

# Summer 2024

# the Buzz



Highlights from  
SCSDB Hornet's Nest



*Congratulations to the Class of 2024!*

Graduates in green gowns celebrate by tossing their caps into the air in Walker Hall's multi-level atrium, decorated with balloons and a "Congrats Graduates!" banner. Onlookers cheer from balconies above, capturing the moment.



# Table of Contents

3-4 ..... **President’s Message**

4-11 ..... **Class of 2024**

12-13 ..... **End of Year Awards**

14-15 ..... **School for the Blind**

16-17 ..... **CSA (Cedar Springs Academy)**

18-19 ..... **School for the Deaf**

20-21 ..... **AAC (Applied Academic Center)**

22-23 ..... **Transition Services**

24-25 ..... **CLRC (Library)**

26-27 ..... **Fine Arts**

28-29 ..... **Athletics**

30-31 ..... **Residential Life**

32-33 ..... **Statewide Outreach Services**

34-35 ..... **SCSDB Foundation**

Distributed to the parents of students currently enrolled at SCSDB, parents of students receiving outreach services, the SCSDB Board of Commissioners, and the SCSDB Foundation Board of Trustees.

Editor:  
**Dorothy Bevill**

Editor/Photographer:  
**Logen Belmont**

Graphics Manager/Photographer:  
**Jeannie Harmon**

Special thanks to  
**Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior),  
Alasia Pifher (senior), Ryleigh  
Rabon (sophomore)** and each  
school for photographs.



[www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org)  
864-585-7777 • 1-888-447-2732  
[info@scsdb.org](mailto:info@scsdb.org)

355 Cedar Springs Road,  
Spartanburg, SC 29302-4699



South Carolina School  
for the Deaf and the Blind

**Dear Friends,**

The end of the school year is always bittersweet! As we highlight our graduates, please join me in recognizing the incredible hurdles they have overcome as most began their high school journeys navigating the pandemic. I am so proud of the resilience and leadership they have demonstrated, and I know you will enjoy reading more about each graduate in this issue.

We are also in the middle of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We are looking forward to Homecoming Weekend (September 27-29) with old and new friends, and welcome you all to join us in Spartanburg! If you have never visited our beautiful campus or it’s been a while, please come spend a day with us—you’ll be glad you did.

**Strategic Plan Update:**

• *Student Achievement*

Interim Goal: By May 2024, 81% of students in kindergarten through 5th grade receiving instruction from the SCSDB Reading Interventionist will demonstrate growth related to reading fluency as measured by the Fountas & Pinnell Reading Benchmark Assessment.

SCSDB has met the interim goal for kindergarten through 5th-grade students who receive instruction from the SCSDB Reading Interventionist demonstrating growth. Staff continues to be focused on providing research-based instruction with fidelity. SCSDB partnered with Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB) to provide professional development in reading strategies and assessment for students in the low incidence population. Within the schools, teachers participated in data analysis to address identified weaknesses. SCSDB remains focused on increasing the percentage of students demonstrating growth.

• *Teacher/Administrator Quality*

Interim Goal: By May 2024, 70% of certified teachers at the School for the Deaf, the School for the Blind, and Cedar Springs Academy will demonstrate active monthly usage of the Learning Object Repository (LOR), the shared online curricular content database utilized by SCSDB, as measured by LOR usage reports.

SCSDB has surpassed the interim goal for Learning Object Repository (LOR) usage. All current teachers have completed the Safari Montage certification process. They have also participated in trainings with the Curriculum and Testing Coordinator to support usage. More in-depth analysis shows that teachers are beginning to move from using it mostly for playbacks to increasing content creation and uploading materials for others to use.

• *School Climate*

Interim Goal: By May 2024, SCSDB will develop and implement a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program, with ongoing training each year facilitated through Professional Learning Communities (PLC), with 85% participation for certified staff.

SCSDB surpassed the interim goal of certified staff participation in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) regarding Social Emotional Learning. SCSDB has prioritized the implementation of school-wide support by hiring a fulltime School Climate Coordinator. The coordinator has developed teams within each school to identify gaps and address needs. The coordinator has also coordinated and provided training to certified and non-certified staff in each school, as well as, Residential Life staff, in de-escalation techniques and strategies. Across campus, Zones of Regulation training has been conducted, with pilot programs occurring in each school. The teams have developed



ways to make the information accessible to students with sensory loss. Steps are in place to implement the program campus-wide for the next school year.

• *Agency Priority*

Interim Goal: By May 2024, 70% of certified staff will demonstrate increased proficiency with targeted assistive technologies as measured by pre- and post-survey data.

SCSDB has surpassed the goal of certified staff demonstrating increased proficiency with targeted assistive technologies. Survey data demonstrates that most teachers have moved from emerging knowledge to more proficient knowledge and use of targeted technologies. An Assistive Technology team, with members from all schools, continues to meet monthly to identify needs and discuss new technologies that may be appropriate to utilize. The team also facilitates trainings and leadership in assistive technology in each school.

Wishing you a restful summer and excellent start to the new year!

Best wishes!  
*Jolene Madison*  
Jolene L. Madison  
President, SCSDB



**Celebrating Our Seniors**

Each school held a walk or drop-in to celebrate the seniors! Top left: School for the Blind seniors Landon Lipsey, Tyreece McCoy, Noah Holley, India Hare, and Aleena Hamlin walk around the loop in front of Robertson as their peers and teachers cheer. Top right: Students and teachers at CSA sign yearbooks and give gifts to Jai’anna Jenkins and Noah Berg. Left: Seniors at the School for the Deaf Marquel Latimore, Andres Benitez, Alan Gaona-Lopez, Josh Perkins, Ellis Brown and Alasia Pifher complete their senior walk by throwing math homework up into the air.



School for the Blind graduates Aleena Hamlin, Noah Holley, India Hare, Landon Lipsey, and Tyreece McCoy



The School for the Blind graduates line up on the steps of Walker Hall for a photo.



Cedar Springs Academy graduates Noah Berg and Jai’anna Jenkins  
Not pictured: Guilliam Sanchez-Hernandez



The three Cedar Springs Academy seniors pose for a photo at the beginning of their final school year.



School for the Deaf graduates Marquel Latimore, Andres Benitez, Alan Gaona-Lopez, Ellis Brown, Joshua Perkins, and Alasia Pifher



The School for the Deaf graduates stand together on the steps beside Memminger Hall, with Walker Hall visible in the background.





# School for the Blind



**Aleena Hamlin** Woodruff

Aleena received the Academic Achievement Award, the Blind Female Athlete of the Year, the DAR Good Citizenship Award, and the Dr. Bobby Gene & Mrs. Barbara Harter Rippey Scholarship. Her favorite school activities were participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), Varsity goalball, SCSDB Chorus, and cheerleading.



