

# SCOSS NEWS

South Carolina Organization for Student Success

### In this issue:

- Letter from President Jonathan Chastain
- 2021 Conference Overview
- 2021 Award Winners
- Spotlight: Mentor Stories
- 2022 NOSS Conference

The purpose of SCOSS News is to provide information about the organization and to build awareness about developmental education and other student support programs in South Carolina.

Please support our community of students and educators by sharing updates about the cool things happening at your institutions.

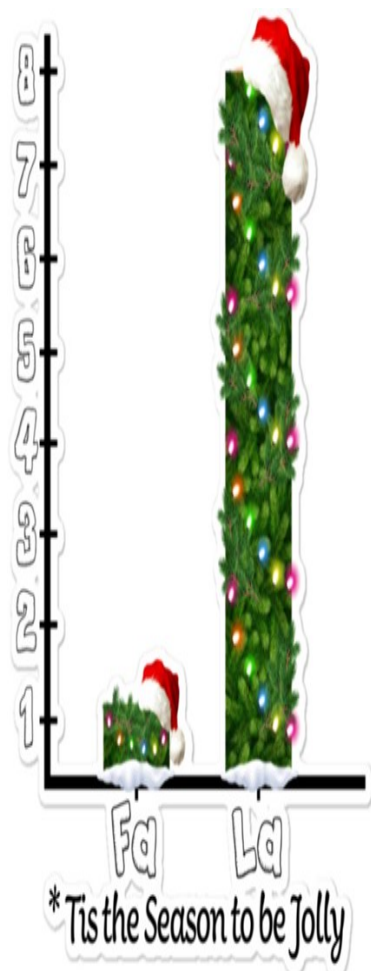
## Message from the President

To the members of the South Carolina Organization for Student Success,

It has been a pleasure to serve as the President and President-Elect of SCOSS over the past two years. When I agreed to be nominated as President-Elect, I had no idea of what was to come throughout 2020 and 2021. My term as President-Elect brought many unforeseen circumstances including the necessity of our first virtual conference. At the beginning of the year, I had many plans for our in-person conference and soon realized those plans were not meant to be. I want to thank everyone on the executive board and everyone who is a member of SCOSS for making the two virtual conferences a success. Aside from the conferences, SCOSS was also able to establish more of a connection with our national organization (NOSS), affirm the long- promised amendments to the bylaws, and provide this newsletter. Thank you all for the support I have received over the last two years! I still plan to stay involved with SCOSS and everything we are doing to support developmental educators in South Carolina achieve student success. I look forward to seeing all of you in person as soon as we are able.

Best regards,

Jonathan Chastain



---

## Conference Overview

Charlene Lanford, President-Elect

SCOSS was delighted to host its second virtual conference on Friday, October 15, 2021. We welcomed 44 members in attendance, four vendors representing several different content disciplines, and four concurrent sessions in addition to our keynote. Concurrent session topics ranged from enhancing our virtual classrooms through Blackboard Collaborate to mental health topics and declaring joy in our teaching. We were also blessed to have our very own board member Dr. Lisa Martin as our keynote speaker. Dr. Martin's presentation was "Unmasking Our Vulnerability for Student Success." During this keynote address, she focused on the importance of building relationships with our students as the recent pandemic has changed how we teach. Throughout this unprecedented time, we have shown students that we care.



## Keynote Address: Unmasking Our Vulnerability for Student Success

**Presentation Summary:** Building a relationship is hard to do at a distance, but the recent pandemic has forced instructors to do just that with their students. Instinctively, we have shown students we care. Now, we are in a place to move from instinct to intent as we unmask our vulnerability in an effort to see increased student success.



**Bio:** Dr. Lisa B. Martin is a passionate educator who has devoted her 23-year career to working with community college students. She currently serves as Dean of Instructional Development and Academic Support at Piedmont Technical College where she leads the College Preparatory and Transitional Studies Department, teaches transitional English classes, oversees faculty training, manages academic scheduling, and reviews all academic loading/compensation. She has a bachelor's degree in English from Newberry College, a master's degree in British literature from Western Carolina University, and a doctorate's degree in educational leadership from Liberty University. Believing all students can be successful, she has worked tirelessly on innovative approaches to help them reach their full potential. She enjoys spending time with family, writing, singing, and embracing her new love (painting and designing jewelry). Lisa and her husband of 31 years, Rick (yes, she is married to Ricky Martin), have three sons: Noah (23), Bennett (21), and Garrett (15).

---

## 2021 Student Award Winners



The **SCOSS 2021 Outstanding Scholar Award** was received by **Chinelo Nwosuh of Greenville Technical College**. Chinelo was nominated by her English instructor, Jan Bishop, who had this to say about her student: "Chinelo approached every assignment with serious, scholarly interest and asked for extra help when needed. Receiving this award would both recognize the hard work and dedication she has already demonstrated and encourage her to continue striving for excellence as she pursues her nursing degree." Chenelo works at the National Health

Care (NHC), Greenville as a Certified Nurse Assistant while working toward acceptance in GTC's competitive Nursing program.. In addition to becoming a nurse, Chinelo intends to commit herself to lifelong learning and to ultimately provide ongoing community service to those in need of medical assistance. As the winner of the SCOSS Outstanding Scholar Award, Chinelo received an engraved plaque and a check for \$500.



