Recent Graduate Finds Success in College

Lyric Bratcher learned to advocate for herself and to embrace opportunities and take leadership roles—everything from student council to athletic teams.
Welcome to Access SCSDB! Leadership is always a most difficult of our missions. We seek that our best efforts to serve the passions of those who choose to complete our work those who can benefit. Students can benefit from our mission in a number of ways. The SC Department of Education and 24 years in Cherokee County Schools serving as a high school math teacher, career center director, and Christopher Jackson.

From left are Christopher Cloninger president; Matthew Cloninger vice president; Lillian Elmore, Jyda Good, and Kayla Jackson of Columbia, and Queen Boyce

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Welcome to Access SCSDB!

Leadership is always a major goal for our students. Each year, students at the School for the Blind in Spartanburg, Palmetto Achievement Academy in Summerville, and School for the Deaf in Prince Edward County have elected leadership teams. At the School for the Blind, students have been elected or appointed to serve in more than 10 leadership positions. Student council members implement plans and policies that are developed with and for the students. Our students lead in educational, extracurricular, and social areas, and are part of the daily music program. As the school celebrates its 165th anniversary, our students are constantly building future leaders.

Steady drums are a new addition to the Fine Arts Program. The drums are part of the daily music program at the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind. This year, drums have been added to the School for the Deaf’s band and the Palmetto Achievement Academy. Students are participating in the new program.

Welcome to New Students!

School for the Blind

Michael Collins of Cheraw
Rogue Ridge Boxing Club
Daniel Sanders of Safety
Ron Whitchel of Easley

School for the Deaf

Melanie Holley of Anderson
Cole Hopper of Orangeburg
Riley Jackson of Columbia
Montevideo, James of Columbia
Katie Hebert of Summerville
Taylor Sanders of Spartanburg
Michael Whitfield of Gaffney
Sanyh White of Simpsonville

Cedar Springs Academy

Daniel Longfellow of Charleston
Robin Tannier of Camden
Megan Ward of Spartanburg
Juan Zuniga of Orangeburg

School Improvement Council

The Walker Foundation Board of Directors

Our hornet mascot has a name now! Buzz Walker has been the sounds hornets make and Walker is for the school’s founding family. Walker received his nickname from the Walker Band. Buzz Walker received the most votes from the names submitted. Participants to thank Mark Bell for his winning name idea in the end, bass, Sara Kofcho, Amanda Johnson, Shelley Wibber, and Alexis Brandner for Buzz Band.

Welcome to the Cedar Springs Academy.

Congratulations to the 21 students who entered the Piedmont National Fair Competition! Colby Media scored first place, Kadek Bell and Alex Hans scored second place, and Jasper Winkom was awarded honorable mention recognition.

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Student Leaders

Students have been elected or appointed to serve in more than 50 leadership positions. Student council representatives serve on the SCSDB board of directors, student leaders including sports, preschool, and government can be found at the school's leadership level.

School for the Deaf High School
David Michael Peck, president; Sarah Center, vice president; Lindsey Garcia, secretary; and Ken Johnson, treasurer.

Welcome to Access SCSDB!

Welcome New Students!

School for the Blind
Michael O’ Donnell of Charleston, student president; Mikayla Sanders of Spartanburg, student vice president; and Colby Shifflett of Columbia, student secretary.

School for the Deaf
Melissa Millican of Anderson, student president; Alisaa Hauck of Greenville, student vice president; and Isabella Jackson of Columbus, student secretary.

School for the Blind/Deaf
A'She-Rah Jeter, student president; Cedric Smith, student vice president; and Chelsea Johnson, student secretary.

School for the Deaf/Blind
Taniqua Thrower, student president; Cameron Stitt, student vice president; and Brianna Oliphant, student secretary.

School for the Blind/Blind
Kadiedra Hay, student president; and Laquashus Mack, student vice president.

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Dr. Page McCraw
Interim President

We are committed to partnerships and relationships with every family, every child, and every individual. The staff and students at SCSDB are highly motivated.

As the state’s only specialized school for sensory disabled students, we have a responsibility to work with others to ensure that every student is successful.

To our statewide professional community.

I am honored to serve as interim president and look forward to working with you to better serve our state’s sensory disabled community.

We want each of our students to reach their highest potential – whether success is defined as college, career, or simply becoming as independent as possible.

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The Latest, The Greatest!
New Technology in the School for the Blind Makes Reading Easier

Students in the School for the Blind are learning a variety of new technology thanks to a special appropriation from the South Carolina General Assembly. These new devices are helping to make reading and learning easier and more efficient for students who are visually impaired.

Lyric Bratcher learned to advocate for herself and to embrace opportunities and other charitable organizations.

Embracing the Possibilities
The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student’s highest potential.

Working toward an associate’s degree, Lyric is in her first semester at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. She is taking four courses and is doing well in all of them. Scholarships and financial aid cover all of her costs except books.

Lyric learned to appreciate diversity while attending the School for the Blind. She hoped our language is that she could communicate with students who have visual impairments. She also met and socialized with many of the students with multiple disabilities.

Graduating in 2014, Lyric was known as a leader. She served as vice president of student council and was named Fine Arts Student of the Year. She was recognized for outstanding performance in English and math. She participated in sports, music, and field trips. She was also a member of the Student Senate.

Like many students who are deaf, Lyric’s parents felt ownership was important in her education. Lyric was very involved in her education and was able to communicate with her teachers and classmates.

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Lyric Bratcher learned to advocate for herself and to embrace opportunities and other charitable organizations. Students in the School for the Deaf make the morning announcements. Caesar School students lead the pledge of allegiance in morning assemblies. School for the Blind students participate in Junior National Association for the Blind. As part of the leadership initiative, teachers are studying the book "Be the Leader in Me. The book was written to help teachers and other professionals meet each child's full potential. Every teacher's goal is to empower students to embrace opportunities and live independently.

Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through the SC School for the Deaf include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- IEP (Individual Education Plan) for students in Spartanburg and residential school
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Developmental programs and assistance for Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

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Embracing the Possibilities — Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

Students Encouraged to Be Leaders

Leadership is a major focus at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles — everything from student council officers to athletic team captains. "Why try to give students every opportunity to be leaders among their peers?" said Sara Kollock, director of educational services. "By accepting leadership responsibility, students learn to advocate for themselves and utilize their skills in educational services." Students serve as yearbook editors, student government officers, and team captains. They join parents and staff as representatives on School Improvement Capitol. And, they demonstrate leadership in the community by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and other charitable organizations. Leadership is also practiced in day-to-day activities. Students in the School for the Deaf make the morning announcements. Caesar School students lead the pledge of allegiance in morning assemblies. School for the Blind students participate in Junior National Association for the Blind. As part of the leadership initiative, teachers are studying the book "Be the Leader in Me. The book was written to help teachers and other professionals meet each child's full potential. Every teacher's goal is to empower students to embrace opportunities and live independently.

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