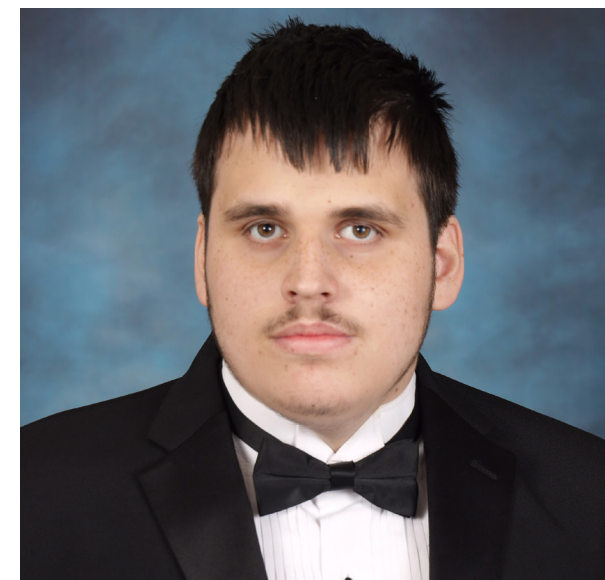
**India Hare** Summerville

India received the Outstanding Senior award and the Spartanburg Civitan Club award. Her favorite school activities were participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), Varsity Goalball, basketball, golf, soccer, and Leo Club.



**Noah Holley** Townville

Noah received the Dunbar Scholarship, and his favorite school activities were participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), basketball, and Leo Club. Through on-the-job training with the SCSDB job placement program, Noah gained welding experience while working at Trebling in Greenville.



**Landon Lipsey** Pacolet

Landon received the Norman Pulliam Award. His favorite school activities were participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), Varsity goalball, SCSDB Chorus, and Student Council. Landon's best memory from his 13 years at SCSDB was traveling to Savannah, GA for a goalball tournament and visiting the Tybee Island Lighthouse. With his white cane, Landon climbed all of the stairs to the very top.

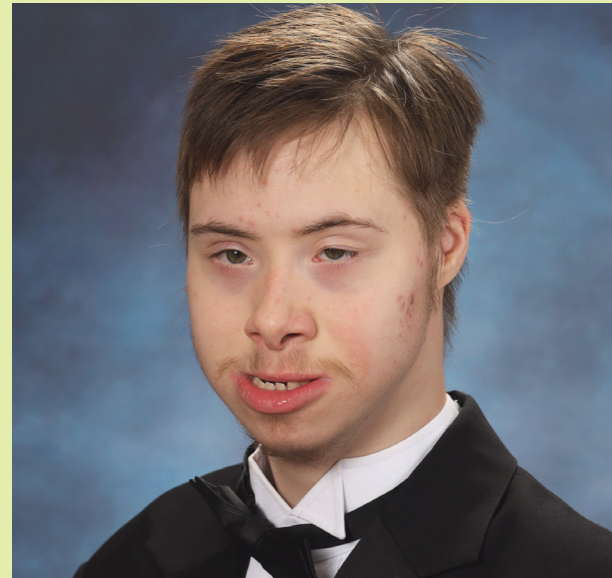


**Tyreece McCoy** Chester

Tyreece received the American Legion Award and the AAC Student of the Year award. His favorite school activities were participating in varsity goalball, basketball, football, SCSDB Chorus, Student Council, the Do Good Feel Good Club, and Leo Club. Tyreece's most treasured memory from his time at SCSDB was traveling to Savannah, GA for a goalball tournament.



# Cedar Springs Academy



**Noah Berg** *Moore*

Noah received the Bill and Valerie Barnet Award and was also crowned Prom King of Cedar Springs Academy for the 2023-2024 school year. He participated in Special Olympics bowling and track and field.

# School for the Deaf



**Andres Benitez** *Newberry*

Andres received the Outstanding Senior award, and his favorite school activities were participating in varsity football, basketball, and track and field all four years of high school.



**Jai'anna Jenkins** *Gaffney*

Jai'anna received the Ruth Millard award for the 2023-24 school year. She was also crowned Homecoming Queen and Prom Queen of Cedar Springs Academy for the 2023-24 school year. Jai'anna participated in Special Olympics bowling and track and field.



**Guilliam Sanchez-Hernandez** *Moore*

Guilliam received the Outstanding Senior Award, and he was also crowned Homecoming King of Cedar Springs Academy for the 2023-24 school year. He participated in Special Olympics bowling and track and field.



**Ellis Brown** *Summerville*

Ellis received the Norman Pulliam Award, the Thomas Hampton Snipes Scholarship, the Bobby Dobson Memorial Scholarship, and the School for the Deaf Academic Achievement Award. His favorite school memory was how his teachers guided him towards success and pushed him beyond his limits to reach his goals.



**Alan Gaona-Lopez** *Central*

Alan received Fine Arts Student of the Year, the Spartanburg Civitan Club Award, the McAlister Scholarship, and an All-region Basketball recognition. His favorite memory was playing quarterback on the football team and winning the homecoming game during his sophomore year.





**Marquel Latimore** Greenville

Marquel received the AAC Student of the Year award and the DAR Good Citizenship Award. His favorite school memory was taking construction classes and going to the store to buy tools using a gift card he received, following his Harbor Freight internship.



**Joshua Perkins** Florence

Josh's favorite school activities were participating in varsity football and basketball all four years of high school.



Christian Washington and Iris Hare act as marshals, leading the graduates down the aisle.



Family and friends pack the auditorium for the ceremony.



Aleena Hamlin, School for the Blind graduate, gives the welcome address to the audience.

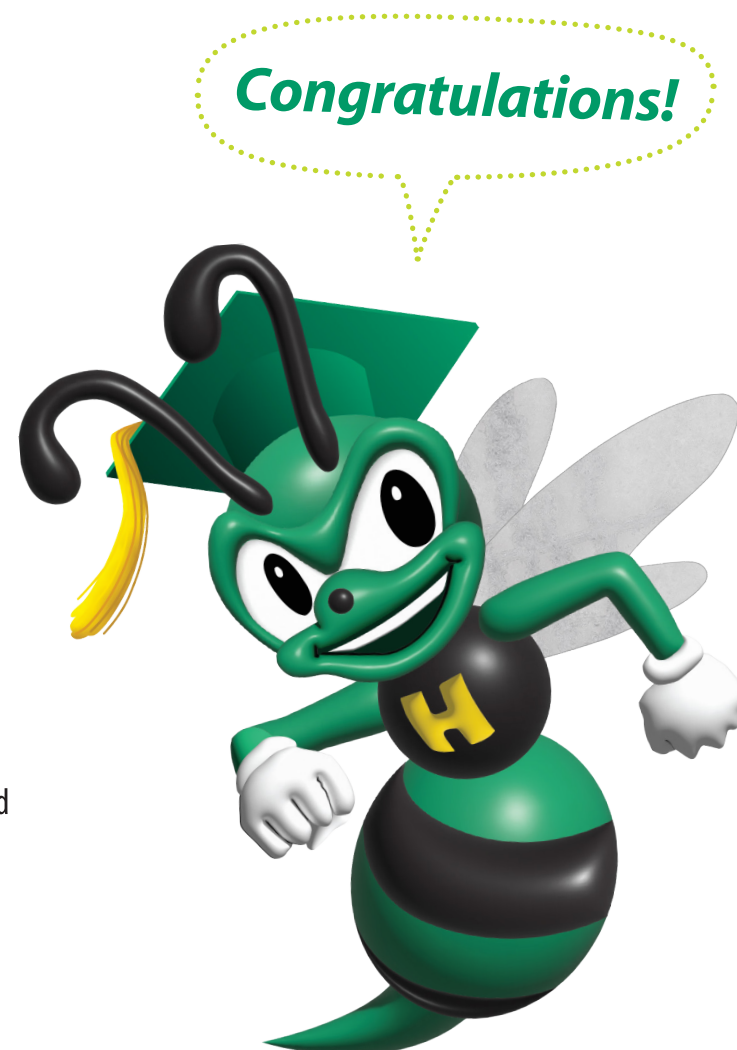


The SCSDB chorus sings "I Am Still Your Dreamer."



