

# 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

Greetings, fellow SCOSS members:

I would like to formally introduce myself. I am Mourning Pace, a retired educator that continues to teach at Tri-County Technical College. As part of my official duties, I would like to thank you for being a member of this organization.

I have two goals for this year:

1. I would like to extend our reach to bring in more members from 2- and 4-year institutions. We have seen a decrease in our roster in recent years, and we need to rectify this. I urge you all to contact people in your departments, buildings, and campuses that you feel would benefit from joining us. If you would like me or other members of the board to come speak at your college/university, please let me know. We can take this show on the road!
2. I would like to encourage you to become more involved with this chapter of the National Organization for Student Success. If you have an interest in something you think we should be doing or talking about or information you believe we should be sharing, let us know. This organization is about facilitating student success on all levels, and we want to hear from you. Write an article for the newsletter, present at a conference, email me or other board members your thoughts and concerns—we are so much stronger when we work together. Visit our website for board member names and email addresses.

I would also like to invite you to our Spring Conference on April 19 at the Newberry Campus of Piedmont Technical College. I hope to see a good crowd there as we discuss being *All In for Student Success*. Call for Proposals and Call to Conference will be coming to you shortly. The Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you, again, for being a member of SCOSS, and I hope you have a great year!

Mourning Pace

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## Student Spotlight

Written by Zak Watt, Tri-County Technical College

Love is a tear on your cheek and a funky sounding banjo  
Love is also Al Green and a big Afro  
Love is giving your mom an unexpected hug  
Love is two kids cuttin' a rug  
Love is a little extra salt and pepper  
Love is hugging the leper  
Love is inside you  
All around

Love is a nap on the couch  
Love is being nice when your friend is a grouch  
Love is not calling yourself a bad name  
Love is not playing the blame game  
Love is connecting with your inner child  
Love is when you smile  
Love is inside you  
All around



## SCOSS Members Say, “See You Next Time” to Longtime Secretary & Treasurer

Please join the Board of Directors in wishing Dr. Lisa Martin and Mrs. Audrey Hearst, longtime SCOSS Secretary and Treasurer, a fond farewell. These hardworking SCOSS peeps have served our organization with diligence and care for longer than most of us have been members. We'll miss seeing them at the registration table for our annual conference as well as on the screen during quarterly business meetings. Thank you, ladies, for giving part of yourselves to SCOSS. We hope you'll remember how much you're loved and appreciated as you embark on the next season of personal and professional endeavors. SCOSS members don't say goodbye. They say, “See you next time!”



## 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 publication or presentation along with a brief summary.



At the 2024 NOSS conference, **Crystal Pitrois-Takayama** will present “The Invisible Backpack: Unpacking Our Biases to Create a Culture of Care.”

**Session Summary:** The Invisible Backpack is a representation of all of the experiences – positive and negative – that people bring with them to their classes. Being aware of these experiences allows us to take a more empathic and compassionate approach to support our students in reaching their highest potentials. In unpacking our own “invisible backpacks,” we become aware of our implicit biases and of our tendencies to make negative assumptions about how colleagues and students show up for us. This presentation will allow for a discussion of how unpacking and looking with compassion at our own positive and negative experiences can help unlock any preconceived notions we have about our students or colleagues, allowing for a safe, compassionate place where standards can be high and rigor can be expected, all in a space of empathy and in a culture of care.

**Alex Burrell and Jonathan Chastain** will co-present “Express Track Mathematics: Upping the Ante on Acceleration.”

**Session Summary:** We all know an abundance of developmental mathematics courses can be a barrier to students. However, eliminating coursework or placing students into a class for which they are not prepared is not the answer. Tri-County Technical offers a course in which students enter with their current math skills to acquire the math and study skills needed to be successful in their subsequent coursework. This course includes acceleration through developmental coursework, individualized learning paths, teaching student success behaviors, small group instruction, and modularized placement into the next math course. The presentation will include an explanation of the course including how students are placed into and out of the course, how a class day is set up, interactive math success activity, and examples of the graded and ungraded assignments of the course.

