

## **Access SCSDB**

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

### **The Whole Child Initiative**

SCSDB is introducing a nationally-recognized program known as the Whole Child Initiative. Through challenging academic and after school programs, SCSDB promotes the development of children who are well-prepared for lifelong success. The program's goal is for every student to become a well-rounded, successful member of society by ensuring that each child is:

- **Challenged** academically and prepared for success in college and/or employment;
- **Engaged** by staying connected to the school and broader community;
- **Supported** socially and emotionally by caring, qualified adults;
- **Healthy** by learning about and practicing a healthy lifestyle;
- **Safe and secure** by learning in a physically and emotionally safe environment.

**Photo:** Four young elementary students from the School for the Deaf, around 12 years old. They are linked together, standing in a line with arms around the next one's shoulders. They are holding handmade pinwheels.

**Cutline:** School for the Deaf students show off the pinwheels they made. Left to right: Quadree Vincent of Fountain Inn, Cristian Ramirez of Spartanburg, Scott Williams of Lyman and Tommy Fernandes of Greer.

### **SCSDB Offers Opportunities for Students and School Districts Statewide!**

It's already time to start planning for next year! SCSDB offers a wide-range of individualized educational programs and specialized services throughout the state.

#### **Main Campus - Spartanburg**

SCSDB is now enrolling for the fall semester and parents are encouraged to apply early.

As a state-supported school, there are no fees for qualified students to attend the Spartanburg campus. South Carolina residents who are deaf, blind or sensory multidisabled, ages 2½ to 21, are eligible to apply.

SCSDB also welcomes the opportunity to provide visitors a tour of its beautiful 160-acre campus! Contact Loreta Dylgjeri at (864) 577-7579 or via e-mail at [ldylgjeri@scsdb.org](mailto:ldylgjeri@scsdb.org) for more information!

#### **Statewide Vision & Hearing Services**

SCSDB is establishing contracts with school districts statewide for the fall semester. Specialized, certified itinerant teachers are available through SCSDB for students in public schools with vision and/or hearing losses. Services include assessments, assistance with specialized equipment and technology, special needs instruction, mentoring and workshops.

For more information, special education directors should contact Carol Mabry at (864) 577-7502 or by e-mail at [cmabry@scsdb.org](mailto:cmabry@scsdb.org).

**Photo:** A yellow Charleston commuter bus is parked at a curb and students are boarding.

**Cutline:** From Oconee to Charleston, SCSDB offers free, statewide bus transportation for all students enrolled at the Spartanburg campus.

## **SCSDB Students Give Back!**

SCSDB students raised more than:

- \$500 for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief fund!
- \$600 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart competition!

## **Access to Technology**

Through local and federal grants, SCSDB is able to provide students with technological tools to enhance their educational experiences. The following are just a couple of examples.

### **Video Teleconferencing**

Virtual student field trips, classrooms and parent meetings...these are some of the benefits of the new video teleconferencing system installed at SCSDB. The video teleconferencing system makes possible virtual classrooms between SCSDB's main campus in Spartanburg and numerous locations worldwide. The system allows students to visit exciting places such as the Smithsonian and NASA while never leaving campus! Through the school's outreach center in Columbia, parents can participate in educational planning meetings without the need to travel to Spartanburg.

### **GPS Devices**

GPS technology is popular with the sighted population, but now, with the development of the Trekker GPS devices, individuals who are blind or visually impaired can join the GPS revolution!

SCSDB is introducing Trekker GPS devices to students on the main campus in Spartanburg and in public school districts. The devices provide access and control over the environment for students similar to automobile navigation units. Using voice controls, these pedestrian GPS devices make navigation information accessible so an individual can walk, ride a bus or take a cab with more independence.

**Photo 1:** A teacher stands in front of a Promethean Board in a computer lab. Two students are sitting paying attention while another is raising her hand to ask a question. On the Promethean Board is a satellite link with a gorilla who is signing, "This makes me sad."

**Cutline:** Career and Technology Education teacher Iosep MacDougall signs to School for the Deaf students during a virtual field trip. The students visited with Koko the Gorilla through SCSDB's video teleconferencing system.

