

A Red Carpet and Palmetto Gold School
Fall 2010
South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

Access SCSDB

Working with parents and professionals to provide access to learning and living

SCSDB Names New President

Maggie Park has been named the new president of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB). An SCSDB employee for 10 years, Park has served as the school's interim president and is the former director of curriculum and instruction.

The mother of four and a former teacher, Park is dedicated to ensuring that every student served by SCSDB reaches his or her maximum potential. Park has 20 years experience in special education including teaching and administrative positions at SCSDB; the Willie Ross School for the Deaf in Longmeadow, Massachusetts; the First Baptist Cooperative Preschool in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and Pateros Preschool in Pateros, Washington.

A national board certified teacher, Park holds numerous South Carolina educator certificates including principal certification. She plans to complete her doctorate in educational administration in 2011 and holds education specialist, master's and bachelor's degrees in educational administration, deaf education and early childhood education, respectively.

Photo:

As a former teacher, Maggie Park, center, enjoys spending time with SCSDB students. Here, Maggie shares a picture book with School for the Deaf students from left to right: Sasha Patrick of Hilton Head Island, Landon Godwin of Clinton, Ceirra Morgan of Blacksburg, Paige Covert of Greenville and Chelsea Booker of Greer.

Photo Description:

President Maggie Park holds a book and a child in her lap with other children surrounding her.

School is now in session across the state!

It's back to school for students across the state and at SCSDB!

At the Spartanburg campus, residential and day students are engaged in high-quality, accredited programs that include specialized teachers and technology as well as career exploration. Students have access to after-school, fine arts and athletics programs as well as the opportunity to mainstream in Spartanburg School Districts 6 and 7.

Beyond Spartanburg, SCSDB is working closely with special education directors and students in schools across the state. Through outreach contractual agreements, specialized itinerant teachers are assisting students who have vision and/or hearing disabilities. Services include special needs classroom instruction, assessments, assistance with specialized equipment, mentoring and workshops. This year, Hearing Outreach is serving 13 school districts and Vision Outreach is serving 52!

Students throughout the state are reading braille and large print textbooks thanks to the work of SCSDB's Instructional Resource Center (IRC). So far this year, the IRC has provided 288 braille and 539 large print textbooks to 39 school districts in South Carolina!

For the younger students, the Early Intervention Program, in partnership with South Carolina First

Steps, is serving children with sensory disabilities ages birth to three throughout the state. The program is providing a vast array of services and resources to assist parents.

For more information about SCSDB and its services, please visit www.scsdb.org.

Photo:

Preschool student Lucas Yeager of Aiken shows off his white cane mobility skills. SCSDB orientation & mobility specialists work with students who are blind or visually impaired across the state. With the goal of attaining mobile independence, students work on navigation techniques with white canes and GPS devices.

Photo Description:

Young preschool student using his cane on a sidewalk.

New Director of Vision Outreach Services

Marty McKenzie is SCSDB's new director of Vision Outreach Services. Previously the access technology coordinator for SCSDB, McKenzie is now responsible for all vision programs available to public school districts including orientation and mobility training for students, assistance and training for teachers of the visually impaired, and access technology assistance for students and teachers.

In addition, McKenzie oversees the Instructional Resource Center, which processes all state braille and large print textbooks, and Project Magnify, a program designed to increase visual reading skills of students with low vision through intensive training and practice with prescribed low vision devices.

Photo: Headshot of Marty McKenzie

New Director of Curriculum and Instruction

SCSDB's Sara Kollock has been named the new director of curriculum and instruction. Throughout her 27 years at SCSDB, Kollock has served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal and interim principal in the School for the Multihandicapped. She has also served as the director of the Career and Technology Education program and the interim director of on-campus instructional programs.

In her new role, Kollock is responsible for the Schools for the Deaf, Blind and Multihandicapped; Career and Technology Education; Fine Arts; Hearing Outreach; and Testing. She also oversees SCSDB's Related Educational Services, which include Health and Related Services, Library and Media Services, Tutoring and Athletics.

