

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 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,

Greetings from the longest day of the year! Yes, Summer Solstice is upon us as I write this message to you hard-working, dedicated members of our organization. I hope that you all will be able to rest, recharge, and return in the fall with new drive and purpose for our students.

During this season, I have had the opportunity to work with some great folks in SCOSS across our state. We are currently updating our Policies and Procedures handbook for the first time in 8 years! A lot of changes have occurred since then. Where were you in 2014? What were you teaching? Were you teaching? Were you a member of SCADE? How has your life changed since then? How have your students changed? How has our organization changed? Where is this line of questioning going? Well, I will let our president-elect Mourning Pace explain in greater detail the events that we have in the works for our fall conference. I'm excited about the work she's doing to celebrate the ongoing success of SCOSS. People like you, educators and learners, are totally worth celebrating.

In addition to updating our website and policies and procedures, I am involved in a professional development book club with members from other NOSS affiliates. I anticipate sharing some meaningful take aways from this with you.

I would like to thank you for this once in a lifetime chance to work with you as we strive to do our best for the students in our state. I've included a meaningful photo taken on my Mother's Day getaway to Hatteras Island. Enjoying the beauty of this glorious creation.

Best regards,

Charlene Lanford



Honor Roll Recognition for Students Enrolled in Transitional Studies Programs at Greenville Tech

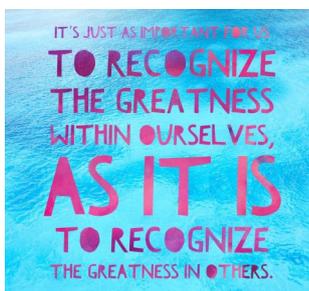
Submitted by Mary Campbell & Mary Kate Wilson, Transitional Studies English Instructors, Greenville Technical College

Greenville Technical College's Transitional Studies Department wanted to acknowledge its students for their academic success. Several years ago, the department began hosting an honor roll reception and awarding certificates to its Honor Roll with Distinction students (who took at least one Transitional Studies course with 12 or more credit hours overall and earned a GPA of 4.0 for the term) and Honor Roll students (who took at least one Transitional Studies course and earned a 3.4 or higher GPA for the term). Receptions are held during the fall and spring terms.

When pandemic restrictions temporarily halted the receptions, the TS Department created an online Kudos Board to recognize its high-achieving students and allow faculty and staff to write congratulatory messages to them. The Kudos Board was so well received that the tradition continued as in-person receptions resumed in Spring 2022, when 7 Honor Roll with Distinction and 38 Honor Roll students were recognized. In addition, both honor rolls are posted on the college website. Students who are recognized consequently feel pride in an accomplishment that, for many of them, seemed out of reach. The Transitional Studies Honor Roll continues to serve as motivation and encouragement for students as they make their way toward curriculum-level coursework.

Scholars Among Us: Presentations & Publications

SCOSS recognizes its members' achievements and celebrates with them. Please share your expertise with the greater membership by submitting the title and a summary of your publications and conference presentations.



At the 2022 National Conference for the Acceleration of Developmental Education, **Crystal Pitrois-Takayama**, Comprehensive Studies Program Director for English and Reading at Tri-County Technical College, presented a poster session entitled "Adapting the Montessori Method for the Multi-Level English Classroom."

Poster Description: Maria Montessori championed underrepresented and underserved children in Italy in the early 20th century. Montessori's philosophy stemmed from the idea that all children can learn if given the right structure and support. Her method consisted of high expectations, allowing choice for the student, and individualizing instruction to tailor activities and assignments to each student's own needs. This poster session addressed the accelerated learning program model in the ENG 150 course. Each student received a level-appropriate set of benchmarks allowing all students to move at their own pace. Writing topics were individualized and tailored to each student's level and interest.



9th Annual Teaching & Learning Day at Tri-County Tech

Submitted by Lynell Hecht, Learning Support Coordinator, Tri-County Technical College

Academic & Career Foundations at Tri-County Technical College is excited to be celebrating our 9th Annual Teaching & Learning Day on August 2nd! This year's theme is "Together: Upward Bound."

