

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

Hello SCOSS friends,

As I sit here trying to plan a whole summer in the week I have off between summer and fall semesters, I scroll Facebook, watching all these kiddos going to school for the first days of high school and middle school and kindergarten. It takes me back to all the falls and all the new beginnings that I've experienced in my 32 years of teaching. Fall is about new beginnings for me, and it always has been. As a teacher it always will be. Fall is a time to start over and try to do things just a little bit better for my students during the new academic year. Fall is a time of anxiety but also excitement. When I taught high school, I'd get that jittery, I-can't-sleep feeling the night before the first day of classes that my students would get. It's not quite the same teaching college because I have a lot more control and a little bit less turmoil than at a normal high school, but I still hope I never lose that sense of new beginnings in the fall—a new start and a new opportunity to see students grow and succeed, because I have made choices that help make that happen.

As we start this fall semester, whatever you do—whether you're an instructor or an advisor or a financial aid specialist or a student success coach or a housekeeper or a food service worker or anyone who impacts students at a place of education—, I hope you begin the fall semester with a sense of joy, a sense of newness, and a sense of opportunity, because that's what we want our students to see and feel and embody. We want them to sense that there is a path. There is a beginning to an end that will help them be who they are and become who they want to be. I envision brand-new sneakers and big-old backpacks on tiny, little, adult people wearing smiles and excitement that they have for their new school year and bright futures. If we can keep that alive in our students at the college level, I think we're going to be doing something amazing this year. I know sometimes it's hard for us to put on our own new sneakers and our proverbial backpacks and get excited about another year. But guess what? For our students, this is a new experience. For our students this is a new opportunity. Let's give them all the chances to enjoy this newness and to revel in that and to see what's there that they might be able to grasp onto and pull themselves into the future where they dream to be. I challenge you all to embody that first-day-of-school energy when your semester starts for fall, and I'm going to be right there with you with a new lunch box. Maybe it'll even have the Smurfs on it. I'll be styling!

Yours in Unity,

Kim



Greetings from the President-Elect

Suzanne Hall, University of South Carolina Upstate

Dear fellow SCOSS members,

It is my joy to share with everyone associated with the South Carolina Organization for Student Success a huge hello from the center of the state, Columbia. We had a wonderful time this past April at the SCOSS Spring 2025 conference. A huge thank you to those who shared their tools and techniques for cultivating student success. It was a wonderful time to meet new people, rekindle old relationships, and remember why we enjoy investing in those within our community through providing quality educational experiences. We barely tucked away the decorations from spring before work began on the fall conference. I cannot wait to see everyone this fall when we congregate in Myrtle Beach on the first weekend of October.

The SCOSS fall 2025 conference theme is Anchored in Student Success. It is my hope that you will find a place for you to be involved in the conference. Please check out the opportunities available to deliver a poster presentation during the Friday morning breakfast, to facilitate a 45-minute presentation during one of the concurrent session times, or to share a hot topic in education you think would be a great conversation starter during our Saturday morning roundtable session led by Kim Garnett at the hotel breakfast.

We have been working closely this summer with the folks at the Grand Strand Campus of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College, the Residence Inn Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, and Hilton Garden Inn Myrtle Beach to ensure this conference has something for everyone. Please reach out if you have questions or suggestions about how you would like to get involved.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your SCOSS president during the upcoming year. I am enthusiastic about the educational opportunities we provide students throughout our state. If I have not met you, I look forward to getting to know you and collaborating with you as we move South Carolina students forward by anchoring them in student success.

Sincerely,

Leigh Suzanne Hall

Spring 2025 Conference Recap

Kim Garnett, Midlands Technical College

Spring is seen as a season of growth, planting, rebirth and renewal. And I feel our spring conference on April 04, 2025, at the Northeast Campus of Midlands Technical College met the expectations of spring in so many ways. Our theme of Cultivating Student Success hit home with sessions that provided much needed camaraderie for attendees as well as knowledge about and insight into our students and our schools and the state of our educational system.

We had about 40 attendees representing 12 educational organizations from around the state of South Carolina. Our keynote panel featured student success coaches Sierra Oliphant, Grace Alger, Hameen Shabazz, Kristopher McCoy (from Midlands Technical College), and Ross Hughes (from Tri-County Technical College). These educators have spent much time, energy, and love working with students to make them as successful as possible. Their insights into what we can all do to improve the lives of our students, not just academically but overall, was inspiring and down to earth. We received some great advice from these coaches who have been in the trenches with many different types of students. The keynote panel was surely a highlight of the day.