Photo: Headshot of Sara Kollock

Board Welcomes New Commissioners

The SCSDB Board of Commissioners welcomes its newest members, Edward B. Bible and Marlene Metts!

Bible fills the member at large position representing the blind community. He is the director of training and employment at the SC Commission for the Blind. In his current position, he is responsible for developing employment opportunities for consumers who are blind or visually impaired through

contacts with high level company officials throughout the state and nation.

Metts is the representative for the state superintendent of education who is an ex-officio member of the board. She is the director of the Office of Exceptional Children for the SC Department of Education. She also serves as a clinical supervisor for the University of South Carolina Speech and Hearing Clinic and is a member of the university's hearing and speech department adjunct faculty.

Photos: Headshots of Ed Bible and Marlene Metts

Home Away from Home

Over the last 18 months, SCSDB residence halls for students have undergone a series of improvements thanks to the generosity of Leadership South Carolina participants. From new furniture and bedding to coats of colorful paint, SCSDB dorms have been rejuvenated, and so have the students.

"Making a difference in the lives of our students who reside in SCSDB residential settings is first and foremost," said John Reynolds, Residential Life Services director. "These changes really mean a great deal to them. Their faces light up when they see the improvements made to their residence halls."

The dorm improvements are just a small piece of what makes SCSDB dorm students' "home away from home." The Residential Life staff works diligently with students, their parents and their schools to foster positive relationships to provide a safe, home-like, educational environment.

Contributors to residence hall improvements included the Walmart Foundation, Sherwin Williams, Young Office Supply, Spartanburg Water and Spinx. All 47 Leadership South Carolina class members participated in the project.

Photo:

School for the Deaf student Shelicia Wilkins of Cheraw was delightfully surprised by the new dorm renovations made possible through Leadership South Carolina.

Photo Description:

Student with a backpack stands smiling by bed with new bedspread, new art and paint color on the walls.

Letter from Maggie

Dear Friend,

It is indeed an honor to have been selected the new president of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind! I am grateful for the opportunity and excited by the possibilities this position offers!

We began our school year with renewed dedication to South Carolina's children who are sensory disabled, their families and the professionals who serve them. Our first staff meeting focused on the theme "Journey to the Stars," a commitment to high expectations for every child. Nothing short of reaching for the stars will do!

Our mission is to ensure that every child we serve realizes his or her maximum level of success – whether the child is served on our main campus in Spartanburg or through our outreach services in school districts across the state. We will always strive to provide:

- Well-qualified, specialized staff,
- A strong academic curriculum or outreach service plan,

- Technology that meets educational and accessibility needs,
- Job training that leads to good jobs,
- Recreational and socialization opportunities.

With my new position comes the opportunity to dream about the future – about ways to make life better for our state’s sensory disabled children. As a parent or professional, I know that you have hopes and dreams as well. I invite you to join me on our “Journey to the Stars” by partnering with us, visiting us or e-mailing me with your ideas and suggestions (mpark@scsdb.org).

Sincerely,

Margaret E. 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: *Headshot of Maggie Park*

The Walker Foundation

A non-profit organization, The Walker Foundation is dedicated to securing the resources needed to support SCSDB and its statewide programs and services. To help, go to www.walkerfdn.org or phone (864) 577-7583.

Walker Foundation logo

SCSDB Gold Stars!

SCSDB Girls’ Track & Field Named National and Mason-Dixon Champions!

SCSDB’s girls’ track team was named the 2010 USA Deaf Track and Field national champions and the 2010 Mason-Dixon champions! The boys’ team tied for fourth place in Nationals and second place in Mason-Dixon.

Photo:

Members of the girls’ national championship team and their coaches are: Back row, left to right: Head Coach Sanford Keyes, Assistant Coach Jessica Smith, Bree Crayton of Spartanburg, Jasmine Simmons of Moncks Corner, Lois Griffin of Orangeburg, Mariah Jackson of Beaufort, Nallely Ayala of Pineland, Kia Smith of Dorchester, Paige Darus of Greenville, Assistant Coach David Oyler, Jamanda Howe of Scranton and Assistant Coach Jennifer Myers. Front row, left to right: Meka Minton of Rock Hill, Destiny McCarter of Lancaster, Chelsea Spann of St. Stephen and Tameisha Hopkins of Columbia.