**Alasia Pifher** Boiling Springs

Alasia's favorite school activities were participating in varsity volleyball, basketball, and soccer, as well as Yearbook Class and Student Council.



Andres Benitez, School for the Deaf graduate, asks his fellow graduates to stand as he gives the farewell address.



SCSDB President Jolene Madison asks the graduates to move their tassels to the left.



Marquel Latimore, School for the Deaf graduate, gives a high five to a friend in the audience, as the graduates leave the auditorium.



Friends and family watch from second and third floors in Walker Hall as the graduates prepare to toss their caps.



End of Year Awards: Employees, Teachers, and Students

Employees of the year were recognized at the annual Employee Appreciation and Retiree Celebration event, presented by SCSDB Human Resources. Congratulations to the recognized Employees of the Year!



Susan Oneppo  
Retired



Jeffrey Bryan  
Transportation Services Employee of the Year



Kim Morris  
Related Services Employee of the Year



Kris Guy  
Support Services Employee of the Year



Michaela Wilson  
Education Services Employee of the Year:



Sonja Conyers  
Residential Life Services Employee of the Year



Susan Mitchell  
Cedar Springs Academy Teacher of the Year



Rachel Hammett  
School for the Deaf Teacher of the Year



Dr. Adeyanju Okungbowa  
School for the Blind Teacher of the Year



Allison Tracy  
Support Person of the Year



Shannon Wright  
Outreach Teacher of the Year



Taylor Carvajal, 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year  
& Applied Academic Center Teacher of the Year



DJ Peake, Sophomore  
American Legion Award



Elliott Germany, Junior  
DAR Good  
Citizenship Award



Tyreece McCoy, Senior  
DAR Good  
Citizenship Award



Akeylah Howard, Junior  
American Legion  
Honorable Mention



Christian Washington,  
Junior  
American Legion Award



Dacorian Horton, Junior  
American Legion  
Honorable Mention



Marquel Latimore, Senior  
DAR Good  
Citizenship Award



Ca'Mayra Boulware,  
Sophomore  
AAC Student of the Year: CSA



Michael Clifton, Sophomore  
Blind Male Athlete  
of the Year



A'She-Rah Jeter, 8th Grade  
Deaf Female Athlete  
of the Year



Kaitland Davis, Junior  
Fine Arts Student of the  
Year: School for the Blind



Juniors Carlos Caudillo, Akeylah Howard,  
and Brandy Mezquite-Reyes  
Residential Life Services Students of the Year



India Hare, Senior  
Spartanburg Civitan Club  
Scholarship



Aleena Hamlin, Senior  
Dr. Bobby Gene & Mrs. Barbara  
Harter Rippy Scholarship



Ellis Brown, Senior  
Bobby Dobson  
Memorial Scholarship



Landon Lipsey, Senior  
Norman Pulliam Award



Jai'anna Jenkins, Senior  
The Robert and Ruth Joan  
Millard Memorial Award



Alan Gaona-Lopez, Senior  
McAlister Scholarship



# SCSB

## School for the Blind



Allison Tracy and Heilyin talk about what it's like to create a resume using the refreshable braille display.

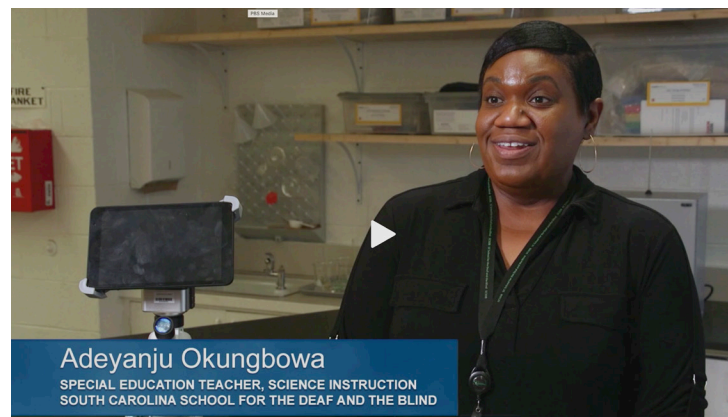
### SCETV features SCSDB students, staff

Did you catch the School for the Blind being featured on SCETV's "Carolina Classrooms" this spring?

In the Teacher Appreciation episode, Dr. Adeyanju Okungbowa's chemistry class demonstrated some of the accessible equipment in the science lab at the School for the Blind, including microscopes with removable cameras, talking beakers, talking scales, and talking color detectors.

The School for the Blind was also featured in the Accessibility Episode of "Carolina Classrooms." Principal Valerie Feiling, Assistive Technology Coordinator Allison Tracy, and Heilyin Sanchez (9<sup>th</sup> grade) discussed some of the assistive technology at the School for the Blind.

Aleena Hamlin (senior) also traveled to Columbia, alongside School for the Deaf senior Alan Gaona-Lopez to participate in South Carolina ETV's #SCETVSafeSpace campaign! She was featured in video spots for the statewide initiative, dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and support among youth in SC.



Dr. Adeyanju Okungbowa introduces the science lab to the Carolina Classroom's audience.



The chemistry class performs an experiment and demonstrates how to use the accessible equipment during the television episode.



Above: Akeylah stands with members of the SCSDB team at a ceremony recognizing her hard-earned nursing certificate.

Left: Akeylah wears blue scrubs and holds her nurse aid certificate.

### Akeylah Howard earns CNA certificate

Akeylah Howard (junior) earned her CNA certificate on March 2 at the Step It Up Medical Training Center in Columbia.

Akeylah Howard worked at the center to earn funds to pay for her course tuition. She completed the 100-hour requirement, alongside maintaining successful academics at the School for the Blind. She frequently worked on the course in the evenings and on weekends.

She will be taking her boards to earn official licensure this summer. Akeylah would love to work in a pediatric or forensic department.



### Independence/Low Vision Day

Led by Dr. Tina Herzberg with University of South Carolina Upstate, Project Magnify, and School for the Blind staff, middle school students explored Spartanburg and practiced using low vision devices in Ingles, Moe's Southwest Grill, and Spartanburg Science Center.

Special thanks to this year's Independence Day sponsors: SCSDB Outreach, Project Magnify and South Carolina Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (SCAER).

Top, left: Aaliyah Zimmerman (6th grade) focuses on finding the right scope before leaving on the Independence Day field trip.

Top right: Ashton Jackson (6th grade) uses his hand-held magnifier to complete the Independence Day activity.

