

Access SCSDB

Embrace the Possibilities – Access the Future

SCSDB's New Applied Academic Center

The newly-expanded, cutting-edge Applied Academics Center (AAC), formerly known as the Career & Technology Education (CTE) program, is bigger and better than ever. The AAC's mission is to enhance students' academic knowledge through hands-on applications, preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

For example, students gain a better understanding of math and economics by applying them to building and marketing birdhouses, which provides tangible references that are easier to understand than when in the classroom, in addition to valuable job skills.

Students apply their classroom skills and explore various career paths in nine different areas: agriculture, food, and natural resources; architecture and construction; marketing, sales, and service; hospitality and tourism; information technology; transportation, distribution, and logistics; education and training; health sciences; and arts, audio/visual technology, and communications.

Photo: Two young School for the Deaf students smiling at the camera while working with an older student on assembling their tool boxes.

Caption: Students from all divisions and of all ages are able to apply their academic skills in the new AAC. SCSDB elementary students Ta'Nayia Moates and Alexis Eggleston-Strothers, both of Spartanburg, finish assembling their mini-tool boxes with a little help from an older student in the AAC.

New Retail Training Center at SCSDB

Students at SCSDB are learning to roll up their sleeves and roll back prices in the new Retail Training Center! The Retail Training Center was made possible by The Walker Foundation, SCSDB's fundraising arm, through a \$75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation and support from local Walmart stores and employees.

The SCSDB Retail Training Center is a mini version of a full-scale grocery and department store, complete with shelves of goods, a delivery truck loaded with boxes, computers to monitor stock flow, and a register for checking out customers. The goal of the training facility is to help students gain the necessary skills in communications, merchandising, sales, customer service, shipping, and receiving to achieve successful careers in the retail industry.

Photo: Two AAC students are standing in front of a grocery display of cereal boxes. One student is putting a box in the cart that the other student is pushing.

Caption: AAC students Chelsea Spann of St. Stephen and Neal Ellis of Lancaster work on their retail skills in the new Retail Training Center. The center was set up through The Walker Foundation, SCSDB's fundraising arm, from a Walmart Foundation grant.

New Cochlear Implant Program Expanding

For the 2011-2012 school year, SCSDB launched the new Cochlear Implant program, offering the best of both auditory and visual communication methods to students with implants. The program's classrooms support the development of both American Sign Language and spoken English. Classrooms are equipped with FM technology for students to better access the teacher's speech. Students in the classrooms also participate in speech therapy.

The program has grown so much in the past year, that a new classroom is being added and the program is being expanded to meet the growing needs of students with implants.

Students Take Prize at National Science Fair

Eight SCSDB students partnered with students from Converse College to investigate the toxic effects of 2010's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

As a result of their findings, SCSDB students entered the 2011 National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students sponsored by the National Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT/NTID) in Rochester, NY.

SCSDB's high school team from the School for the Deaf won 2nd place for their project entitled, "The Toxic Effects of Oil on Fish." The team included **Matthew Wright** of Gray Court, **James Ivey** of Rock Hill and **Tiffany Harrison**.

The goal of the Science Fair is to promote interest in technology, science, engineering and math among 6th through 12th graders who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Photo: Three School for the Deaf high school students hold certificates in front of a building in New York.

Caption: RIT Science Fair Winners: (left to right) Matthew Wright, Tiffany Harrison, and James Ivey.

Photo: A School for the Deaf high school student demonstrates walking with a puppy and using the sit command. The puppy is sitting next to her feet.

Caption: School for the Deaf student Megan Metzler of Simpsonville works with one of SCSDB's new puppies on the 'sit' command. Renowned trainer, Terry "Stick" Queen, will be teaching students dog-training skills in the AAC.

Second Technology Olympics a Success

The possibilities were endless for SC students who are blind or visually impaired at the second Technology Olympics at EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia. Sponsored by the University of South Carolina Braille Grant, the SC Commission for the Blind, and SCSDB, students grades K-12 participated in a series of high-tech adventures in access technology.

Activities using access technology included events with adaptive devices, such as electronic note takers, monoculars, digital talking book players, and talking GPS systems.

This year, the event introduced families of blind and visually impaired children, ages birth to 3, to their own adventures in technology. This new addition provided information for accessibility and the latest in access technology for younger individuals to ensure further enrichment.

Photo: A School for the Blind student is sitting at a table with earphones in his ears and reading a piece of braille. On the table in front of him is a computer.