Photo Description:

Team lined up in gym holding their certificates.

SC Council on Economics Education Award Winners

Three SCSDB teams competed in the SC Council on Economic Education's annual Stock Market Game. Each team had a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in publicly traded stocks for 10 weeks.

Raekwon Alston of Columbia, Sierra Hardy of Greenville and Fernandez Johnson of Lancaster were the first place team. Brandon Holst of Inman, Elijah Griffin of Orangeburg, Samantha Woods of Clover and Mara Baker of Summerville took second place. Douglas Holmes of Andrews, Destiny McCarter of Lancaster and Laquashus Mack of Lamar finished in third place.

Photo:

SCSDB teams brought home trophies from the SC Council on Economic Education's Stock Market Game. From left to right: Samantha Woods of Clover, School for the Deaf teacher Margaret Tyser, Brandon Holst of Inman, Sierra Hardy of Greenville, School for the Deaf Coordinator of Instruction Kristin Milner and Mara Baker of Summerville.

Photo Description:

Students and teachers holding their trophies.

Pageant Winners go to National Competition

Mr. SC School for the Deaf (SCSD) James Ivey of Rock Hill and Miss SCSD first place winner Kia Smith of Dorchester represented SCSDB at the Deaf Teen America Pageant in Frederick, Maryland. Teenagers from seven different schools for the deaf across the nation competed. SCSDB won fourth place!

The contestants had opportunities to develop such qualities as teamwork, leadership, self-esteem, social skills and an increased understanding of diversity.

Breakfast Optimist Club Winners

Eight SCSDB students participated in the Breakfast Optimist Club of Spartanburg's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Contestants had to research and write speeches and then present them in sign language, orally or a combination of both.

The winners were Bree Crayton of Spartanburg, first place; Jane Enabore of Duncan, second place; and Victoria Duncan of Lancaster, third place.

Photo:

Breakfast Optimist Club winners from left to right: School for the Deaf students Victoria Duncan of Lancaster, Bree Crayton of Spartanburg and Jane Enabore of Duncan.

Photo Description:

Three students with their medals on with their arms around each other.

You're Invited!

10/30

Homecoming: SCSDB vs. Mississippi School for the Deaf
(Volleyball & Football)
SCSDB, Spartanburg

11/5	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Summit SC Archives and History Center, Columbia
11/16 & 18, 19	“SWING!: The Musical” Fall Fine Arts Production, SCSDB, Spartanburg
12/2	Technology Olympics SC State Museum, Columbia
2/3	SC Regional Braille Challenge SC State Library, Columbia
3/11	Vision Summit SC Archives and History Center, Columbia

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 7506#.

Promethean Boards

SCSDB is ever closer to reaching its goal of a Promethean Board in every classroom and residence hall!

Through the efforts of Leadership South Carolina, organizations teamed up with SCSDB and The Walker Foundation to raise funds for new Promethean Boards. Promethean Boards are interactive white boards that combine the simplicity of a white board, power of a computer and the convenience of a projector. They are interactive classroom tools that engage students with vivid images, video and audio.

Contributing through Leadership South Carolina were Bank of America Charitable Foundation; Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company; Duke Energy Foundation and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. All 47 Leadership South Carolina class members participated in the project.

Welcome New Students!

Article Description: New Students with photos of each student

Kelly's Kids

Terriah Banks, Spartanburg

John Booker, Spartanburg

Zion Rogers, Spartanburg

School for the Deaf

Paige Covert, Greenville

Devante' Heywood, Hilton Head Island

Sasha Patrick - Hilton Head Island

School for the Blind

Damien Cato, Aiken

Bishoy Fargalla, Fort Mill

Alexis Faulkenberry, Clover

Teresa Jones, Columbia

Hudson MacFarlane, Goose Creek
Shinqualla (Roxie) Reed, Anderson

School for the Multihandicapped

Lexus Hunter, Spartanburg
Trevor Rea, Gaffney

Herbert Center Gets Makeover

The School for the Multihandicapped's Herbert Center is being treated to a \$7.7 million renovation project. Slated for completion in August 2011, the project will include new classrooms, additional dormitory space, an expanded infirmary and training kitchen, and a residential multimedia room. The gymnasium and cafeteria are also slated for renovations.