## SCOSS Chapter Meeting at NOSS 2024

Join other educators from around South Carolina on Thursday, February 15, 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 Ballroom F at 4:15.



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## Conference Updates

The 2024 spring conference will occur Friday, April 19, at Piedmont Technical College. Make plans now to attend or present. Are you All “In” for Student Success?



## Call for Proposals

The SCOSS Program Committee welcomes any proposals on topics related to education, personal health, the joys of teaching, and the conference theme SCOSS 2024 Spring Conference All “In” for Student Success. Proposals should, however, be based on sound theoretical practices, research, and ongoing practices in the field of education.

**Appropriate topics** are not limited to but may include:

- Community building and belonging
- Self-efficacy, advocacy, and equity
- Self-awareness, stress management, and/or conflict resolution
- Instructional delivery techniques and technologies
- Student personal responsibility
- Teaching and learning techniques for struggling students
- Programs for non-native, L2, translingual language users
- Supportive systems such as tutoring and coaching
- Methods to facilitate student success

**Session Format:** Forty-five (45) minutes is allotted for each presentation, including question and answer time. Sessions may include lectures/discussions, hands-on activities, panel presentations, demonstrations, and other effective methods.

**Procedure:** Complete the electronic proposal form, including an abstract and session summary.

- **Abstract:** In approximately 200 words, describe your session. Include (a) objectives, (b) content of your presentation, (c) application to the conference theme, and (d) summary of major points.
- **Summary:** Type a summary (maximum 50 words) with the title of the presentation and the name(s) of the presenters. If your proposal is accepted, this summary will appear in the program.

**Deadline:** March 22, 2024

**Use the QR code or this link:**

<https://forms.gle/Fhta7tVghDk2xEhR7>.

A committee will review all proposals and contact you by March 27, 2024.



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## Thought for the Quarter: NOSS President's Letter

*If you have a boss who encourages you by seeing your potential, who advocates for you by standing with you, and who offers you advice by listening to you, then you may never work a day in your life. NOSS President Dr. Meredith Sides has been this type of leader for our national organization. May her words uplift, encourage, and challenge you today and throughout the rest of the semester.*

Colleagues,

This is my last President's letter to you.

I have been on the Executive Board of NOSS for the last eight years of my life. For eight wonderful years, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the good work that NOSS does and the absolute dedication that its volunteers have for the members and the broader field and community. I have been able to learn from some inspiring people who helped me grow. It has been an invaluable experience that has changed my perspective on some things and solidified my belief in other things.

Over the past two years, I've shared a number of my thoughts and observations with you in these President's Letters. I'd like to briefly revisit some of those, as well as share some new bits of encouragement, as I sign off for the last time:

- Know that the work you do every day is good and important and impactful and that every student you help, every colleague you support, and every policy you contribute to makes a difference.
- Believe in yourself and forget about the meanies who want to tear you down—don't let them.
- You don't need to have the title of "leader" or "boss" or to be in charge of anything or anyone specific in order to lead and make change where you're at.
- It's okay to be the lone voice or vote. It's okay to take a stand and then change your mind. It's okay to not know what you think about something.
- Acknowledge your mistakes and learn from them. It is 100% guaranteed that you'll make more in the future. That inevitability takes off a lot of the pressure for perfection.
- Being an educator takes a lot of everyday courage. While that necessity might be unfair, embrace the fact of the matter and let go of the fear.
- Say yes to new experiences and opportunities for growth. Definitely say yes to things that scare you a little bit. Embrace discomfort.
- You are not an imposter. You belong. You have a unique voice and perspective, and we need you.
- Value the lessons of the past, but adapt to the present and swiftly approaching future. The future is not as scary as it could be because we are not alone; we all have each other.

It has been the greatest honor of my professional career to serve as NOSS President and to have the opportunity to do my small part to help move our organization forward into the future. Thank you for that.