Teaching & Learning Day provides prospective and veteran instructors and support staff with valuable insights into how we can best serve our student population both inside and outside the classroom; structures and strategies for cultivating the foundational knowledge and behaviors necessary for students to succeed in college and life; and tools to effectively serve academically fragile and under-resourced populations

OUTCOMES:

- Articulate the goals, purpose, and philosophy of the Academic & Career Foundations Division.
- Become familiar with relevant department policies and procedures.
- Summarize the key components of Academic & Career Foundations Department initiatives.
- Experience and learn appropriate pedagogical styles and techniques for Comprehensive Studies and I-BEST courses/students.
- Describe the characteristics of underprepared/under-resourced students.
- Become (re)acquainted with the relevant course syllabus (or syllabi) and plan(s) for the new academic year.

Beginning with a light breakfast and whole group gathering to reenergize attendees and provide updates, a series of professional development sessions are offered. These sessions provide opportunities to share ideas, learn from each other, and have exposure to new and innovative best practices. The goal is for every session to provide an easy-to-implement takeaway.

Subject area groups meet for lunch and receive training and new information specific to their areas. It is also a time to bond, ask questions, build confidence, and establish stronger connections within their teams.

And what gathering would be complete without awards, drawings, and prizes? To end the day, faculty and staff gather again as a whole group to recognize exceptional colleagues & special achievements, hear reminders & closing remarks, and for a variety of prize drawings. Ultimately, our students benefit from our time together, and attendees leave a bit more confident and empowered in their roles.



Conference Updates

Please mark your calendars. The 40th Annual SCOSS Conference will be held on November 4th at the beautiful Midlands Technical College Airport Campus. We are looking forward to seeing you all there. Call for Proposals and more information will be coming soon. Follow SCOSS on Facebook for conference updates.



Welcome New SCOSS Board Members

Please join SCOSS in welcoming two new members to its board of directors. Thank you, Mary and Michael, for your willingness to serve.



Mary Campbell began teaching English at Greenville Tech as an adjunct in 2008 and became a full-time faculty member in Transitional Studies in 2012. A graduate of Furman University and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. and an M.A. in English, she has enjoyed teaching developmental and curriculum English classes as well as integrated reading and writing and freshman seminar. Recently, she has taught a variety of accelerated options, including English Plus (English 101 plus RWR 100 co-req), fast-track English 100 to English 101, and English Studio. Mary became a member of SCOSS shortly after joining the Transitional Studies Department. In 2016, she was honored to receive the Outstanding Service to Students Award. She believes that SCOSS helps us support one another and that together we are better educators and advocates for our students. In her down time, Mary likes reading, hiking, spending time with her family, and walking her sweet (but a sneaky chewer) rescue pup.



Michael Crouch has been a member of SCOSS since he attended and presented at the 36th Annual Conference *Transforming Classroom Grades into Life Grades* in 2018. Since that time, Michael has completed his progression through developmental coursework and has earned two undergraduate degrees: Associate in Arts from TCTC and Bachelor of Human Services from Anderson University. He credits much his educational achievement to participation in developmental education courses at TCTC. He enjoys sharing his positive experiences with others, hoping to motivate them to discover and utilize external and internal resources for success. Michael is passionate about recovery and often shares ways he applies DevEd principles in his role as Oconee Center Program Manager with Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) Upstate. As a person in long-term recovery, Michael has overcome problematic substance use and maintained a lifestyle of health and wellness since 2013. Recovery has allowed Michael to become a father, husband, and productive member of his community. Having family and community-based recovery support has been key to Michael's success in recovery. Michael's family includes his wife Anna, son Lane, and mother Deborah. He is a National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist, State Certified Peer Support Specialist, and State Certified Peer Support Specialists Trainer.

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Welcome New Board Members (continued)

Being a member of SCOSS has allowed Michael to give back in ways in which he was helped as a student at TCTC and to remain part of a truly life-changing educational program. Michael may not be an instructor or even work in the educational system, but his membership in SCOSS provides him the opportunity to participate in unique experiences that promote developmental education. Michael believes that developmental education empowers students to believe in themselves and to understand their full potential. He is very excited about joining the SCOSS board.



SCOSS members Jennifer Hulehan, Nikki Williams, Sharon Yarbrough, Kelly Mieszek, Charlene Lanford, Mary Campbell, Jonathan Warnock, Michael Crouch, and (snapping the picture) Mourning Pace take a break from the SCOSS Chapter Meeting at the 2022 NOSS conference in Atlanta.

Can you spot our two new board members?

Mentor Stories

Mentors are people who guide and lead. They shape our lives by seeing our potential and encouraging us to become better. Mentor Stories not only warm our souls. They inspire other SCOSS members to recollect with gratitude a mentor from their personal or professional journey. Thank you to Mary Kate and Thomasina for painting beautiful portraits of mentors and friends.