**Photo 2:** An O&M specialist is posing with a School for the Blind student, both are smiling, while using a Trekker Breeze GPS device.

**Photo Inset:** A close up of a hand holding the Trekker Breeze GPS device.

**Cutline:** Orientation & mobility specialist Laura Palko instructs School for the Blind student Alexis Tabb of Spartanburg on the navigational uses of the Trekker Breeze.

## **New Scholarship for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Students!**

SCSDB and The Walker Foundation are proud to announce a new college scholarship through The McAlister Foundation! The scholarship is available for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and have received SCSDB campus or outreach services. The application deadline is April 1, 2010. Applications and guidelines are available online at [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org).

## **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](http://www.walkerfdn.org) or phone (864) 577-7583.

**Photo:** The Walker Foundation logo.

## **Welcome to Access SCSDB!**

Dear Friend,

Student success continues to be a high priority for parents and educators in South Carolina. However, in these tough economic times, all of us are challenged to provide quality services at lower costs.

SCSDB is committed to providing resources to help you meet the challenge. Statewide vision and hearing services, available through SCSDB, can ensure that school districts have specialized, certified teachers to serve their students with vision or hearing losses. In many cases, substantial cost savings can be realized.

On the main campus in Spartanburg, there is never a charge for enrolled students. Tuition, room and board, food and transportation are all provided through a combination of state, federal and private funds.

SCSDB offers sign language classes, braille classes and other educational programs at low cost throughout the state. Parent and professional libraries offer a wealth of information at no charge. Summer camps are also available at minimal costs to families.

This issue of *Access SCSDB* provides information on many of these services, and we would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about your specific needs. Please contact us at [access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org) or toll free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7506#.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Park  
Interim 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:** Photo is head and shoulders portrait of Maggie Park, SCSDB interim president.

## **Visions of Inspiration**

Visually impaired since the age of 1, twin sisters Latrice and Lawnna Stevenson are no strangers to adversity. However, they have both set their sights on success, and possess the perseverance and determination to achieve it.

Alice Stevenson, the girls' grandmother and guardian, enrolled the twins in SCSDB at age 9 once she met with the School for the Blind staff.

"[SCSDB staff members] were a godsend. We have strived and struggled," said Alice. "Those girls are my heart and they don't let their handicap stop them."

Latrice and Lawnna agree.

"At SCSDB, there were good role models," said Lawnna. "A lot of times kids get really embarrassed and self-conscious with disabilities and let other people limit them. My sister and I don't let it get to us."

That resolve and fortitude powered the girls to graduate from both SCSDB *and* Spartanburg High School through SCSDB's mainstreaming program in 2009.

Prior to graduation, Latrice was recognized for her literary writing, winning competitions sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Chapman Foundation. Lawnna, who maintained a 4.0 GPA, was awarded a four-year scholarship to Claflin University.

Today, the twins are freshmen at Claflin University in Orangeburg. Lawnna is majoring in math and minoring in business and is active in the National Society for Black Engineers and various community service projects.

Latrice is majoring in mass communications and is a pre-alumni council member of the National Negro College Fund, a member of the Mass Communication Society and hosts her own show on Claflin's television station. She also works for the university paper, *The Panther*.

"We tell others don't let [your disability] limit you," said Lawnna. "People know we can't see, [but] I didn't let it cripple me. It's part of who I am – just another characteristic of *who I am*."

**Photo:** Two female School for the Blind high school students lean on the railing of the Walker Hall balcony, looking down and smiling.

**Cutline:** Latrice and Lawnna Stevenson of Spartanburg are graduates of SCSDB's School for the Blind and Spartanburg High School. They currently hold 3.6 and 3.7 GPAs, respectively, as freshmen at Claflin University.

### **A Horse of Course!**

SCSDB students ride horses to develop cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills.

