



The Palmetto

**SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

www.myscccec.org

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

Sailing into Success

Thank you for attending the 2009 Annual Professional Development Conference in North Charleston. The Executive Committee and Board are very pleased with the attendance and sessions provided at the conference. We had 315 in attendance at the conference, which was held at the North Charleston Convention Center and Embassy Suites. There were 72 sessions available with several of them being double sessions. We received 25 evaluation forms. Here are the results from those evaluations.

	Fair	Good	Excellent
Facilities =		24%	76%
Program =	8%	12%	80%
Registration =		16%	84%
Sessions =		52%	48%
Overall =		48%	52%

Positive comments made include: great math sessions, very informative and a variety of sessions, networking with colleagues and great facilities. Some items that we can work on include: simpler program with a time schedule, adding variety to sessions, having meeting space for chapters to meet, a cash bar for snacks, moving the vendors closer to sessions, make program available ahead of time and having a sufficient number of copies of the certificates. I would like to make a few comments based on these concerns. First, I believe the At-a-Glance provides a sufficient time schedule for participants to follow. The program simply provides a more detailed

scheduled with the summaries, provided by the presenter, of the sessions. An email was sent to all subdivisions and chapter presidents asking them if they would like to reserve a space for a chapter meeting. Thank you to TED for taking advantage of this opportunity. To decrease the cost of the conference, it was suggested that we provide a cash bar for snacks and drinks. Although this is a great idea, many venues will not allow this option. This would also have to be included our contract with the venue. In regards to the vendors being closer to the sessions, please remember it was scheduled for the Awards breakfast to be held in Ballroom A and B, which only leaves Ballroom C available for vendors. We have worked with our webmaster. The conference program was available on our website the week of the event. Finally, we are unable to predict how many participants will attend each session. Therefore, an equal amount of copies are made for each session. Additional copies of the certificate can be made at the registration desk. Thank you all for your comments and suggestions. We will make these changes in order to provide you with a wonderful conference again next year! I do want to encourage everyone to submit a Call for Proposals to Susan Burkett. She will be looking for them for our 2010 Conference in Myrtle Beach.

KARA MERRITT, PRESIDENT-ELECT

Resolution Honoring Susan Dorsey Durant

Whereas Susan Dorsey Durant was a public school Teacher for Eleven years in Atlanta, Georgia and Kershaw County, South Carolina; And whereas she was an administrator and instructor at the Kershaw County Vocational Center; and whereas she served as Director of programs

for the handicapped for ten years in Kershaw County; and whereas she served as director and executive director of special education for ten years in Richland county School District one; and whereas she served on the board of directors of

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South Carolina
COUNCIL FOR
EXCEPTIONAL
CHILDREN

President's Reminders

- Next Executive Board Meeting: Saturday, March 21st 11:00am at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC
- We will have a business meeting and continue working on our goal, mission, and objectives.
- VIP Awards: Chapter or Sub-Division Presidents from 2007-2008 should submit their information to Jill Chapman by June 15th.
- Chapter and Sub-Division Presidents should be working on nominating and electing officers for the 2009-2010 term.



Resolutions Chair, Debbie Gunter presents Susan Durant with a SC CEC Resolution in her honor.

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the south Carolina school for the deaf and blind, the south Carolina society for children with autism, national association of state directors of special education; and whereas she served on the advisory board/council for the national Center for Teacher quality, the national center for Post Secondary outcomes, the university of South Carolina Center for Excellence in developmental disabilities, pro-parents, Kershaw county mental retardation, Kershaw county infant stimulation, and the south Carolina special education Advisory Council on the education of students with disabilities; and whereas she has been a member of the council for exceptional children and the council of administrators

of special education; and whereas she was given the outstanding advocate award from both the South Carolina council for exceptional children and the national association of school psychologists; and whereas she has served as director of the office of exceptional children of the south Carolina department of education for eight and one half years; now, therefore, be it Resolved that the south Carolina council for exceptional children, convened at its annual professional development conference in north Charleston expresses to Susan Dorsey Durant its gratitude for her service to the special education directors, teachers, parents, and, most of all, the students with disabilities in the state of south Carolina.

SCCEC 2008-09 Awards

This year's Awards Ceremony was marked by a standing ovation and not a dry eye in the house as Ruth Lilly shared the moving story of SCCEC's 2009 Principal of the Year, Mark Porter, of North Myrtle Beach Elementary School. Mark's dedication and service to the exceptional children in his life make him a role model for school administrators and others providing services to children with disabilities.

SCCEC annually recognizes dedicated service providers in the education field. These awards for outstanding service to exceptional children honor general and special educators, advocates,

and administrators who go above and beyond to serve students with special needs. Nominations for these awards are also subject to a blind peer review. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

- **General Educator of the Year**
Angela Powers, Forest Lake Elementary
- **Advocate of the Year**
Shana Meyer, Daniel Island Elementary
- **Member of the Year**
Debbie Gunter, Lexington 2 Schools
- **Rookie Teacher of the Year**
Valerie Steen, Lexington 3 Schools
- **Para-Educator of the Year**
Laura Ness, Griggs Road Elementary

Congratulations also go out to winners of SCCEC's Instructional Grants:

- **Sarah Jumper**
Spartanburg School District 7, "K9 STARS: Animal Assisted Therapy in Special Education"
- **Robin Boylston**
Barnwell High School in Barnwell District 45, "SPANS Employability Diploma Program- Job Portfolios"
- **Joan Mott**
Fort Dorchester Elementary School in Dorchester 2, "Project Small Wonders"



Retired SCDE Office of Exceptional Children's Director Susan Durant with SC CEC 2009 Principal of the Year Mark Porter.