The **SCOSS 2021 Outstanding Former Developmental Student Award** was received by **Tikoya Freeman, a graduate of Greenville Technical College**. Tikoya was nominated by her former instructor, Amy Daigle, who wrote that Tikoya received the Outstanding Student Award for her class in 2019. The award was voted on by the Radiologic Technologists in the clinical sites and is based on the graduate's overall clinical abilities, knowledge in her field, cooperation, dependability, judgement, character, imaging

skills, and patient care. Tikoya began working at Prisma Health as a student radiographer and has been employed by Prisma full time since her graduation from Greenville Tech. Tikoya is a shining example of excellence in the demanding healthcare industry, and she continues to serve people with confidence and expertise. Tikoya received a check for \$100 and an engraved plaque commemorating her award.

## 2021 Faculty/Staff Award Winners



The **SCOSS 2021 Award for Outstanding Service to Students** was given to **Melinda Hoover of Tri County Technical College**. Melinda was nominated by her colleague, Lynell Hecht, and is a College Skills and I-BEST Manufacturing instructor. She also serves on the TCTC Faculty Senate. Lynell Hecht described Ms. Hoover as bringing "a vision to the department

that would help grow our mission to developmental and under-resourced students. Her efforts to make connections and establish relationships with area industry has allowed for invaluable opportunities for our students." Melinda Hoover has helped many students secure positions at these companies because she understands their culture and how students' developing skillsets can best stand out in an interview. Melinda's devotion to her students is evident in the countless hours she spends working with them before class, after class, and even long after they graduate, and she continues to have a life-changing impact on the lives of developmental students. Melinda received an engraved plaque and a check for \$100 from SCOSS in recognition of her excellence.

---

## Spotlight: Mentor Stories

Mentors are people who guide and lead. They shape our lives by seeing our potential and encouraging us to become better. We hope these Mentor Stories from SCOSS members will inspire you to recollect with gratitude a mentor in your personal or professional journey.

*“The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth.”*

*-Dan Rather*

*A mentor who has truly shaped my life is Mrs. Cheryl Spencer. She was one of my Montessori Professors at Lander University. Through the coursework with Mrs. Spencer, I learned about the impact that following the child can have on their development and academic achievement. I was blessed to work side by side with her at the Columbia Children’s Montessori House as an intern. While there, my own son benefitted from this early learning approach. Mrs. Spencer modeled grace and courtesy not just to me but also to the students. When I think about the past two years and how we as educators have had to modify and adjust, I am reminded of Mrs. Spencer and her kindness at the Montessori House. I believe the world today can benefit from more kindness.*

*–Charlene M. Lanford, Piedmont Technical College*

*In fourth grade, when I failed the gifted and talented program’s entrance exam, Mrs. Carolyn Crow, Enrichment Specialist at James L. Cowart Elementary School, invited me to participate. She must have known the opportunity would provide an outlet to stimulate creativity and redirect the energy behind Unsatisfactory conduct grades. I often remember Mrs. Crow—her willingness to intuit my potential and to give my wild and free young mind purpose. Because Mrs. Crow saw potential in me, I was encouraged to see it for myself. Similarly, I strive to help students—especially ones who don’t pass the entrance exam—discern their own potential. I’m reminded to patiently look for and intentionally draw out the gifts and talents each student brings to the classroom and our world.*

*–Jonathan T. Warnock, Tri-County Technical College*

*Someone that has made a great impact on my life as an educational mentor is my English 100 Professor Jonathan Warnock. Although I completed English 100 in the fall of 2017, Professor Warnock has continued to help me grow as a student as well as a Human Services professional. Professor Warnock strongly encouraged me to present at SCADE 2018, and since then I have presented at SCADE 2019 and SCOSS 2020. By learning to present at these educational conferences, I now present at Human Services conferences as well as train other professionals through the presentation format. Without a doubt, the mentoring I have received from Professor Warnock has given me the ability to become a better professional as well as a student at Anderson University.*

*–Michael W. Crouch, FAVOR Upstate*

## SCOSS Wants You

Please support the South Carolina Organization for Student Success, a community of students and educators, by sharing updates about the cool things happening at your institutions.

Respond to Mentor Stories by sharing a short description of a mentor who has impacted your educational journey.

Are you presenting at the 2022 NOSS conference or another conference. *SCOSS News* wants to highlight your session summary.

Have you recently completed a graduate degree or earned a new professional title? *SCOSS News* wants to recognize you.

## FAQs

### Q: What type of submissions will *SCOSS News* accept?

A: *SCOSS News* is designed with Dev Ed practitioners in mind. Submit articles and short write-ups about topics including but not limited to the following:

- Tips and Tricks
- Teaching and Learning
- Best Practices
- Student Success
- Research and Data
- Intuitional Innovations

### Q: How do I submit?

A: Email Word documents to [jwarnock@tctc.edu](mailto:jwarnock@tctc.edu).

### Q: Who can submit?

A: Anyone—submissions from SCOSS members and others involved with its goals will be considered.