Spring 2025 Conference Recap

Our concurrent sessions focused on educator fatigue, comprehensive enrollment and advising, math success, and failure in higher education and how we can grow from that. Attendees noted that the session leaders were all phenomenal and impassioned about their topics. Many thanks to our session speakers: Michael Crouch of Prisma Health, Kerwin Graham and Tarsha Brown of Greenville Technical College, Claire Houle of Midlands Technical College, and Jonathan Chastain of Tri-County Technical College.

From intimate lunchtime discussions to the ever-famous SCOSS door prizes, everyone enjoyed themselves and left feeling invigorated about our field. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the growth of our organization and the future possibilities that we have to make even more impact.

We are currently planning our next conference. We're going to move back to the fall format which has been delayed for a few years. We're planning a big event for fall 2025 that we hope will be even greater than our successful spring conference. That success will depend on even more involvement from people like you. Please consider presenting or volunteering or attending. One of the beautiful things about NOSS and SCOSS is how easy it is to become involved. Come check us out and be part of leading our students to success.



Fall 2025 Conference Updates



The fall 2025 conference will occur Friday, October 03, at the Conference and Business Center on the Grand Strand Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College (950 Crabtree Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577), and Saturday, October 04, at the Residence Inn Myrtle Beach Ocean Front (2605 S Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577).

This year's conference theme is emblematic of the fact that when anchored in student success education is the vessel that transports students from where they are to where they want to be. As advisors, coaches, teachers, administrators, and other guides in the field of student success, we help students chart their path, steer through storms, avoid hazards, identify beacons of light, stay on course, and navigate the waters of college and life. If you are passionate about student success, then plan to hoist sails, catch wind, voyage to Myrtle Beach, and drop anchor with SCOSS.

Registration will open September 01.

Thank you to Copilot for assisting in the generation of an "image for student success conference including anchor."

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. 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 and study skills
- Teaching and learning techniques for struggling students
- Programs for non-native, L2, and translingual language users
- Learning support systems such as tutoring and coaching
- Methods to facilitate student success
- Advising and recruitment
- Internal and external institutional partnerships
- AI in the classroom and beyond

Concurrent 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.

Poster Presentation Format: Poster sessions will showcase visual representations highlighting creative approaches to services offered at your institution designed to anchor students in success during their academic development. Conference attendees can view posters and discuss the student services represented with presenters during the opening breakfast. Posters will be presented from 8 to 9 AM on Friday, October 03, and on display through lunch. Presenters will be stationed at their posters to explain and discuss their work during this time.

Procedure: Complete the electronic proposal form, including an abstract and session summary. Submit your proposal by using the link <https://forms.gle/VM4KauM9UTSb2UnA9> or the below QR code.

- **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: September 15

Use the QR code or this link:
<https://forms.gle/VM4KauM9UTSb2UnA9>.

A committee will review all proposals and contact you by September 22.



Trident Technical College Improves Math Placement Procedures

Rachel Flaherty, Trident Technical College

After almost 2 years of research and planning, Trident Technical College (TTC) has successfully implemented new math placement procedures. Working with TTC's Vice-President's office, Institutional Research, Admissions, Registrar, Student Success Center, and many others, new procedures were developed to address declining math course success rates. A key goal of the project was to create a data-driven approach to placing students in the appropriate math courses.

The research collected data on students who took MAT 110 (College Algebra), MAT 120 (Probability & Statistics), and MAT 155 (Contemporary Math) between Fall 2021 and Spring 2023. This data was collected from institutional research and excluded dual enrollment (DC) students and summer semesters. The analysis identified several factors that increased a student's likelihood of passing a math course. For example, a student with more than four cumulative TTC credits was 2.25 times more likely to pass MAT 110 and 2.11 times more likely to pass MAT 120 than other students. For MAT 155, having more than four cumulative TTC credits made a student 1.88 times more likely to pass. Other factors contributing to success in MAT 110 included a cumulative TTC GPA of 3.0 or higher, a weighted high school GPA above 4.075, or an ACT Math score greater than 23. For MAT 120, a SAT Math score above 510 or an Accuplacer Arithmetic score above 276 significantly increased a student's chances of passing. For MAT 155, an ACT Math score above 18 or an Accuplacer QAS score above 240 were positive indicators of success.