Bottom: The Low Vision Day participants stand in a row in the Spartanburg Science Center classroom.



### Carolina Classrooms

Scan the QR code to watch both episodes!

Left: The camera crew shoots Aleena's SCETV video spot.

Right: Aleena is shown on the camera view during her on-air recording session.





# CSA

## Cedar Springs Academy



Elizabeth Baird presents Trinity Wilkins (4th grade) with the Kiwanis Club of Spartanburg's Terrific Kid of the Year plaque.

### New Principal

Elizabeth Baird has been selected as the new principal of Cedar Springs Academy. Elizabeth began teaching at SCSDB in 2002 and became Lead Teacher at CSA in 2011. "She has been an integral part of CSA's progress and achievements over the past 13 years," said SCSDB president Jolene Madison. "We're excited to see her continue to shape students' lives in her new leadership role!"

### Senior Drop-in/Yearbook

Right: Tristan Bradley (sophomore) signs to the camera while sitting with Melissa Moore and Elliot Germany (junior) during the Senior Drop-in/Yearbook Day.

Below, left to right: Jai'anna Jenkins (senior) holds a gift as Tessa Wilkins describes it. Noah Berg (senior) sits behind the head table while Noah Williamson (kindergarten) and Bethany Hastings sign his yearbook. Ja'Aleeyah Riley (freshman) and DJ Peake (sophomore) hang out during the yearbook signing.



### Special Olympics teams travel to Columbia

Six Special Olympics athletes traveled to Fort Jackson in Columbia from May 10-12. They competed in singles bowling and played three games against traditional athletes from several other areas. They had a very exciting weekend attending opening ceremonies, competition, and a victory celebration. Brandy Mezquite-Reyes (junior) had the highest average score out of all six athletes. The results and average scores were:

#### SILVER MEDALS

Brandy Mezquite-Reyes – 68  
Ca'Mayra Boulware – 53  
Sierra Stefani – 41

#### BRONZE MEDALS

Elliott Germany – 66  
Jakai Coakley – 62  
DJ Peake – 39

GO AREA 12  
HORNETS!



The Special Olympics team stands under a large, blue banner.



The bowling team and coaches stand with their medals after the competition.

### Congrats Azael!

Cedar Springs Academy 7th grader, Azael Cruz, was nominated for the Special Olympics Area 12 Middle School Athlete of the Year and was chosen amongst all Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee county athletes.

He was recognized at the Area 12 local Spring Games event on April 16 at McCracken Middle School, where he competed in a 10-meter assisted walk and ball throw. He also participated in bowling and basketball skills this year.

Left: Azael stands and holds his Special Olympics Athlete of the Year trophy.





# SCSD School for the Deaf



Optimist Club members and competition judges stand with the student winners at the celebratory lunch.

## Optimism can change the world

Students presented Optimist Speeches on May 8 in Swearingen Conference Center to a panel of judges (Calvin Holst, Jubby Rabiou, and Jane Enabore) and the Optimist members (Dan Holloway and Tom Russell). The Optimist Club International Mission is to provide hope and positive vision, bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

This year's presentation topic was "How Optimism Can Change the World."

### Contestants

1st Place: Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior), also the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship prize

2nd Place: Ellis Brown (senior)

3rd Place: Christian Washington (junior)

4th Place: Dacorion Horton (junior)

This contest is designed to offer people who are deaf or hard of hearing the opportunity to present their thoughts in a public forum. This experience helps contestants develop the skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a large audience. The program also provides a valuable opportunity to compete for college scholarships and cash prizes. The Optimist Club provided a celebratory lunch for the participants and judges on May 15.



Dacorion presents his speech to an audience of peers and panel of judges.



## Essay of Distinction Award – Kaylee Ellison

Kaylee Ellison (sophomore) for earned an Essay of Distinction award for her submission on Roe v. Wade to the 2024 Judge J. Mark Hayes, II Law Day Essay Contest. Kaylee, along with other Spartanburg County winners, was honored at the Law Day Ceremony on May 1 at the Piedmont Club in Spartanburg.

Left: Kaylee holds her Law Day 2024 "Voices of Democracy" Essay of Distinction certificate and medal.

## Alan Gaona-Lopez: McAlister Scholarship, SCETV

This year's recipient of the McAlister Scholarship is Alan Gaona-Lopez. Gaining fork lift, small engine, and screen-printing experience from the Applied Academic Center (AAC), Alan plans to attend Tri-County Technical College in the fall.

Alan was also awarded the Fine Arts Student of the Year, the Spartanburg Civitan Club Award, and an All-region Basketball recognition.

The McAlister Scholarship is sponsored by The McAlister Foundation, The SCSDB Foundation, and SCSDB. It is a full scholarship designed for deaf and hard of hearing students who have a need for financial assistance to attend college, and the scholarship may be used at any state college within South Carolina.

In addition, Alan was one of two students to participate in South Carolina ETV's Safe Space campaign, dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and support among youth in SC. This was the first time in SCETV's history where ASL was presented on air without audio or voice over, only captions. The video spots were broadcast on TV, social media, and Youtube.



Right, top: Alan (senior) stands with President Jolene Madison as he is recognized as the recipient of the 2024 McAlister Scholarship.

Right, bottom: Alan rehearses signing the script while following the teleprompter on the SCETV set.

## Field trip feeds stomachs, brains

Learning how food arrives at the grocery store was one of the objectives for elementary school students from the School for the Deaf when they visited Lowes Foods in Greer.

Choosing healthy foods while shopping with their parents was another desired outcome. First, students tasted a mango smoothie with mango and yogurt and ate strawberries in the produce section. Next, students got to see live lobsters, as well as meats and cheeses, in the Deli section. Then, students learned about how cakes and other bakery items are made in the bakery sections. Students got to compete for their own cake in a counting game with the bakery staff.

Lastly, students enjoyed a healthy snack while learning about farm to table food groups. "This field trip was a great way for students to learn all about different food groups," said Jill Bechtel, 1st and 2nd grades teacher.

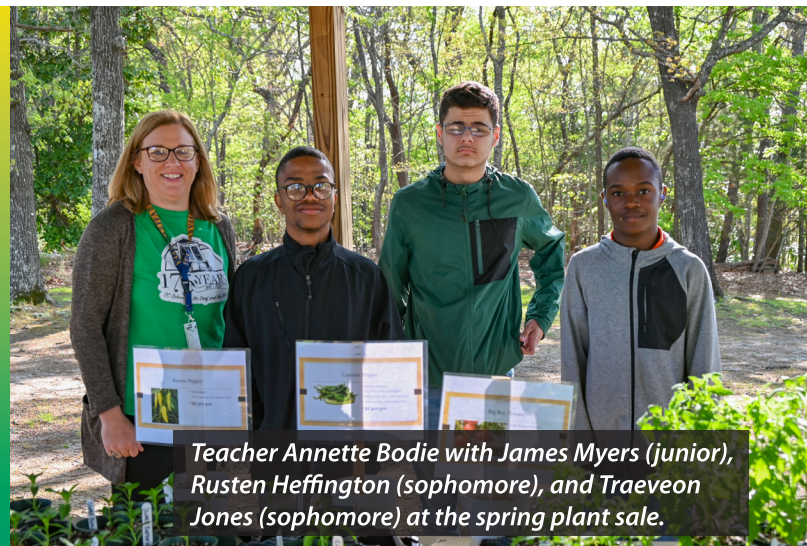


Right: Students learned about the prepared food items for sale at Lowes Foods. They had the privilege to meet a Deaf store employee who prepares the food for lunches.