“Two main categories of people are needed in your circle—those who give you the necessary support to accomplish your dreams and those who become beneficiaries of what you achieve.”

—Israelmore Ayivor

In my 19 years at Greenville Technical College, I have greatly benefitted from the input of several mentors. However, two of my GTC colleagues stand out for their warmth, selflessness, and their constant willingness to help yet another “student” find her way at the college. When I took a job as an adjunct English instructor in 2003, my friend, Susan Perry, who taught in the GTC English department, was hugely important in helping me transition from being a stay-at-home mom to returning to the teaching game. With Susan’s unflinching encouragement, generously shared resources, and coaching, I was able to navigate my new work environment, organize my schedule and curriculum, and get the hang of teaching Developmental English for the first time. Susan was always ready to share a laugh or offer support whenever I went to her whether I was in tears or enjoying a small victory. Susan left GTC several years ago when she moved to Florida, but I still think of her fondly and with much gratitude.

Another mentor I could not have survived without is Jan Bishop. Though she is several years my junior, Jan has been at Greenville Tech longer than I have, and for many years served as Transitional Studies Department Head. Because Jan’s office was right across the hall from mine, I wore a path constantly nagging her for advice, counseling, and, always, a good laugh. To me, Jan is the epitome of tolerance and restraint, and not once did she ever exhibit impatience or exasperation with even my most ridiculous/frustrating “needs”. Instead, Jan always calmly and wisely offered reasonable solutions and flexibility when I needed it. In fact, whenever I would present her with an obstacle that, to me, seemed insurmountable, Jan would remind me, “It’s not brain surgery,” which always helped me to re-evaluate. Jan is so down-to-earth and relatable that it is sometimes easy to forget she is also has one of the sharpest minds I have ever encountered; she doesn’t forget any detail, and she never misses a trick! My experience with Jan Bishop is not unique. She has mentored everyone in our department at some point, but my relationship with Jan as a leader, a co-conspirator, and a friend is one that I will forever treasure. Jan remains the soul of Transitional Studies at Greenville Tech.

—Mary Kate Wilson, Greenville Technical College

Mentor Stories (continued)

Mrs. Lavenia Morgan-Sapp is an Educator I have always respected and admired for a Grace and modeled commitment to excellence. She was my Business Writing Teacher at Wagener-Salley High School. She taught me typing and shorthand. While I have very bad handwriting, I am a very good typist. Shorthand is a lost art that I really enjoy. Mrs. Sapp also served as the Faculty Advisor for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). In this organization, she encouraged me to run for Officer of the State Chapter. I did and won the position of State Secretary. Mrs. Sapp and I are still in close relationship today. She earned her doctorate degree later in her life and, most importantly, her licensure in the Ministry. She is now Rev. Dr. Lavenia Morgan Sapp. Finally, I think it's significant to share she invited a senator to be our speaker during one of the FBLA Installation Services. I do not remember his name, but I remember the poem he read aloud. Afterwards, I asked the senator for a copy of the poem. Upon receipt I committed it to memory. This poem has been a standard of living for me.



Rev. Dr. Lavenia Morgan-Sapp and Mrs. Thomasina Hughey pose together after an FBLA meeting back when.

–Thomasina Hughey, Aiken Technical College

Myself

By: Edgar Guest

I have to live with myself and so
I want to be fit for myself to know.
I want to be able as days go by,
always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
and hate myself for the things I have done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf
a lot of secrets about myself
and fool myself as I come and go
into thinking no one else will ever know
the kind of person I really am,
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.
I want to go out with my head erect
I want to deserve all men's respect;
but here in the struggle for fame and wealth
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know
I am bluster and bluff and empty show.
I never can hide myself from me;
I see what others may never see;
I know what others may never know,
I never can fool myself and so,
whatever happens I want to be
self-respecting and conscience free.



Rev. Dr. Lavenia Morgan-Sapp and Mrs. Thomasina Hughey continue their lifelong friendship in the present day.

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, Scholars among Us, 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.

Q: Who can submit?

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

Q: When is the submission deadline?

A: Submissions for the fall issue of *SCOSS News* must be received by Tuesday, September 13.

Visit our website -
WWW.SCNOSS.org

**Conference Award
nominations are
now open and will
close on September
30th.**