Caption: Zack Benton of Gaffney competes in a portable electronic note taker skills contest.

Welcome to Access SCsDB!

Dear Friend,

SCsDB has taken 2012 by storm, as there are so many wonderful things happening, including achieving SACS accreditation, ensuring high quality educational programs for years to come!

SCsDB has also launched several new programs, including a new post-graduation program and a new Applied Academics Center (AAC). The post-graduation program has been established to assist recent graduates to reach their career and higher education goals. Graduates now have the option to come back to campus to continue their education and job training.

The new AAC, formerly known as the Career & Technology Center, is now equipped to teach both current and post-graduate students. With nine new career preparation clusters, students have access to more careers than ever before.

These new programs, along with our established programs, will continue to ensure that the individuals we serve realize maximum success and independence.

For more information, please visit our new website at www.scsdb.org or you may contact me at 1-888-447-2732 or via e-mail at mpark@scsdb.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Park
President
SCsDB

A National Board certified teacher, "Maggie" Park has 20 years experience in special education positions including teacher, program director, principal, division director, adjunct professor, and administrator.

Photo: Maggie's professional head shot

SCsDB Gets SACS!

SCsDB has been recommended for full-accreditation status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for five more years! SACS assessed SCsDB's purpose and direction, governance and leadership, teaching and learning levels, resources and support systems, and continuous improvement efforts.

With the SACS accreditation seal of excellence, SCsDB will continue to be acknowledged as a high-quality educational institution focusing on education for individuals who are deaf, blind, or sensory multi-disabled.

Training for the Future

When Jasmine Elleby of St. Matthews arrived on SCsDB's campus eight years ago at the age of 12, she was nervous and scared.

"I didn't want to be without my parents and I couldn't sign. I couldn't really communicate with anyone, so I was frustrated," said Jasmine.

“What helped me through the frustration was making friends. Between my friends and my classes, I learned a lot and quickly picked up sign language.”

Jasmine also got involved with SCSDB sports. She joined the basketball, volleyball, and track teams. She helped carry her basketball team to first place in the 2009 Mason-Dixon Basketball Tournament. In addition, Jasmine was part of the world record-setting 4x100m relay team at the 2011 SC state track meet!

Throughout her years as a student athlete, Jasmine noticed a particular staff member, Joni Canter, and her relation to the entire SCSDB athletic department. She noticed Joni was at every basketball game, every track meet, and every football game. When an athlete got hurt, Joni always knew exactly what to do. Joni is SCSDB’s athletic trainer, and Jasmine knew that is what she wanted to do too.

Jasmine graduated in May 2011 and decided to come back to SCSDB the following fall as part of SCSDB’s new post-graduation program to pursue a career in athletic training. The program allows graduates to come back to campus and study a variety of job and post-graduate academic options.

“I am trying to prepare myself for adulthood through this program, and get the training I need for my future,” said Jasmine.

As part of the post-graduation program, Jasmine is shadowing Joni and learning first-hand the ins and outs of athletic training, from attending to athlete needs to sideline preparedness.

“I’m learning so much! I’m learning the vocabulary, how to wrap ankles and shoulders, and how to properly clean and sanitize the equipment,” said Jasmine.

“I’ve learned that you always need to be prepared when on the sideline. So I stay focused and ready to go in case something happens. It’s very challenging, but I love it.”

When asked what advice she would give to this year’s senior class, she said, “The real world is not easy. You have to work hard, prepare, and be positive.”

With that attitude, Jasmine is well on her way to a successful career. She hopes to someday be SCSDB’s athletic trainer. Watch out, Joni!

Photo: A student-athlete is sitting on a medical table getting his ankle taped by a student athletic trainer. SCSDB’s athletic trainer is watching her, smiling.

Caption: Jasmine Elleby of St. Matthews (right) tapes the ankle of student-athlete Fernandez Johnson of Lancaster before football practice. Joni Canter, SCSDB’s athletic trainer, looks on.

Teachers of Visually Impaired Offer Statewide Training

State-certified teachers for students who are blind or visually impaired, known as TVIs, provide a variety of services for students in public schools through SCSDB’s Outreach Services.

Vision Outreach Services’ TVIs offer teachers the necessary training and tools to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired students across the state. Services include special needs classroom instruction, assessments, assistance with specialized access technology equipment, and mentoring.

TVIs adapt materials for use by students such as textbooks in large print or braille. They also are responsible for educational areas unique to students who are visually impaired or blind, such as independent living skills, career education, and access technology.