The research also identified factors that increased the likelihood of a student failing a math course. For MAT 110, an Accuplacer Arithmetic score of 282 or below, a weighted high school GPA of 4.075 or below, or an ACT Math score of 23 or below were all linked to a higher chance of failure. For MAT 120, an SAT Math score of 510 or below or an Accuplacer QAS score of 259 or below increased the likelihood of failure.

Based on these findings, TTC implemented new math placement procedures, including revised placement scores and an adjustment to the Associate in Science degree requirements. The new procedures, effective as of May 15, 2024, have shown positive results. The overall success rate for all math courses, excluding DC students, rose from 49.3% in Fall 2023 to 61.3% in Fall 2024. Specifically, MAT 110 success rates increased from 43.5% to 55.0% , and MAT 120 success rates saw an increase from 46.0% to 61.1%. The success rate for online MAT 120 courses also improved, rising from 39.3% to 59.0%. A similar increase from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 also occurred, which has in-turn increased the overall TTC success rates. The Fall 2023 - Fall 2024 overall TTC success rates improved by 3.5% and from Spring 2024 - Spring 2025 the success rates improved by 3.9%.

To summarize the placement procedures, new students who enter into TTC are initially placed into a math course based on their South Carolina Weighted HS GPA. Each student is then given the opportunity to improve on that initial course placement by either taking one of TTC's two placement exams, Accuplacer or TTC's created math department exam, or by submitting ACT Math or SAT Math Scores.

Data was collected from Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Greenville Technical College, and York Technical College to assist in adjusting TTC's procedures. TTC is very grateful for the assistance of our sister institutions of higher education.

Rachel serves as an instructor of mathematics and program director for MAT 110: College Algebra; MAT 111: College Trigonometry; MAT 112: Precalculus; MAT 115: Analytical Foundations for Calculus; MAT 170: Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry 1. She can be reached at Rachel.Flaherty@tridenttech.edu.



Promoting Our Own

Have you or another SCOSS colleague received a promotion or assumed a new role? Keep your SCOSS colleagues up to date by sharing news and details you feel comfortable sharing. Your SCOSS family wants to congratulate and support you.

Way to go, **Michael Crouch**! Your SCOSS family believes in you!

SCOSS Member Michael Crouch has officially entered the world of higher education. Since he joined SCOSS as a student enrolled in developmental coursework at Tri-County Technical College in 2018, Michael has remained actively involved with SCOSS by attending and presenting at conferences and participating in other professional development offerings. Since 2022, he has served on the SCOSS Board. In July of this year, he accepted the position as the Director of Greenville Technical College (GTC) Center for Collegiate Recovery. Founded in 2018, The Center for Collegiate Recovery (CCR) at GTC delivers student-driven services, fosters social support development to support recovery, and promotes academic excellence. The purpose of the CCR is to recruit, retain, and graduate GTC students by reducing stigma and maintaining an environment conducive to recovery.

As a former developmental education student, Michael understands the importance of student success services and how impactful they can be. Michael also values the importance of peer-based social support for people living with and in recovery from substance use disorders (SUD). After seven years as an addiction professional, twelve years in recovery, and working in multiple settings, Michael has found his dream job, as it combines both SUD recovery and student support services. CCR at GTC provides students with the opportunity to experience meaningful relationships with peers, participate in career development, attend sober social events, and become a Certified Peer Support Specialist like Michael.

Michael credits much of his success to embracing the concept of learning beyond campus and educational mentors such as Jonathan Warnock, John Woodson, and Alex Eaton. Much of Michael's process has involved overcoming fear and not giving up. Michael is now in the position to give back what has been given to him throughout his years of education and career development. For more information about collegiate recovery and the GTC program, please touch base with Michael at the next SCOSS conference or contact him at Michael.Crouch@gvltec.edu or 864-280-5579.

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 article along with a brief description, or send the name of your conference along with your session title and session summary.

Thought for the Quarter

“As summer ends, we welcome the fresh energy of a new semester, trading slow mornings for the rush to make that 8 a.m. class or meeting. As we settle back into the routine, let’s seize every opportunity to make a meaningful impact in our students’ lives. The challenges in education are real and often tough to navigate, but our students need us to stay steadfast and committed to their growth. We’ve got this!”

Shared with NOSS members by current NOSS President Glynis Mullins in her August 2025 President’s Letter.

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, piloting a corequisite course, 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 student success programs 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.

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