Da'quan Whetstone of Williston School District #29 in Barnwell County had the opportunity to enjoy some equine companionship when he attended SCSDB's 2009 Summer Camp. Da'quan's special education director, Gloria Gramling Smith, called SCSDB to say how grateful she was for Da'quan's experiences:

"Da'quan enjoyed it so much and his family was thrilled that he was able to have so many enriching experiences. We saw some real growth over the summer.

Thank you so much for providing this opportunity for Da'quan. He has been letting us know that he looks forward to going back 'again and again.' Our appreciation goes out to your school for partnering with us to provide a more complete experience for him; between the camp and the teachers sent to us from SCSDB, we are able to provide a wonderful learning program for him at our small district."

**Photo:** A young deaf/hard-of-hearing elementary student rides a young pony while two adult volunteers accompany him.

**Cutline:** H.A.L.T.E.R. (Handicapped Athletes Learning to Enjoy Riding) program volunteers guide Da'quan Whetstone, center, of the Williston School District on horseback at SCSDB's 2009 Summer Camp.

H.A.L.T.E.R., a therapeutic horseback riding program, is located on the Spartanburg campus and is available for all campus students.

### **Auditory-Verbal Therapy Grant**

An SC Department of Education Office grant will allow SCSDB and school district staff to better serve children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing *and* communicate through spoken language. Students will improve their language, speech, literacy and cognition skills.

One hundred SCSDB and state educational audiologists, speech language pathologists and teachers will participate in three, two-day clinics to learn Auditory-Verbal Therapy practice, techniques and strategies.

**Photo (does not accompany story):** Two middle-school aged children are jumping rope. The taller of the two is flipping the smaller one, who is wearing a helmet, in the midst of jumping rope.

**Cutline:** School for the Multihandicapped students Christopher McLeod of Dillon flips Ther Tee Vang of Roebuck during a practice for Jump Rope for Heart, a fund raiser for the American Heart Association.

## **SCSDB Gold Stars**

### **SC Regional Braille Challenge**

#### **Varsity Division Winners**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Brianna Murray of Charleston County Schools

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Andiel Kale of Charleston, SCSDB

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Brittany Bomboy of Shaw Air Force Base, SCSDB

*For a complete listing of all the winners, visit [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org).*

### **Spelling Bee Champs!**

School for the Deaf students Telicia Avery of Cheraw and Quadree Vincent of Fountain Inn took top honors at this year's SCSDB campus-wide Spelling Bee!

### **Clerc Basketball Classic Tournament – San Francisco, CA**

The SCSDB Lady Hornets took home the Sportsmanship Award along with Jasmine Elleby being named to the girls' All-Tournament team. Dedrick Simpson was named to the boys' All-Tournament team!

### **Mason-Dixon Basketball Tournament**

Bree Crayton, Jasmine Elleby and Kia Smith were named to the girls' All-Tournament team. Paige Darus won the three-point shooting contest. Dedrick Simpson and Dearon Harrington were named to the boys' All-Tournament team. Dedrick also won the free throw contest.

### **Football Accolades!**

*Deaf Digest Sports* has selected three SCSDB football players as All-Americans: Shaquan Boyd, defensive lineman; Dearon Harrington, offensive lineman; and Dedrick Simpson, linebacker.

### **SCSDB's football team is this year's 8-man Mason-Dixon Champions!**

### **Art Finalist!**

SCSDB School for the Deaf student Keona Williams of Goose Creek is one of two state finalists out of 150 entries in the Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VSA) arts "All Kids Can Create" nationwide art contest!

**Photos:** There are head and shoulders pictures of each of the students named in the SCSDB Gold Stars section.

## **Physical & Occupational Therapy**

SCSDB is well-equipped with a team of physical and occupational therapists.

SCSDB's physical therapists (PTs) focus on students' gross motor skills or large body movements. They teach some students how to sit-up, crawl, stand and walk, while other students work on improving their gait so they can walk in their classrooms, between classes and board buses. PTs teach more independent students upper-body level balance and coordination skills.

Occupational therapists (OTs) work on students' fine motor skills. Some students learn how to feed themselves, change their clothes and manage daily grooming activities. Other students work on improving their independent living and pre-vocational skills to prepare them for employment and living as independently as possible.