Photo: A physical therapist is watching a young student walk with his white cane. They are walking outside on a sidewalk.

Caption: Tracy Iradi, SCSDB physical therapist assistant, works with Landon Lipsey of Pacolet on his cane navigation skills.

Photo: A School for the Blind student plays guitar and smiling.

Caption: During the 2nd Annual Adventures in Braille weekend at SCSDB, Torrey Wilson of Boiling Springs got to try out the guitar during music lessons.

SCSDB Gold Stars!

Victoria Thibeau of Simpsonville won first place in the Novice category at this year's SC Braille Challenge, a competition aiming to motivate students to develop braille skills.

Cordarrius Moore of Rock Hill won the 2012 SCSDB Spelling Bee. Thirty-two students from all three divisions competed.

The SCSDB boys' basketball team and the cheer team competed in the Mason-Dixon Tournament at the Georgia School for the Deaf. **Fernandez Johnson** of Lancaster was named to the All-Tournament Team. He scored a combined 45 points in two final, heartbreaking losses.

SCSDB's girls' basketball team won fifth place in the Mason-Dixon Tournament at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. **Kia Smith** of Dorchester and **Destiny McCarter** of Lancaster were named to the All-Tournament Team, and **Kia Smith** won the 3-point goal shooting contest.

James Brown of Cheraw was named the 2011 Area 12 Special Olympics Middle School Athlete of the Year. Area 12 encompasses Cherokee, Union, and Spartanburg counties.

School for the Deaf high school students **Chanel and Sierra Hardy**, twin sisters from Greenville, attended the Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S!) in Charlotte, NC. As part of the National Black Deaf Advocates 25th National Conference, Y.E.S! is a leadership summit program designed to meet the leadership, non-academic educational, and social needs of black deaf and hard of hearing youths from 13 to 17. Chanel and Sierra were encouraged and inspired to be more confident and to be leaders on and off the volleyball court.

Photos: Head shots of students named.

SCSDB Launches New Post-Graduation Program

SCSDB has created a program to enhance recent graduates' high school experience and to further their preparation for post-graduation endeavors. Students who have not yet earned their high school diplomas and are under the age of 21 are eligible to enroll.

The new post-graduation program allows students to focus on their specific graduation and employment requirements through individually-designed course schedules. Students in the program are provided housing and transportation to and from school and are required to follow the student code of conduct.

Courses offered include HSAP (SC High School Assessment Program) study halls, employment skills training, driver's education, technology, student-run business opportunities, and off-campus work experience.

'11 Lady Hornets Take Gold

The SCSDB Lady Hornets relay track team took first place in the 4x100m relay at the SC State Track Meet in Columbia. The team consisted of **Mariah Jackson** of Beaufort, **Meka Minton** of Rock Hill, **Jasmine Elleby** of St. Matthews, **Destiny McCarter** of Lancaster, and alternate **Chelsea**

Spann of St. Stephen. The girls set a new school record, a new USA Deaf record, and the Junior World record, previously set by Russia in 1998 with a time of 51.0 seconds. The SCSDB team crossed the finish line at 50.66 seconds.

Photo: SCSDB's girls' relay team standing on podium in a pyramid, smiling.

Caption: Members of the girls' 2011 4x100 gold medal relay team are (left to right, top) Meka Minton, Mariah Jackson, alternate Chelsea Spann, (left to right, bottom) Jasmine Elleby and Destiny McCarter.

Photo: An SCSDB student and a Whitmire High School student are wrestling in a gym in front of people in bleachers. A referee stands behind them with a whistle in his mouth.

Caption: School for the Blind student Bishoy Fargalla of Fort Mill wrestles against a competitor from Whitmire High School. SCSDB brought back wrestling in 2011-2012. Bishoy won his match by pin to earn SCSDB's first regional match victory of the season and in over 20 years.

Photo: A physical education teacher helps a young Cedar Springs Academy student twirl a jump rope while another teacher looks on, smiling.

Caption: SCSDB physical education teacher Martha Greene helps Cedar Springs Academy student Jacob Jackson of Roebuck turn the rope in this year's Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Jacob and his classmates helped raise money for the American Heart Association. SCSDB jump rope instructor, Aly Nagy, looks on.

Coming Up at SCSDB!

