Lutheran Church (off Harbison Blvd.)

STUDENT MEMBERS!

The annual SCCEC College Bowl will be held at the convention on Friday, January 30th. This year, the convention will be held at the North Charleston Convention Center and Embassy Suites. If you didn't attend last year, you don't know what you're missing! With the addition of real buzzers and a few rule changes, this year's College Bowl is shaping up to be even better. Make sure to check the program for the room location and time. Get your team together, study hard and you could win the trophy!

The Palmetto

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER



SCHEDULE

- Pre-Conference sessions begin on Thursday
- Awards Breakfast on Friday morning, followed by sessions
- Saturday sessions through lunch, with Representative Assembly afterwards

SAILING INTO SUCCESS!

- North Charleston Convention Center – North Charleston, SC
- Pre-Conference Thursday, January 29th
- Conference Friday, January 30th – Saturday, January 31st

The Executive Committee looks forward to seeing each and every one of you at convention. Registration will open at 4:00pm on Thursday. Please keep checking the website for the most updated convention information. Don't forget to bring your flippers!



Sailing Into Success



THINGS TO DO

- Catch a Stingray Professional Hockey game or concert
- Shop at Tangler Outlets
- Visit downtown Charleston waterfront area

GOT BEHAVIOR?

CCBD can help you figure out how to reach the most challenging students in your school. As a CCBD member you will receive high quality journals and newsletters that are filled with research-based strategies that you can implement right away. Members of CCBD also enjoy discounted registration fees for the Annual Fall Behavior Conference.

You don't have to teach kids with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders to join CCBD. So log on to the website and join today: www.scccbd.com.

SILENT AUCTION

Make sure to stop by the Silent Auction table at this year's conference. You never know what you'll find...jewelry, artwork, baskets, Barbies, books. All profits help fund our scholarships. So make sure to bring a donation from your chapter or subdivision along with your checkbook. Let the bidding begin!

RESOLUTIONS

During our awards breakfast each year, we take the time to honor people in the state retiring or who have passed away that have had an impact on special education in South Carolina and, more specifically, have contributed to SCCEC at the state and/or local level. If you know of anyone you would like to see honored, please contact Debbie Gunter at dgunter@lex2.org by January 9. Your assistance would be needed with a history of their career and accomplishments.