One of the key additions to the center is a therapy pool to benefit children with varying physical disabilities. Water therapy relaxes muscles, provides resistance and relieves stress on joints to improve a student's flexibility, mobility and coordination while strengthening muscles.

The SC Legislature designated funds for the project in the 2007-2008 budget.

Photo:

The School for the Multihandicapped's Herbert Center broke ground on its \$7.7 million renovation project. From left to right: Kay Melba with son and School for the Multihandicapped student Collin Melba of Moore; SCSDB staff member Bridget Sitarski with School for the Multihandicapped student Jasmine Gamble of Ruffin; Maggie Park, SCSDB president; SCSDB staff member Lisa Steadman with School for the Multihandicapped student Shane Aikens of Pamplico; SCSDB alum Scott Alexander; and SCSDB staff member John O'Brien.

Photo Description:

Staff and students wear yellow hard hats and holding golden shovels digging in the dirt in front of Herbert center.

Special Olympics Unified Soccer Team Brings Home Silver!

SCSDB's unified soccer team came home wearing silver medals from the Special Olympics 2010 USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska! Seven high school-age students from the School for the Multihandicapped as well as three able-bodied peers from Spartanburg and Dorman high schools made up the soccer team.

Photo:

SCSDB's unified soccer team brought home the silver medal from the National Special Olympic Games in Nebraska! Pictured left to right are coaches Joe Johnson and Beth Goodenough, Dominique Dotson of Greenville, Neal Ellis of Lancaster, unified player Jacklin Fleifel of Spartanburg, unified player Amanda Goodenough of Spartanburg, Laquitia Harris of Greenville, Chassidy Kelly of Columbia, Curtis Sparkman of Andrews, unified player Erin Shook of Spartanburg, Ther Tee Vang of Pacolet and Christopher McLeod of Dillon.

Photo Description:

Students and coaches standing on Special Olympics podium with their medals on.

The Seeing Eye Seminar

Vision Outreach Services student Emily Zimmermann of Aiken was one of 25 students accepted nationwide to attend The Seeing Eye “Seminar for Youth,” a free four-day program designed to familiarize teenage students with the use of a dog for mobility.

Photo: *Headshot of Emily*

From Doubt to Triumph

Five days before his very first birthday, Tyler Horton suffered a fall that led to bleeding in his brain. The bleeding affected his vision to the point that Tyler is now legally blind. The doctors doubted that Tyler would ever be able to walk or talk and that his growth would be stunted at best. Tyler has triumphed over their doubt and today, he is a strapping young man at 6’4”, a stellar athlete and a 2010 graduate of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB). He is also embarking on a new career!

Tyler Horton came to SCSDB from his hometown of Kershaw when he was 11 years old.

“We knew we made the right decision because of the staff we met and what we saw the school could offer him,” said Renee Horton, Tyler’s mom. “Since that decision, we have always felt that SCSDB was Tyler’s family and home away from home. Education was very important to us and we also wanted him to have friends and play sports.”

Tyler made friends instantly, and found his niche in the popular sport for the vision impaired – goalball, a game played with a ball that has a bell in it so athletes who are blind or visually impaired can follow it through their hearing. He holds three gold medals and two silver medals and was named SCSDB’s School for the Blind Male Athlete of the Year 2010.

Tyler’s drive and determination allowed him to prepare for life after SCSDB. Throughout the years, Tyler has held various jobs around SCSDB’s campus to help him decide on a career path.

His chosen path – golf. More specifically – golf course groundskeeping. Tyler has a love of nature and combined with his love of sports has found a career that is perfect for him.

“Because of SCSDB’s career and technology training program, Tyler has been able to explore all kinds of career opportunities. SCSDB’s work program allowed Tyler to work at the Creek Golf Club in Spartanburg and because of that, and the help of the Commission for the Blind, Tyler has landed a job working at the Kershaw Country Club & Golf Course!” said Renee.