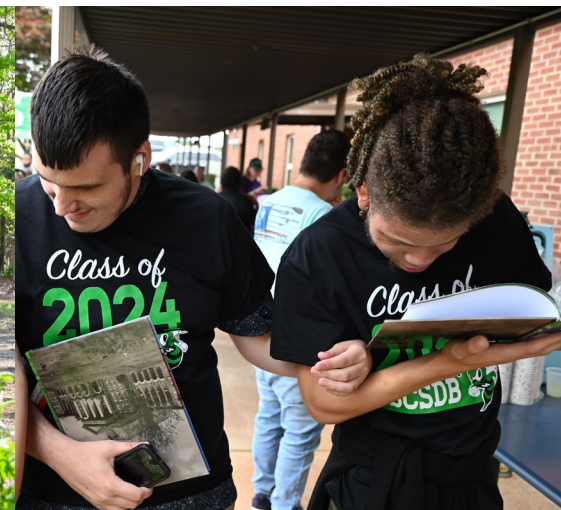


# AAC

## Applied Academic Center



Teacher Annette Bodie with James Myers (junior), Rusten Heffington (sophomore), and Traeveon Jones (sophomore) at the spring plant sale.



### Yearbook Day

Above, left to right: Seniors Landon Lipsey and Tyreece McCoy examine their new yearbooks. SCSD high school students line up to get their books. 7th graders Logan Hollar and Carter Bryant sign each other's yearbooks.

Left: Middle schoolers Jahmarius Moss, Kenzie Childress, Aaliyah Zimmerman, Ashton Jackson, Kailen Knox, and Kash Bradshaw hold up their books. Dekoata Smales (2nd Grade) carries her yearbook and a pen for friends to sign with.



### Credential Presentations

School for the Deaf Seniors Andres Benitez and Marquel Latimore showed their final presentations for the credential program.

Left: Teacher Taylor Carvajal, Andres, Marquel, and teacher Lesley Aycock.

### Harbor Freight Fellows

Congratulations to three of our Applied Academic Center (AAC) students for receiving the Harbor Freight Fellow of the Year award: Juan Carlos Caudillo (junior), Marquel Latimore (senior), and India Hare (senior).

The Harbor Freight Fellows Initiative (HFFI) is a partnership between Big Picture learning and the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools program to elevate the respect and resources accorded to youth (and their teachers).

Our students worked 120 hours with a mentor, alongside a tech teacher, to gain experience and on-the-job training. Students earn \$1,000 scholarships at the end of the program.

Left: Juan, Marquel, and India hold certificates with a representative of Harbor Freight.

### Hornet Rodeo

Students participated in a Hornet Rodeo at AAC where they sought to earn their forklift certificate by completing challenges throughout an obstacle course.

Left: Teachers Andy Breitenbach and Tony Lee watch as Marquel Latimore completes a task in the obstacle course.



### Farm Animal Day

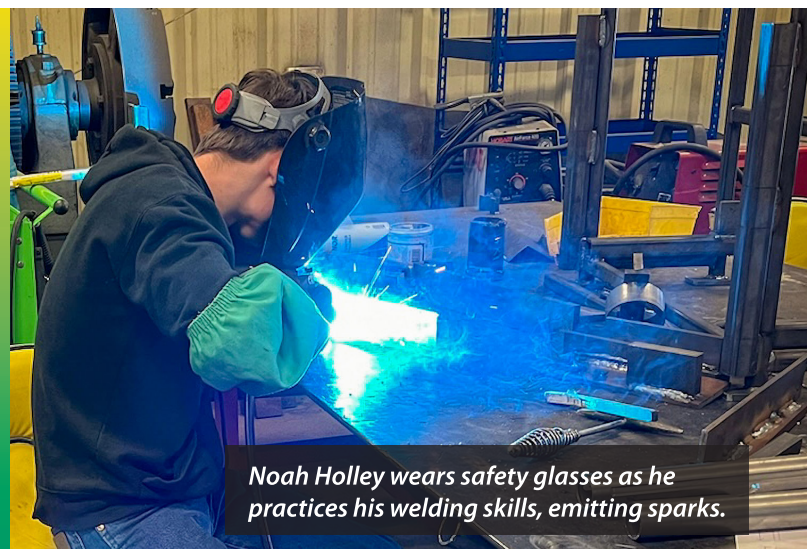
Left, left to right: Seniors Josh Perkins and Andres Benitez show turtles to Jessica Gribble, and 5th Graders Zoey Blackman and Jahmere Daniels. Didier Lorenzo (5th grade), Jasper Womick (10th grade), and Hayden Pruitt (8th grade) learn about the pigs from Noah Holley (senior).

Below: Kamari Worthington (6th grade) feeds a horse. Senior Aleena Hamlin holds a chicken as Katherine Schomisch and teacher Payton Prince pet it. Dr. Adeyanju Okungbowa and juniors Akeylah Howard and Iris Hare pet a donkey.





# Transition Services



Noah Holley wears safety glasses as he practices his welding skills, emitting sparks.

## Welding

Noah Holley (senior) has been working at Trebling in Greenville to grow his welding interest and have hands-on opportunities.

SCSDB Transition Services appreciates company owner, Mike Nelson, and his staff for supporting Noah's career exploration and successful placement in a work-based experience.

Our students worked 120 hours with a mentor, alongside a tech teacher, to gain experience and on-the-job training. Students earn \$1,000 scholarships at the end of the program.

Right: Wearing protective gear, Noah stands in a welding shop at Daniel Morgan Technology Center. He will continue his welding training at Tri-County Technical College.



## Roebuck Greenhouses

Two students take a moment to reflect on successfully completing internships at Roebuck Green Houses from November through May.

Marquel and Tyreece worked very hard in all kinds of weather conditions! Connor set this opportunity up for them, and it is a great partnership!

Pictured left to right: Connor Miller, transition services job coach; Marquel Latimore, graduating senior in the School for the Deaf; Tyreece McCoy, graduating senior in the School for the Blind; and Ethan Jarrett, lead grower at Roebuck Greenhouses.



## Media Production

Ellis Brown, graduating senior in the School for the Deaf, experienced a job shadow with the media production team at First Baptist Spartanburg.

He was able to shadow each member of the church's team that included digital design, lighting and audio production, video editing, camera operations, and radio production.

Since Ellis will be attending college and has aspirations to work in audio engineering, this was a great chance for him to experience all aspects of media production.

