

# SCOSS NEWS



## South Carolina Organization for Student Success

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

Please support our community of students and educators by sharing updates about the cool things happening at your institutions, in your classrooms, and around your college communities.

## Message from the President

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

I am deeply thankful for your support as we continue to work together to support our students and spark interest in our organization. I am grateful for what we have already accomplished in the first few months of this year. With the help of our President-Elect Mourning Pace, we now have our new logo on some great merchandise like stadium cups, magnets, and pens.

We are actively planning for the in-person 2022 SCOSS conference. We hope to see all of your smiling faces in one place again reaffirming friendships and making new ones. Whether we meet on a mountain in the Upstate, near the coast in the Low Country, or in the convergence of the Midlands, we look forward to coming together for our 40th Annual Conference!

Additionally, I would like to mention a few of the goals I have set for my administration. It has always been a dream of mine to present at the SC Technical Education Association conference. On Friday, February 18, that dream became a reality when members of the board presented an informative session at the 2022 conference held in Myrtle Beach. In the coming months, I also hope we can update our Policies and Procedures Handbook. Finally, I would like for us to consider establishing a new scholarship in memory of our colleague and dear friend Mr. James Williams, who served many years as a valuable member of the board and teaching faculty at Greenville Technical College.

In closing, I appreciate your support and efforts to make our organization a vibrant collaboration which will aid our students to success.

Best regards,

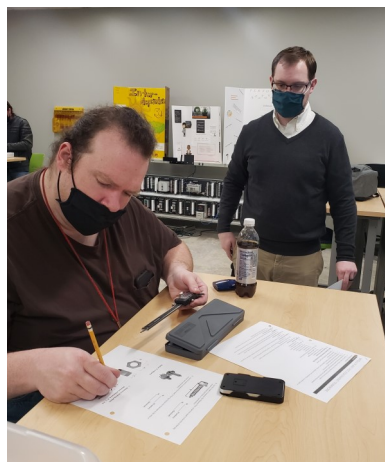
Charlene Lanford

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## Student Spotlight

Submitted by Jennifer B. Hulehan,  
Dean, Academic & Career Foundations,  
Tri-County Technical College

MAT 032 content is embedded into the MFG 101 class. The math is contextualized for manufacturing, making it more relevant to students. This prepares students with the math skills they need in the workforce and for further postsecondary education. Upon successful completion, students will be ready for MAT 170, the math required for Engineering and Industrial Technology majors. James is currently exploring Welding and Mechatronics as options after I-BEST. He completed his GED at Oconee Adult Ed in November. He'll be a college graduate by May! Plus, he'll have the basic education and skills training to succeed—that's the beauty of I-BEST, which is a one-semester program. Staff can learn more about I-BEST, including some FAQs that will help them help students decide if I-BEST is right for them at [tctc.edu/ibestinfo](https://tctc.edu/ibestinfo). The public website is [tctc.edu/ibest](https://tctc.edu/ibest).



*I-BEST student James Pitts uses a caliper to complete a math exercise with Immediate Past President Jonathan Chastain, ACF math instructor and Comprehensive Studies Department Head.*

## In the Works

We hope to fill this space with innovations, projects, and developments you and your colleagues are currently working on. Are you and your team building a new student scholarship or funding program? Maybe you're organizing a departmental or institutional professional development opportunity, writing curriculum, or planning a special event. Please accept this invitation to share whatever is In the Works in your college communities.

## Keeping Adjunct Development a Priority

Submitted by Dr. Lisa B. Martin, Dean, Instructional  
Development & Academic Support, Piedmont Technical College

**Piedmont Technical College** is keeping adjunct professional development a priority. Not only do they offer a full day of professional development each fall through their Adjunct Expo, but they are also now working on growing a professional-development fund adjuncts will be able to use to attend selected professional-development opportunities relevant to their content areas.

