

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,

As I sit back and admire the lights on our Christmas tree, I am reminded of our conference theme "Still Celebrating Our Shining Stars." This theme brings to my recollection the challenge that we are to be a light for others. I can honestly say that as educators who support students enrolled in developmental and transitional courses we light the path for others through our instruction, our words of encouragement, and with an understanding heart. Often times we are the bright light for our students as they juggle life with family, work, and school.

I want to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given to me over the past year, especially board members who helped brainstorm ideas, made presentations, and assisted with travel to conferences. I would also like to thank my colleagues at Piedmont Tech and throughout the state who shared ideas and donated their time to our cause of student success.

This calendar year, I have had the pleasure of traveling across the state and to Atlanta to represent our organization. I have also participated at the national level as a member of NOSS' Website Committee and as a guest panelist as far away as Michigan with the LAND Conference. As a board, we presented at SCTEA in February to raise awareness of our organization and the impact we have on student success. It has been a delight to represent the Palmetto State and to be a voice for our students and our field.

As I sign off as your SCOSS President, I would like for you to welcome Mourning Pace as your newly-elected President. She is a delight to work with, and she will do amazing things with your support in the new year. May you all have a blessed holiday season and a healthy and happy new year!

Only the best,

Charlene Lanford



Conference Overview

Mourning Pace, President-Elect



The 40th Annual SCOSS Conference was held on November 4th at the Academic Center of Midlands Technical College in Columbia, South Carolina.

This was our first in-person conference in two years.

It was so exciting to be able to network with our fellow SCOSS members.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and professional development offered.

The day started with our opening assembly followed by our Keynote Address given by Dr. Galen DeHay, President of Tri-County Technical College. Dr. DeHay spoke on the Student Success Journey and how colleges can focus on 3 points—access, completion, and post-secondary economic mobility—to help students be successful. “To some, developmental education is a bad word,” Dr. DeHay advised, “but we’re going to need more of it.” After the opening session, we had 2 concurrent sessions of presentations concerning empowering educators and various ways to connect with students and subject matter. The day ended with a luncheon and awards.

2022 Award Winners

Outstanding Former Developmental Education Students

The nominee must be a person who participated in a developmental education program and has gone on to become an outstanding member of a profession, thereby exemplifying the effectiveness of developmental education. The recipient receives a \$100 check and an engraved plaque.

The award for **Outstanding Former Developmental Education Student** was presented to **Michael Crouch**. During the developmental sequence, Michael learned to utilize available resources for support and to encourage and uplift others around him. He continues this effort in his current role as Program Manager of the Favor and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) Upstate Oconee Center. FAVOR provides free services to families and individuals affected by substance use disorders. As the Program Manager, Michael is responsible for supervising other staff members, developing and maintaining community partnerships, and working with individuals affected by substance use disorders. Michael's duties also involve training other peer support specialists and sitting on the state certification commission. Michael has spearheaded the implementation of a program that targets individuals with substance use disorders within the criminal justice system. Additionally, he manages a program funded through the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and other Drug Services (DAODAS) that has opened and now maintains a recovery center. Michael's latest project is working towards creating a recovery-friendly business community by educating employers on substance use disorders and the stigma related to addiction. Michael works one-on-one with people reentering the workforce following treatment or maintaining employment while participating in peer recovery support services, and he assists people enrolled in college, vocational rehabilitation training, and other certification programs. Developing a career related to his life struggles has helped him overcome those struggles. Michael has been able to find fulfillment by giving back to his community. Many graduates of developmental education successfully complete coursework and go on to become successful college students and productive members of society, but few actively give back to the field of DevEd by intentionally integrating its principles into their personal lives and professional roles. In his publications and conference presentations, Michael often attributes his success to principles of learning and life that he gleaned as a college student enrolled in developmental coursework. “I am always developmentally learning,” he often says. He is truly a testament to the effectiveness of developmental education.

The award for **Outstanding Former Developmental Education Student** was presented to Dale Herron. Dale began his studies in developmental coursework at Tri-County Technical College and successfully completed his certification in the HVAC program. Dale is now teaching HVAC courses as an adjunct instructor at TCTC.

Way to Go!

Award Winners (Continued)

Outstanding Service to Students

The nominee must be a person whose work exemplifies the developmental education philosophy. He/she must demonstrate excellence in teaching or appropriate professional skills (tutoring, counseling, administration, etc), responsiveness to individual students, and commitment to professional growth. The recipient receives an engraved plaque and a check for \$100.

The award for **Outstanding Service to Students** was presented to **Pamela Altstatt**. Pamela is a full-time personal trainer who has trained many people over the years. She was recruited to teach Lifetime Fitness and Wellness at Tri-County Technical College more than five years ago. She has helped grow this class to more than 8 sections a semester, and she faithfully trains new adjunct instructors. Her passion to help others set and reach goals for physical fitness and overall wellness is a contagious and encouraging motivation to students in her classes and coworkers in her professional development sessions.



SCOSS award recipients Pamela Altstatt and Michael Crouch hold their plaques at the 40th Annual Conference.

Welcome New SCOSS Board Member

Please join SCOSS in welcoming a new member to its board of directors. Thank you, Jill, for your willingness to serve.



After working for WestPoint Home from 2003 – 2007, **Jill Williams** began her teaching career. She taught high school math for one year and then moved to teach math at the college level. Since 2008, she has been teaching developmental and transitional math courses in part-time and full-time capacities at Greenville Technical College and Tri-County Technical College. Not long after she began her current full-time position as Academic Advisor to Pre-Business Students at

Clemson University in 2018, she was promoted to Coordinator of the College of Business's Living Learning Community for first-year business majors. Jill received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences from Clemson University in 2002. She is currently on track to complete a master's degree in Business Administration from Clemson University in May 2023. She has been a member of SCOSS since it was SCADE. Although she hasn't been a member of SCOSS for the last two years, she's excited about renewing her membership, reconnecting with old friends, getting more involved with the organization, and serving on its governing board. She loves this group because she and her SCOSS colleagues all have a common goal of doing their best to help students learn and also to help them mature. Jill lives in Central, SC, with her husband and three sons. She has two adult sons and a daughter who don't live at home as well as two grandsons.



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 student success and 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
- Institutional 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 next issue of SCOSS News must be received by **Wednesday, March 15**.



Thought for the Quarter

“You truly changed my life.”

This is repeated again and again in every community college and developmental education class in this country. Researchers may not be able to measure it, but we know we change lives. We know we help that single mom or dad stay in school or if they do leave, we make sure they know they can always come back. We celebrate at graduation whether it is at 3 years or 8 years, and although that may not “look good in the data,” it feels great in our hearts.

Thought shared by Dr. Robin Ozz with members of the National Association for Developmental Education (formerly NADE, now NOSS) during her 2016-2018 presidency.