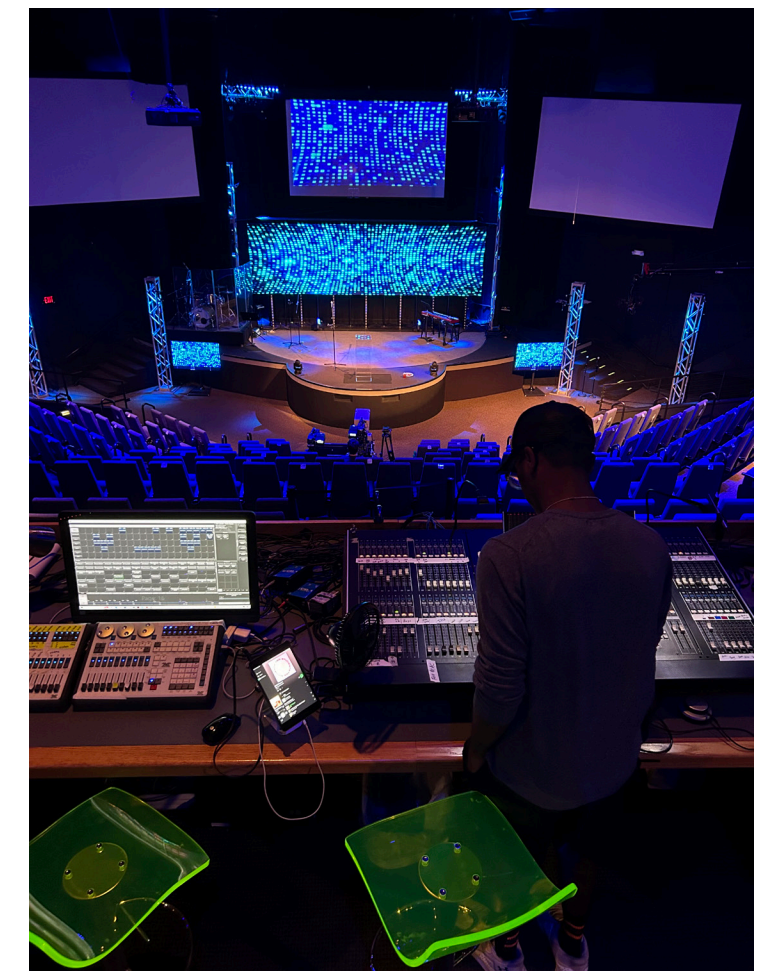
His transition services job coach Connor Miller provided this opportunity for him!



Ellis operates a large video camera, watching the screen as he moves the angle of the camera around.



Ellis learns how to make adjustments on a production switchboard.



Ellis looks down at the auditorium stage from the control booth.



# Library Cleveland Learning Resource Center

## Spring brings guests, creatures, fun food, challenges

Spartanburg Community College ASL students presented a Fable Festival on March 10. The students performed and signed three stories in ASL. More than 80 students and teachers attended the festival.

Afterschool students enjoyed a Popcorn and Lemonade Party on March 18 and painted canvases to display in the CLRC's Professional Library.

Jennifer Romatelli from Roper Mountain Science Center presented the "Scales and Tales" program for over 135 students and staff on March 30. Jennifer brought three reptiles with her for students to hold and touch: a snake, a bearded dragon, and a turtle. Students enjoyed a reptile-themed popcorn bar afterwards.

Following spring break, there were over 110 entries in the "Guess How Many Bookworms are in the Jar" Contest. Guesses ranged from 0 to 2,000! The number of bookworms in the jar was 89!

### WINNERS

1st Place: Breanne Sharpe, 9th Grade, School for the Blind - 88

2nd Place: Wyatt Polin, 4th Grade, School for the Blind - 90

3rd Place: Nicholas Altamirano, Kindergarten, School for the Deaf - 90

The Teacher/Staff Winner was McKaylia Waddell from Cedar Springs Academy with the correct total of 89!



Selena Berry (2nd grade) is guided to carefully and gently touch a turtle's hard back shell.



Josh Perkins (senior) smiles while Jennifer shows a large snake to the students.



Dekoata Smales (2nd grade) and Luna Murrell (1st grade) munch on popcorn and consider tasty toppings to add to their bags.



Students learn fun facts about the turtle that Jennifer is holding.



Middle schoolers Tazmin Hill, Cailynn-Ann Campos, Isabella Collins, and Mila Hovis gently pet the snake.



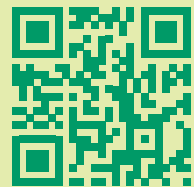
Jennifer holds the snake as Cailynn-Ann runs her fingers along its scales.



# Fine Arts

## Chorus

The SCSDB Chorus enjoyed their annual performance at the Statehouse for the South Carolina House of Representatives. They performed “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles and “I Will Sing You the Stars” by Mark Burrows. Since 2003, SCSDB has been designated as a certified Arts in Basic Curriculum Institute school, with support from the SC Arts Commission. This partnership supports the school in ensuring all of our students have access to the arts.



### Statehouse Performance

Scan the QR code to watch the 2024 Statehouse performance!



The SCSDB Chorus stands on the Statehouse steps with Representatives Brian Lawson and Travis Moore.

## Congratulations Liz List

Elizabeth (Liz) List, art teacher at the School for the Blind, had a lesson plan selected as an exemplar arts/arts integrated lesson from SCSDB’s current Arts in Basic Curriculum Review Cycle.

The lesson will be published with ABC through the SC Department of Education’s Instruction Hub. The lesson will also be featured in the ABC District Arts Integration Toolkit on [www.abcinstitutesc.org](http://www.abcinstitutesc.org).

The three lesson plans provide an introduction to texture as an element of art. The first lesson takes students through the process of using the See, Think, Wonder thinking routine to explore artworks that feature either actual or implied texture for comparison. The second lesson engages students in the process of experimenting with how different kinds of art materials can be used to create textures (actual or implied.) Finally, the third lesson involves having students create an original artwork that features texture as a primary element of art using their own choice of materials.



Liz List work with Landon Lipsey (senior) on a loom art project at the School for the Blind.

## Artist-in-Residence, mural

As part of SCSDB’s ABC Institute and SC Arts Commission partnership, multiple Artist-in-Residences have helped students complete art projects around campus.



From left to right: Frank Rivas (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Zoey Blackman, and Ivan Rivas (6<sup>th</sup> grade) use paint to add to the mural outside of Memminger Hall, with the help of artist-in-residence, Carter Boucher.



Jahmere Daniels (6<sup>th</sup> grade) smiles as he adds green paint to the grass on the mural.



Noah Holley (senior) and Tyreece McCoy (senior) work with artist-in-residence, Bob Doster, to create pottery.



# Athletics



Sophomores DJ Peake and Ca'Mayra Boulware, and junior Iris Hare at the Athletic Awards Banquet.

## Athletic Awards Banquet

Student athletes were honored at the annual Athletic Awards Banquet, where they received certificates recognizing their hard work throughout the year.



Ryleigh Rabon (sophomore)  
All-Region, Basketball and Volleyball



Alan Gaona-Lopez (senior)  
All-Region, Basketball



DJ Peake (sophomore) with Coach Aly Davis  
SCSDB Athlete of the Year

## Savannah Goalball Invitational

The girls and boys goalball teams enjoyed an afternoon on Tybee Island where they visited the Tybee Island Lighthouse and the Battery Garland. During the tournament, the boys team played against Florida Blue, Florida White, and Savannah, and the girls team played Savannah.