3/28	Track Meet, SCSDB
3/28-29	AAC Spring Plant Sale AAC Courtyard, SCSDB
4/2-6	Spring Holiday Break
4/13	Expanded Core Curriculum Presentations 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Includes Lunch. School for the Blind
4/13	3rd Annual Hornets Hoops Fundraiser 8:00 a.m. at Wofford College
5/1	Art on the Lawn Sale, SCSDB
5/4	High School Awards Day, SCSDB 10:00 a.m., Pulliam Auditorium
5/7	Athletics Awards Night, SCSDB 6:00 p.m., Voss Center
5/11	School Improvement Council Meeting, SCSDB 10:00 a.m., Swearingen
5/17	Campus-Wide Field Day
5/23	Graduation, SCSDB 11:00 a.m., Pulliam Auditorium

Please see SCSDB's full calendar at www.scsdb.org.

For more information about events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at access@scsdb.org or toll free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7505#.

Welcome New Students!

Pictured left to right.

School for the Blind

Alex Duncan of Boiling Springs
Chase Hanna of Great Falls
Jayquan Jenkins of Orangeburg
Cheylin Jones of Columbia
Quinton Jones of Columbia
Caleb Lark of Clinton
Kemaria Lindsay of Whitmire
Will McDonald of Pacolet
Justin Preston of Williamston
Zacchaeus Reaves of Spartanburg
Sydney Reed of Chesnee
Breanna Rhodus of Manning
Heilyn Sanchez of Laurens
Victoria Thibeau of Simpsonville
Victoria (Vika) Trussell of Summerville
Brent Tyler of Pickens
Torrey Wilson of Boiling Springs

School for the Deaf

Luke Benoit of Greenville
Andrew Bibbs of West Columbia
John Buccieri of McBee
Charles “Austin” Cathcart of Spartanburg
Tehya Chavis of Orangeburg
Sierra DeVaughn of Timmonsville
Ja’Aariana Goforth-Trimble of Spartanburg
Wyatt Harvell of Roebuck
Montravious James of Columbia
Everette Ladson of Summerville
Nikolai Madden of Gray Court
Hunter Marshall of Rock Hill
Quadaris McKinney of Boiling Springs
DeAsia Miller of Wagener
Tyrelle Stevenson of Orangeburg
Braylin Taylor of Easley
Svetlana Weaver of Tega Cay
Jasper Womick of Spartanburg

Cedar Springs Academy

Hailey Gundling of Pawleys Island
Kaiedra Hay of North Augusta
Brittany Smith of Bennettsville

**The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome year-round.*

Photos: Are head shots of new students.

Herbert Center Make Over Complete!

The renovation of SCSDB's Cedar Springs Academy, formerly known as the School for the Multihandicapped, is now complete!

The new state-of-the-art facility includes new classrooms, a new therapy pool, new dormitory space for more students, new administration office space, a new sprinkler system, an expanded infirmary and training kitchen for independent living, and a residential multimedia room. The gymnasium, cafeteria, and building ramps have also been enhanced by renovations.

Photo: An SCSDB physical therapist is in the new therapy pool with a young Cedar Springs Academy student. The student is in a floatation device and smiling.

Caption: Included in the Herbert Center renovations is a new therapy pool. Margaret Gudka, SCSDB physical therapist, works with Cedar Springs Academy student Cameron Stitt of Simpsonville in the new therapy pool.

Why SCSDB?

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind is an accredited academic institution aiming to be the statewide leader in education and accessibility for individuals who are deaf, blind, or sensory multi-disabled. Together with local school districts and statewide partners, SCSDB's goal is for every student to reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond.

SCSDB offers:

- Early intervention programs for children ages birth to 3
- Pre K-12 educational programs on campus and school districts around the state, including mainstreaming, tutoring, and residential programs
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local districts statewide
- An emphasis on accessibility for every individual student
- Assistive and advanced technology in the classroom
- Programs focused on achieving life-long independence
- Employment preparation and on-the-job experiences
- Athletics and fine arts programs
- Summer camp programs for SC residents ages 6-14
- All of the above and more, at **no cost to families!**

For more information, contact us toll-free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7505# or via e-mail at access@scsdb.org.

The Walker Foundation (with new logo)

A non-profit organization, The Walker Foundation is dedicated to securing the resources needed to support SCSDB and its statewide programs and services. For more information, please visit The Walker Foundation's brand new website at www.walkerfdn.org!

Access SCSDB is accessible in the following formats:

Standard – Braille – Large Print – Spanish – Screen Reader Capable

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SCSDB Accreditations

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
South Carolina Department of Education

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**Access SCSDb is a newsletter for individuals who are deaf, blind, or sensory multi-disabled,
their parents and the professionals who serve them.**