As I tell my students every day, go out into the world and do good things!

Meredith



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## Meet the SCOSS Board



**President 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 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.



**Secretary Carlotta Chapman** has been teaching for more than thirty-five years. Carlotta, who is a Golden Apple Award winner and former K-12 educator and curriculum coordinator, currently teaches English, reading and writing (RWR), and college skills courses at Piedmont Technical College, where she has served in a variety of professional leadership roles: College Preparatory/Transitional Studies (CPTS) Department Head; Faculty Senate President and Vice-President; Delta Kappa Gamma – Rho Chapter Secretary,

Treasurer, Vice-President, and President. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master of arts in teaching from the University of South Carolina. Additionally, she holds certifications in the Ortin-Gillingham approach to reading, Middle Level Language Arts, Secondary Language Arts, and Secondary Administration. Carlotta enjoys traveling and especially seeing her new, vivacious grandson. Other interests include attending concerts with friends, vacationing with family, singing in the church choir, arranging church blood drives, and managing a local Good News Club. She describes herself as blessedly married with two successful sons, beautiful daughters-in-law, and a prissy Pomeranian. SCOSS is valuable to Carlotta because it provides a student-centered network for people who are continually seeking ways to improve instructional methods in constantly changing tides. SCOSS provides a time, a place, and a purpose so that student success is a focus, not a by-product.



**Jonathan T. Chastain** serves at Tri-County Technical College as a math instructor and 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 several 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.

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## Meet the SCOSS Board (Continued)



**Melissa Collins** holds a BS in mathematics from Appalachian State University with a minor in secondary education. She also holds an M.Ed. from Converse College. She is employed at Spartanburg Community College and teaches Mathematics in the Transitional Studies Department. In addition, she serves as the Academic Director for Online Transitional Studies

classes. She has previously served as the Academic Director for Transitional Studies Math as well as the Academic Director for College Orientation classes. She has been teaching full-time at SCC since 2000. Between the years of 1991 and 2000, she worked as an adjunct instructor and as a learning specialist in the Tutorial Learning Center. SCOSS (formerly SCADE) is important to her because it emphasizes and highlights the needs of underprepared students. College readiness is a true barrier to individuals who either did not see the importance of education when they were younger OR to those who, for whatever reason, did not have all the skills needed to enter professions they wanted to pursue. Simply put, developmental education at the 2-year college level is life-changing, helping individuals develop skills to enter a career field they desire. Melissa has been a member of SCOSS most years since 2000. She feels her life's work has been in helping people realize their academic abilities and overcome fears they may harbor regarding "school" and specifically "math." She looks forward to having a more involved role in SCOSS.



**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?"

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## Meet the SCOSS Board (Continued)



**Janie Hamrick** is the Academic Director for English in the Transitional Studies Department at Spartanburg Community College, where she has been teaching English, reading, and psychology for twenty-three years. She holds a BA and MLA in English, and she has recently started the dissertation process for a Ph.D in Higher Education Administration: Educational Leadership. She enjoys helping others and being involved in activities where she can make a difference, and SCOSS is one of those places. She is a longtime SCOSS member and Past President who's thankful for opportunities not only to gain the latest knowledge and best practices in the field. She also receives rejuvenation from making connections with colleagues and actively participating in the advancement of her profession beyond her home college. Janie has 4 children (3 daughters and 1 son) who keep her busy. Her son plays travel baseball, so their family is at the ballfield more than they are at home. Janie's husband works for the sheriff's office. When they are not at the ballfield, they enjoy traveling.



**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.



**Jill Williams** began her teaching career after working for WestPoint Home from 2003 – 2007. 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.



**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.



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## 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.

## 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:

- Tutoring & Coaching
- Teaching and Learning
- Best Practices
- Student Support
- Research and Data
- Institutional 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.

Visit our website -  
[WWW.SCNOSS.org](http://WWW.SCNOSS.org)