## Two SCOSS Members Receive State Awards



*Melissa Collins was awarded Faculty Educator of the Year from Spartanburg Community College at the 2022 SCTEA conference.*



*Melinda Hoover receives Faculty Educator of the Year from Tri-County Technical College at the 2022 SCTEA conference.*

## SCOSS Board Members Present at SCTEA



On Friday, February 17, four members of the board co-presented an informational session at the annual South Carolina Technical Education Association conference at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. During the presentation, President Charlene Lanford, President-Elect Mourning Pace, Immediate Past President Jonathan Chastain, and Past President Jonathan Warnock shared a brief history

of the organization's 42-year existence, ways its mission is being fulfilled, and membership benefits. Please join SCOSS in applauding the members who labored to make this longtime goal a reality and in celebrating two new members who joined during the presentation using the new online membership form.

**Do you want SCOSS to present at your college or conference event?**

**Let us know by contacting an executive officer, or simply post your request on the SCOSS Facebook page.**



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## Staying Connected with SCOSS

Submitted by **Michael W. Crouch, Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist, Oconee Center Program Manager, Faces and Voices of Recovery Upstate**

Although I am an active member of SCOSS and NOSS, I do not work in the educational field. I have begun a different career path in human services. With that said, I have been very intentional about remaining involved in some fashion with SCOSS, developmental education, and the Comprehensive Studies department at Tri-County Technical College. Since 2018, I have done this by presenting at three out of the last four SCOSS conferences, and this year I will have the honor of attending my second NOSS conference and co-presenting with one of my former Comprehensive Studies instructors. My experience in developmental education has been and continues to be extremely beneficial. Whether it be presenting about my experiences or the networking opportunities I am exposed to, staying connected with SCOSS has been a great experience in my life.

## Scholars Among Us: Presentations & Publications

Are you or another SCOSS member presenting at a conference this semester? Have you recently facilitated another professional development activity or published an article, paper, or book? SCOSS wants to recognize your achievements and to celebrate with you. Please share your expertise with the greater membership. Submit the title of your book or name of the conference along with your session title and session summary.



After completing teacher recertification classes through ETV, **Mia Tensely** was asked to write a guest blog post for SCETV's series. In her entry, she discusses how she adjusted her teaching methods in response to the pandemic. You can access her article "Flying a Plane in Turbulence while Orchestrating a Magic Show during a Pandemic" using this link: <https://www.scetv.org/stories/2022/flying-plane-turbulence-while-orchestrating-magic-show-during-pandemic>.

At the 2022 NOSS conference, **Charlene Lanford** and other members of the NOSS Website Committee will co-present "NOSS Chapter Websites: How Can We Make Ours Better?"

**Session Summary:** Do you struggle with website maintenance? Are you satisfied with your digital footprint showcasing your NOSS chapter? Join us to learn more about developing your chapter website. Topics will include: the NOSS brand, ADA Compliance, Electronic Payments, Best Practices, Social Media, and the historical relevance of keeping our Chapter documents.

**Jonathan Warnock and Michael Crouch** will co-present "Investing in Intellectual Relationships with Role Models and Mentors."

**Session Summary:** "One repays a teacher badly if one remains only a pupil." With this in mind, engagement in intellectual relationships with role models and mentors is one of the most valuable characteristics of a successful college experience. In this session, two former DevEd students will share their lived experiences.

## Presentations & Publications (continued)

**Jonathan Warnock** will also present a version of his presentation from the 2021 SCOSS conference entitled “Who/What Took the Enjoyment of Teaching? Let’s Get It Back!”

**Session Summary:** Teaching has become more stressful since the onset of the coronavirus crisis. With this in mind, the latest Declare Joy Workshop will expose the data-supported elephants in the room: our struggle to adjust to teaching post-Covid and our need to overcome stress, avoid burnout, and restore the enjoyment of teaching.

## Call for Award Nominations

It’s never too early to nominate outstanding students and colleagues for SCOSS Awards. Start working today on nominations from your institution.

Don’t allow the accomplishments of others to go unnoticed. Recognize them as something special.



## Conference Updates

Get Ready! President-Elect Mourning Pace and the Conference Committee are beginning preparations for the in-person 2022 Annual Conference. More details will be coming soon.

## Thought for the Quarter



Who do you encourage in your daily personal and professional life? Who lifts you up? Spend some time thinking about these people today and in the weeks and months to come. Share with your encouragers your gratitude for them, and consider sharing your thoughts with SCOSS.