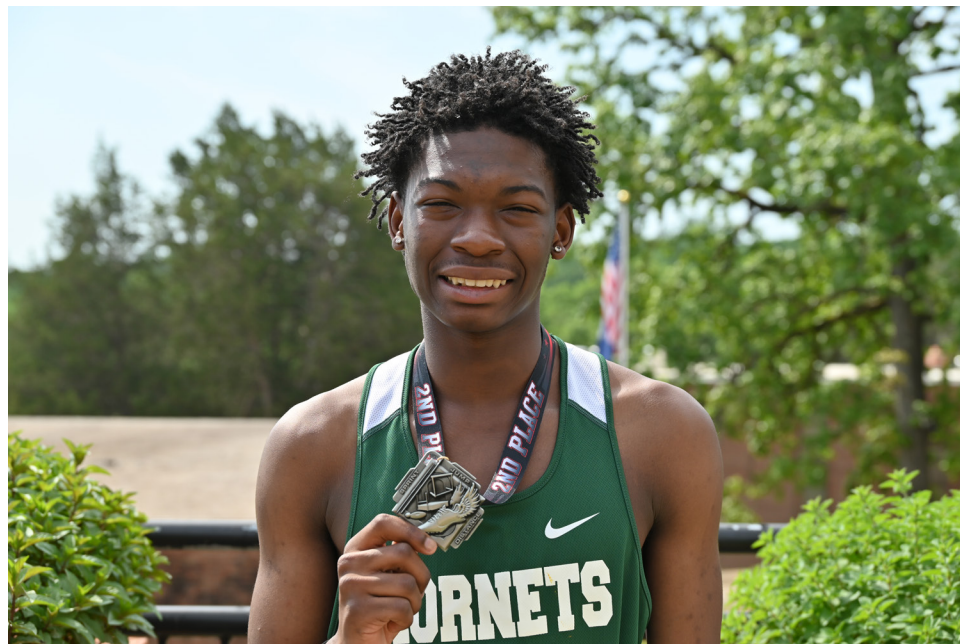
Aleena Hamlin (senior), Piper Graham (sophomore), Landon Lipsey (senior), Tyreece McCoy (senior), and India Hare (senior) learn about Battery Garland from the tour guide.



Iris Hare (junior) and Ca'Mayra Boulware (sophomore) walk down the stairs of the Tybee Island Lighthouse.

## Track and Field

Christian Washington (junior) placed 2nd in the 100-meter event at the Region 1A Championship meet at McCormick High School. He then qualified to attend the Upper-State Championship meet on May 11. Congratulations to this impressive athlete!



Senior Athletes from the School for the Deaf



Senior Athletes from the School for the Blind



The Volleyball Team



The Football Team



The Track and Field Team



The Girls Goalball Team



The Boys Goalball Team



The Boys Basketball Team



The Girls Basketball Team



# Residential Life

## Prom 175

This year's Prom 175 was truly an evening of elegance ... and fun! Our students looked amazing, all dressed up with their friends and family at the Spartanburg Country Club.



Students and staff on the dance floor at prom.



Melanie Gomez (junior) has fun dancing to the music.



Tyreece McCoy (senior) and Tazmin Hill (freshman) have huge smiles as they dance with friends.



Akeylah Howard (junior) and Brian Starkey (sophomore) enjoy a dance together.

## Congrats to our 2024 Prom Kings & Queens!



### SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

King: Noah Holley  
Queen: India Hare



### CEDAR SPRINGS ACADEMY

King: Noah Berg  
Queen: Jai'anna Jenkins



### SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

King: Marquel Latimore  
Queen: Alasia Pifher

## Dorm Wars

Students and staff teamed up according to their dorms and competed in games in the annual Dorm Wars.



Left to right: The boys of the TLC dorm rush to hit the beach ball during volleyball. The Robertson girls wear matching pink shirts as they accept the grand prize trophy for most spirit. A group of boys pull their weight during tug-of-war.



Left to right: Tristan Bradley (freshman) and DJ Peake (sophomore) pass a ball through hoops. Zarannah Womick (3rd grade) makes sure everyone is ready to play the game. Sophomore Sierra Stefani runs through a series of upright hoops. Kenzie Childress (6th grade) and Ca'Mayra Boulware (sophomore) race on mini cycles, holding plastic eggs on paddles.

## End of Year Celebrations at Herbert Center

Students and residential staff celebrated the end of the year with kickball, water games, and pizza and ice cream.



Left to right: Gage Brown (3rd grade) does a silly dance for the camera. Junior Christian Washington encourages Zoey Blackman (5th grade) to run for home base. Caroline Jones gives Melvin Fuentes Gomez (7th grade) tips on how to aim the ball. Jahmarious Moss (5th grade) runs to kick the ball.



Left to right: Azaria Chalk (7th grade) shows King Gadson (kindergarten) how to kick a ball. Hailey Gundling (junior) prepares to throw the ball. Isiah Pasha (6th grade) gives a thumbs up! Evan Gimmaka (sophomore) throws a water balloon at Nate Fuhrwerk.



# Statewide Outreach Services

## Student lives “All in!” for a day

It takes a team to be a national champion and to educate a child. Andrew Delaney, on the DeafBlind census since 2011, spent a day with the Clemson football team!

Before his graduation from Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA, this spring, Andrew got to experience one final community learning and engagement activity. The team in outreach services huddled together to celebrate Andrew who has CHARGE Syndrome. He had been involved with many of the programs in the outreach services division. Bambi Reed with statewide deaf and hard of hearing education; Terry Smeltzer, statewide blind and visually-impaired education; and Marcy Meachum and Krista Olsen with the DeafBlind Project, had the honor and pleasure of coaching and joining Andrew on his amazing journey.

Members of SCSDB’s outreach services division accompanied Andrew and his family for a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the Clemson football team on April 3. Andrew was invited to Clemson University to meet the team and tour the football facility. Andrew and his parents, Minnie Lambert and Doug Delaney, are lifelong Clemson football fans and enthusiasts. When Andrew is in the area, a paw print and Clemson colors are never far away! A special thank you goes out to Coach Dabo Swinney and Coach Robbie Caldwell who made a young man’s dreams come true.

Krista Olsen, technical assistant for the SC DeafBlind Project, created a social story to prepare Andrew for the day. This book included information about the people he would meet, the facility and sights he would see, and a checklist that helped Andrew create an experience book to share with his friends, family, and teachers at home and school.



Andrew Delaney, in forefront with his white cane, stands in front of Coach Dabo Swinney. His father, Doug Delaney, and his mother, Minnie Lambert, stand on either side of Andrew. The Clemson football team and the SCSDB division of outreach services were “All in!” for this unforgettable graduation gift.



Robert Hill, director of the SC DeafBlind Project, and Elaine Gentry, director of the Early Intervention Program, assisted in communicating and customizing the tour to meet Andrew’s needs. They are standing behind Andrew and his mother, Minnie Lambert, and his father, Doug Delaney.