SC CEC Para-Educator of the year Laura Ness (center) with classroom teacher Patty Myers (left) and Laura's daughter Courtney Ness (right).



SC CEC Member of the Year Debbie Gunter with SC CEC Board Member Dannie Mays.



Angela Powers receiving her General Educator of the Year Award from SC CEC Board Member Sandy Simpson.

Leadership Training Institute

The Annual Leadership Training Institute will be held in Columbia on June 13, 2009. All subdivisions and chapters should plan to send as many officers as possible. If you have a current constitution, please bring it with you. If your constitution cannot be located, don't worry, we will help you! We will also help you develop your planning document so your upcoming year will be a productive one. Does your group have a special concern that needs to be addressed? Contact Jill Chapman at chapmanjt@earthlink.net.

SCCEC Chapter 165

On January 13th, Chapter 165 held its quarterly meeting at Queenstown Bistro. We had a wonderful turnout! This meeting featured a Teacher Showcase. Six members presented programs being conducted at their schools including Chapter 165 Grant Winner Leah Lewis-MP3 (Math Packs for Parent Participation), Denise Owens-ransition/HIRE, Robbie Compton - Competitive Employment Training Grant, Sandy Frazier-PIE Grants, and Sandy Templeton-Business Enterprise. We hope to see all of Chapter 165 at our next meeting at Queenstown Bistro on Tuesday, March 10th! Our guest Speaker will be Tim Conroy who will be speaking on IEP Failandition.

At the Annual CEC Conference in North Charleston, the Chapter's nominee for General Educator of the Year, Angela Powers of Forest Lake Elementary School in Richland District Two, took the honor. She is pictured here with one of her students, Duncan, who along with his mother was able to attend the Awards Breakfast. Angela is an extraordinary Music Teacher, who according to Duncan's mother "has the gift of bringing out the best in all of her students."



Denise Owens talks to Chapter 165 about RCSD2's Transition Programs.

SCCEC Chapter 272

Chapter 272 had two very successful meetings. In December, we heard Faye Blaser, Educational Consultant from SCDDSN Autism Division, present an interesting overview called "Autism 101" to representatives of all 7 Spartanburg school districts and SCSDB. In January, Sherry Frazier, from Center for Disability

Resources, Pediatrics, USC School of Medicine, presented an informative workshop on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects. Six of the seven Spartanburg school districts, SCSDB, and Laurens County were represented. Our next meeting is planned for March 17.

SCCEC Chapter 451

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children held its annual state professional development conference at the North Charleston Convention Center on January 29-January 31, 2009. This years theme was "Sailing Into Success." Nathan Franklin of Orangeburg Wilkinson High received the Betty Brown scholarship award in the amount of \$1,000. He plans to attend college in the

fall. Barbara Williams President of the local CEC chapter 451 was elected Vice President of the South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children. The local chapter CEC 451 also received an award for membership growth.



Nathan Franklin with Barbara Williams, CEC 451 president.

SCCEC Chapter 877

On February 10, 2007, our chapter meeting will be held online and our guest speaker is going to be Karen Janowski (Assistive and Educational Technology Consultant; Author of the blog-Ed Tech Solutions: Teaching Every Student) who will be talking about Universal Design for Learning. You can find out more about our meetings by going to: <http://cec877.pbwiki.com>. There is also a link for you to go to earlier meetings that you may have missed. All of our meetings are recorded. We hope that our online

meetings (live and recorded) may be a great resource for all CEC members. Please feel free to join us, even if you are not a member of our local chapter.

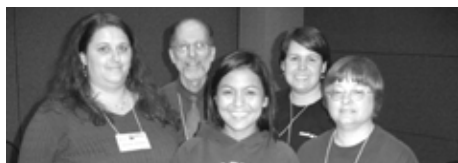
At the January SCCEC conference in Charleston, our chapter was given a Membership Award for increasing membership for our chapter. We are so proud of our award. If you know of anyone in Greenville who is interested in joining our chapter, please let us know or ask them to contact Pat Hensley (loonyhiker@charter.net).

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College Bowl

The 2009 College Bowl, held at the SCCEC Conference in January, was a great success! Four teams participated from College of Charleston, Coastal Carolina, Clemson, and Lander. It was a fun-filled night full of enthusiastic, and hilarious, answers. This year, College of Charleston was the big winner! We look forward to seeing even more teams participating next year!



College Bowl winners College of Charleston.



Team College of Charleston buzz in an answer at the College Bowl.



Onlookers at the College Bowl.

New Officers Elected

Two new officers were elected at the Representative Assembly held in January. Barbara Johnson-Williams from Orangeburg will serve as our new Vice President. Sandy Simpson from Summerville will serve as our new Recording Secretary. SC CEC will surely benefit from their leadership!

Laura Mohr Scholarship

The winner of this year's Laura Mohr Scholarship is Lizanne Ferrell, a student at Clemson University. The Laura Mohr Scholarship is named in honor of long time SCCEC member Laura Mohr and is awarded annually to a deserving college student studying to become a special educator. Lizanne will receive \$1000 toward her studies at Clemson.

Betty Brown Training Grant Winners

Emily Svensen, a senior at Stratford High School in Goose Creek, and Nathan Franklin, a senior at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School attended the awards breakfast this year to accept Betty Brown Training Grant awards. This \$1000 grant is awarded to students with disabilities who plan to continue their education or training beyond high school. These students have been recognized for leadership, academic, and service learning accomplishments. Both have overcome learning disabilities learning to successfully complete high school. Emily plans to attend Lander University and Nathan plans to attend Nascar Technical Institute.



Betty Brown Training Grant winners Emily Svensen and Nathan Franklin with SC CEC President Katie Stapleton (left) and SC CEC Board Member Daria Cronic (right).