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## Meet the SCOSS Board



**President Charlene M. Lanford** is a veteran educator who has devoted over 28 years to teaching students throughout South Carolina. Charlene has taught Pre-K through graduate-level courses during her career in public, private, and parochial schools. She currently teaches at Piedmont Technical College for the College Preparatory and Transitional Studies Department as well as the Early Care and Education Department. She earned a bachelor's degree in History and Applied Music from Newberry College, a master's degree in literacy from the University of South Carolina, and an educational specialist degree in teaching from the University of South Carolina. She has additional graduate work in Montessori Education from Lander University and is a National Board-Certified Teacher in Early Childhood Generalist. Charlene is currently highly qualified and certified in History, Elementary, Music, and Literacy. Charlene lives with her husband Andrew and their two children John Andrew and Elizabeth in Little Mountain, SC.



**President-Elect Mourning G. Pace** has been an instructor at Tri-County Technical College since 2013. During those years, she has been a lecturer for the Comprehensive Studies department, secretary of Faculty Senate, and an adjunct in the Mathematics department. She retired in 2020 from the state but still enjoys teaching part time at TCTC. She has been a SCOSS member for many years, serving on the board as the Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator. Mourning enjoys SCOSS for the comradery and networking that comes from belonging to the organization. Before coming to Tri-County, she spent 22 years in public school, primarily high school. She has 3 children, 1 dog, and lives in the house she grew up in. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and playing games online.



**Treasurer Audrey D. Hearst** has worked part-time as a Financial Aid Call Center Representative at Piedmont Technical College since 2018. She retired in 2015 from a full-time position as the Testing & Tutoring Coordinator. She has been a member of SCOSS for more than 10 years, and she has served as the Treasurer for many of those years. Audrey enjoys helping students with their education by providing them the opportunity to receive a scholarship.



**Secretary Dr. Lisa B. Martin** is a passionate educator who has devoted her 23-year career to working with community college students. She has served in various roles on the SCOSS Board since 2009 including member, president, and secretary. She remains an active SCOSS member because of its emphasis on promoting and encouraging student success and appreciates networking with other educators who have a heart for students. Additionally, she 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 (16).

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## Meet the SCOSS Board (Continued)



**Immediate Past President Jonathan T. Chastain** serves at Tri-County Technical College as the Developmental Math Program Director and, currently, the Interim Department Head of Comprehensive Studies. He has been a member of SCOSS for five years, serving as the President-Elect and President in 2020 and 2021 respectively. He has also attended three NOSS conferences. Jonathan enjoys being involved in this

organization because it is a great way to meet and connect with employees of other colleges across the state who value the success of under-resourced students. The conferences and newsletters are a great way to network with fellow faculty and to hear what other instructors are doing in their departments and classrooms.



**Dr. Brittany Aga** currently serves as the First Year Experience Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology and Human Services at Lander University. Dr. Aga has been a member of the SCOSS board for less than a semester, but she is looking forward to continuing to serve and learning from her peers. She is honored to serve on the board because student success is her passion. She continuously strives to find new and

innovative ways to reach our students and better understand groups and individuals who enter our universities and colleges each day. Along with personal growth, Brittany loves to identify new strategies to incorporate into first-year classrooms to ensure student success and engagement and an enlightened college experience.



**Rachel Flaherty** is the Academic Program Coordinator for MAT 031/032/101/102/170 at Trident Technical College, where she has been a full-time instructor since 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from Presbyterian College and a Master of Science in Mathematics from Western Carolina University. She joined the board in 2020, and she values being a member because it provides an opportunity to

connect with other faculty members in the state and to share ideas on how to improve our students' success. Rachel's hobbies include hiking, quilting, and traveling to places like Japan—where the picture of her (included with this short bio) standing among thousands of lily pads was taken.