“Through his education and work experiences, Tyler has grown to be a fine young man, and we couldn’t be prouder of him!” said Renee.

Photo:

Tyler Horton of Kershaw and his mentor and co-worker, Alvin Casey, tend to the Creek Golf Club’s grounds. Tyler participated in SCSDB’s job training program.

Description:

Photo of Tyler sitting in a golf cart with his mentor standing next to him.

The McAlister Foundation Scholarship Through The Walker Foundation

Kristin Jackson of Hopkins is the first-ever winner of The McAlister Foundation Scholarship through The Walker Foundation, SCSDB's fund-raising arm! She has been awarded the total cost of attendance to the school of her choice, less other scholarships and awards, for up to four years!

Kristin is a hard-of-hearing graduate of A.C. Flora High School. With a dream of working in health care to improve the lives of others, she is now attending Claflin University!

Photo: *Headshot of Kristin*

Photo:

SCSDB's indoor pool allows students to not only socialize but to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through swimming, water basketball and water polo! Left to right: SCSDB summer campers Lyndsay Shafto of Boiling Springs, Taylor Stephens of Irmo and Al'Laysia Boyd of Holly Hill.

Photo Description:

Three girls, one with goggles on, standing in the pool at SCSDB.

SC ETV Honors SCSDB for Technology Achievement

SCSDB is one of just 13 schools in the entire state to receive a technology achievement award for its innovative use of ETV and Discovery Education's StreamlineSC, the largest library of digital content related to SC curriculum standards.

Photo:

School for the Blind students who performed at the Eastern Music Festival for the Blind were (left to right) front row: Kalsi Sims of Lancaster, Breanna Rhodus of Manning, Hayleigh Huggins of Marion, Sirinna Jackson of Greer, Amber Baskin of Olanta and Katie Roche of Spartanburg. Back row: Ta'Rik Thompson of Ridgeland, Jeremy Ponder of Fountain Inn, Robert Winters of Mountain Rest and Melanie Gladstone, SCSDB's music teacher.

Photo Description:

Students wearing white shirts and black pants or skirts standing with their teacher.

Occupational Therapy Grant

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation has awarded \$45,440.00 to the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind for occupational therapy (OT) services.

This grant helped pay for OT services students need to gain the fine motor skills necessary to feed, dress and bathe themselves, among other tasks. OT services are available to SCSDB students year round.

In the photo, Ana Maria Espana, SCSDb occupational therapist, works with School for the Multihandicapped student Trevor Rea of Gaffney on his OT skills.

Photo Description: Occupational therapist sitting with student holding toy.

Options and Opportunities....

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB) works with parents and professionals to help children realize dreams. 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 SCSDB include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers;
- Pre K-12 education programs on the main SCSDB campus in Spartanburg (residential and day);
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide;
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts;
- Summer camps for children ages 6-14;
- A wide variety of accessibility services.

Children's needs vary with stages in life, and we welcome the opportunity to share the many options and opportunities available with you. All services are available at no cost to qualified families.* Tours and overnight accommodations are available for those who wish to visit the beautiful 160-acre Spartanburg campus. For more information, contact us toll-free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7506# or via e-mail at access@scsdb.org.

** Fees to families are limited to activity and field trip fees. All other services are free of charge to families.*

SCSDB Main Campus - Spartanburg

1-888-447-2732 Voice/TTY
(864) 585-7711 Voice/TTY
355 Cedar Springs Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302
www.scsdb.org
access@scsdb.org

Statewide Division of Outreach Services

(800) 984-4357 Voice/TTY
(803) 896-9848
101 Executive Center Drive
Suite 120, Saluda Building
Columbia, SC 29210

Access SCSDB is available in the following formats:

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

To request a copy in any format, contact us toll-free at

1-888-447-2732 extension 7506# or via e-mail at access@scsdb.org. You may also visit www.scsdb.org.

Receive Access SCSDB in your inbox!

To be added to our e-mail list, contact us toll-free at

1-888-447-2732 extension 7506# or send us your contact information via e-mail at access@scsdb.org.

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

SCSDB logo