The day began with a screening of a video about the Clemson student experience. Andrew and his family were then given a tour of the Allen N. Reeves Football Complex. This included: the players’ lounge, indoor and outdoor practice fields, the therapy/recovery room, weight room, and cafeteria. Along the way, they met players and coaches from the multi-championship winning team. The group then attended a team meeting where the next Clemson Football Hall of Fame inductees were announced by Coach Dabo Swinney! After a meet and greet with Coach Dabo, the group stood on the field at Death Valley, checked out The Hill and Howard’s Rock, and watched the team practice for the upcoming spring game.

Andrew returned to SC this summer to pursue his own business, Doggy Works by Andrew. He makes dog treats, toys, beds, and other goods for the company he started after finding his passion for making pups and their people happy! Andrew left a big basket of dog supplies for Coach Dabo, Coach Caldwell, and any other dog-loving staff and players as a huge thank you for this fantastic experience!

## CEASD

This year’s national Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) was held at SCSDB. The student ambassadors led fantastic campus tours and our fine arts student performers/artists provided art and performed a 175-years storytelling play for all the attendees at the opening ceremonies

*Right: Students break from a huddle before giving tours of campus.*



Wyatt Harvell (freshman) leads a tour in front of the Applied Academic Center.



High schoolers Elliott Germany, Aaron Sease, Brandy Mezquite-Reyes, Christian Washington, and Alan Gaona-Lopez help at the registration table.



Kaylee Ellison (sophomore) teaches the tour group about the history of Walker Hall.



Brandy helps a guest at the silent auction table during the opening ceremony.



Middle schoolers Logan Hollar and Kyle Van Der Berg paint the state flag in front of the audience.



Student actors introduce themselves after their performance.

## Kelly’s Kids Educarer of the Year, Teacher of the Year

Shannon Wright, Kelly’s Kids, was named the Division of Outreach Services Teacher of the Year! She earned this distinct honor by being a role model to her students and colleagues. Shannon utilizes best practices in her classroom and has a wonderful rapport with the children and parents.

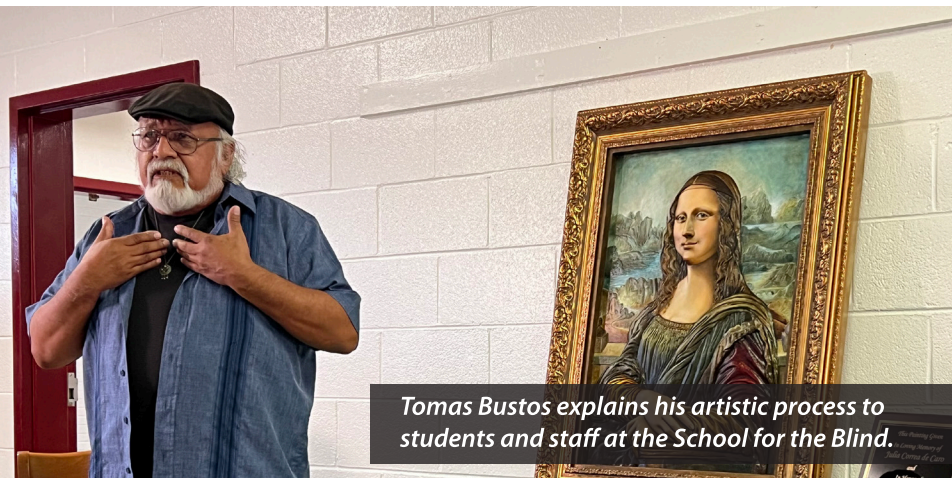
In the spring, the Educarer of the Year Celebration was held at USC Upstate. This is a celebration for all early childhood education teachers in Spartanburg County. Johnnica Leath was a finalist for Educarer of the Year. The staff of Kelly’s Kids celebrated Johnnica in this accomplishment.

*Left: Shannon poses with her award by the “I Love You” statue on the Spartanburg campus.*





# SCSDB Foundation



*Tomas Bustos explains his artistic process to students and staff at the School for the Blind.*

## Mona Lisa reimagined

An anonymous donor gifted the School for the Blind with a tactile version of Leonardo da Vinci's iconic Mona Lisa, reimagined by Texas-based artist, Tomas Bustos.

Tomas Bustos has a passion for recreating masterpieces through a unique and tactile approach – specifically made for people who are blind or visually impaired. Beginning with graphite renderings, then moving to clay and plaster reliefs, the final rendition of the Mona Lisa, now on display at the School for the Blind, is completed in bronze.



*The bronze, tactile recreation of the Mona Lisa hangs on display in the School for the Blind.*



*Michael Clifton (junior) visualizes the Mona Lisa through touch, as Tomas Bustos describes her features.*

## 175 Days of Giving

In recognition of SCSDB's 175th year, the Foundation has set a goal of raising \$750,000 in 2024.

The 175 Days of Giving campaign, beginning July 2024, will kick off the Foundation's multi-level fundraising campaign, inviting the support of community and staff through online giving campaigns and new on-campus events, including a Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show (June) and an Art Show in October.

Want to get involved?

### Attend a Special Event!

- Aim High & Let 'em Fly - August 2024
- Art Show in Walker Hall - October 2024
- 15th Annual So You Think You Can Cook Chili Cook-Off - January 2025

### Show your support!

- Become a sponsor for the 175th Anniversary of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind. Each sponsor level is named for a building on campus. Learn more at [www.scsdbfoundation.org](http://www.scsdbfoundation.org)
- Join the 175 days of giving campaign. More information is available at [www.scsdbfoundation.org/175-anniversary](http://www.scsdbfoundation.org/175-anniversary)

The SCSDB Foundation thanks you for being part of the last 175 years and asks you to join in being part of that promise for the next 175 years. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

The Foundation welcomed the community and classic car enthusiasts to its first-ever Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show fundraiser on Saturday, June 15. With over 50 entries, top rides were awarded for both their horsepower and "best in show" exteriors.

"Thank you to all those who made our first Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show a resounding success," said Sam Hook, executive director of the SCSDB Foundation. "Together, we are driving towards a brighter future for all of our students."



*Guests view a line of classic cars that entered the show.*



*Motorcyclists arrive at the end of a Rumble Ride led by Harley Davidson of Greenville.*



*Sarah Davis, principal at the School for the Deaf, on her motorcycle.*



*Attendees to the car show view entries, including a 1957 Chevy Belair, a 1932 Ford, and a classic motorcycle.*





355 Cedar Springs Road • Spartanburg, SC 29302

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit 196  
Spartanburg, SC 29306

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **We want to meet your family!**

**SCSDB campus programs** are always accepting applications for new students. Our online application can be accessed at [www.scsdb.org/apply](http://www.scsdb.org/apply). Please contact **Michaela Wilson** at **864-577-7565** or [mwilson@scsdb.org](mailto:mwilson@scsdb.org) for more information about the application and enrollment process and/or to schedule a campus tour.

Come and see what SCSDB can do for you in your area of the state! The **SCSDB division of outreach services** provides a menu of options for parents, families, and the professionals who serve them that include and are not limited to, specialized early intervention services, school district educational services, sign language interpreting, and ASL classes! For more information on our statewide outreach services available in your area, please contact **Scott A. Falcone** at [sfalcone@scsdb.org](mailto:sfalcone@scsdb.org) or **1-800-984-4357**.