**Thomasina Hughey** is a "Phenomenal Woman" as expressed by one of her favorite authors Dr. Maya Angelou. She is a native of Wagener, South Carolina, and has earned higher learning degrees respectively from, the University of South Carolina, Michigan State University, and again, the University of South Carolina. She admits, "You got to love those Gamecocks to graduate twice." She is a member of Saron Baptist Church. There, she first accepted and

continues to confess, "I am an unashamed ambassador of Jesus the Christ. I am a valuable member of several extended families. I strive to be worthy of my faithful friends." It is her sincere desire to teach, to empower, and to instill into the soul of every student their worth that can be further enhanced by accepting her invitation to learn and to develop as critical readers, writers, and thinkers in a literate-rich society. It is her goal to afford every learner the opportunity to become educated, engaged, and employable members of this multi-culturally diverse and constantly evolving society. She joined SCOSS when she began teaching in 2006 and has served as secretary as well as coordinator for conference sessions. She appreciates the ability to share ideas with other DVS colleagues and the support of a group like SCOSS. The NOSS motto, "Helping underprepared students prepare, prepared students advance, and advanced students excel," expresses her goal to empower students to own responsibility in their learning at their level. For example, students will often ask her if they can pass the class. Thomasina responds, "Absolutely—because it is up to you. How motivated are you?"

## Meet the SCOSS Board (Continued)



**Brandi Mullinax** is a Transitional Studies Instructor at Spartanburg Community College and has been teaching English, reading, history, and college skills courses for more than fifteen years. She holds degrees including a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, a Master of Arts in European History, and a Master of Arts in English.

Brandi has been a member of SCOSS for many years, serving as President-Elect in 2017 and President in 2018. She loves being a member of SCOSS because it gives her joy being surrounded by educators who truly love and want the best for students.



**Jonathan T. Warnock** has been teaching developmental English classes at Tri-County Technical College since 2013. He has been a member of SCOSS since he attended the 31st Annual Conference the same year at Embassy Suites in Greenville, and he credits his department head, now dean, for consistently encouraging first-year and veteran instructors to get involved with the organization. He joined the board in 2016, serving as

President-Elect in 2018 and President in 2019. Jonathan earned an Associate of Arts from Tri-County Technical College and a Bachelor of Arts in English with Honors from Anderson University. He is a graduate of the National Center for Developmental Education's Kellogg Institute and a former DevEd student. After years of procrastination, he is finally pursuing a master's degree. His three favorite things about SCOSS are the people, the people, and the people.

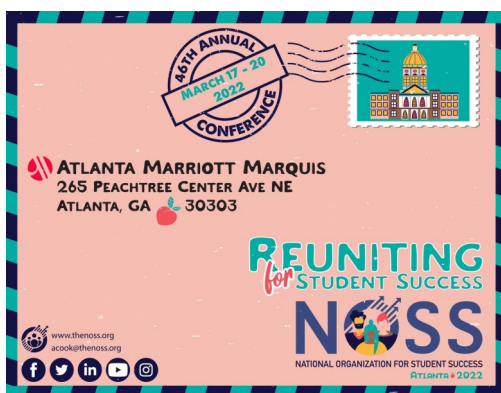


**Mary Kate Wilson** grew up in Tennessee, graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1989 with a degree in English, and completed graduate coursework at Converse College. She moved to Greenville in 1995 with her husband, Tom, raised three children, and became a grandmother last summer! Since 2003, she has taught Transitional Studies English and Reading at Greenville Technical College. In addition to her teaching

responsibilities, she also works as an advisor with the GTC Right Start program assisting incoming GTC students with the registration process. She joined the SCADE (now SCOSS) Executive Board in 2014, and in 2020, she served as SCOSS President. Currently, Mary Kate is SCOSS Awards Chair and looks forward to many more years of service.

## SCOSS Chapter Meeting at NOSS 2022

Join other educators from around South Carolina on Friday, March 18, for the annual SCOSS Chapter Meeting. See familiar faces, meet new ones, and hear SCOSS updates. Don't forget to bring with you your own ideas about how we can improve our organization. If you're attending the NOSS conference, then we hope to see you Friday afternoon in Room A705 at 4:15.





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## 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, in your classrooms, and around your college communities.

Additionally, contribute to recurring columns like Student Spotlight, In the Works, Publications and Presentations, and Mentor Stories.

## FAQs

### Q: What types of submissions will SCOSS News accept?

A: SCOSS News is designed with DevEd 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 submissions and inquiries 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.