**Photo 1:** A physical therapist assistant is sitting on a floor mat, smiling and “playing” with a young multihandicapped student. The young boy is laughing and has a huge smile on his face.

**Cutline:** Physical therapist assistant Tracy Iradi works with Jacob Jackson of Roebuck on his motor skills.

### **Job Shadowing Program**

Students often dream of being an artist, a chef, or even a mechanic or carpenter. But how often do they get to experience these fields *before* their high school graduation?

At SCSDB, occupational students are given the opportunity to do just that through the school's job shadowing program. Students gain first-hand experience by pairing with professionals from different industries, both on campus and off.

**Photo 1:** A student dressed in a chef's coat is signing to her instructor. They are in the kitchen and the student is working on a recipe. There are various ingredients in front of her.

**Cutline:** School for the Deaf student Chanel Hardy of Greenville describes a dessert she is making to food service teacher Angela Collie in a food service job shadowing class.

### **You're Invited!**

- |         |                                                                                                                                               |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3/26-27 | “Reach for the Stars” Early Intervention Family Transition Conference SCSDB<br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>For families with children ages 2 and 3. |
| 4/22    | SCSDB Masterpiece Night, 7 p.m.<br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>A variety show with dance, music and theatre performances by fine arts students.     |
| 5/8     | Special Olympics Summer Games<br>Fort Jackson                                                                                                 |
| 5/13-16 | BMW Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament<br>Carolina Country Club, Spartanburg<br>Event to benefit The Walker Foundation.                           |
| 5/25    | Graduation<br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>Congratulations, Graduates!                                                                               |
| 6/12    | Sixth Annual Outreach Benefit Golf Tournament<br>Eagle Nest Golf Club, Myrtle Beach<br>Event to benefit SCSDB Outreach Centers.               |
| 6/20-26 | Summer Camps<br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>For students ages 6-14.                                                                                 |
| 7/16-18 | Southeast Regional Deaf-Blind Weekend                                                                                                         |

Kingsport, TN  
For caregivers of children with deaf-blindness.

For more information about events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at [access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org) or toll free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7506#.

### **Students Spring Into Spring!**

This spring, SCSDB students participated in and prepared for a series of academic competitions and planned a trip that is out of this world!

### **Academic Bowl-ing\***

SCSDB School for the Deaf's high school academic bowl team traveled to Florida for the Southeast Regional Academic Bowl competition! Hosted by Gallaudet University, the quiz competition consisted of questions from categories including history, literature, science and mathematics.

### **Braille Challenge**

SCSDB students, main campus and outreach, participated in the South Carolina Regional Braille Challenge, the first step in a larger national competition. The Braille Challenge™ is the only nationwide academic competition for blind students and serves to encourage blind students to refine braille skills and enhance their success.

### **Science Fair\***

SCSDB students, elementary through high school, competed in the campus-wide science fair in early March. Science project categories included biology, chemistry and Earth science. Students from the deaf, blind and multihandicapped schools had been preparing for the fair since January!

### **To Infinity and Beyond!**

SCSDB seventh graders will attend Space Camp this May in Huntsville, Ala. Students will host a series of fund raisers to pay for the voyage.

During the five-day program at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, students will join others from around the world in realistic activities such as astronaut training for young people, simulated Space Shuttle missions and rocket building and launches.

### **Spelling Bee**

A total of 28 SCSDB students from the deaf, blind and multihandicapped schools participated in the second annual Spelling Bee at the Spartanburg campus. All of the participants did an outstanding job in preparing for the Spelling Bee, and their efforts shined!

***\*Results were not available at publication deadline.***

**Photo:** Two teachers are working with young School for the Blind elementary students on their spelling skills. The teachers are using a tactile spelling board.

**Cutline:** Speech therapist Kate Crislip and School for the Blind teacher Renee Meehan teach spelling words to students Ethan Nguyen of Rock Hill, Brianna Shirley of Spartanburg and Matthew Mayhorn of Buffalo.

## **Annual Vision Summit Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The SC Vision Summit Conference marked its 10-year anniversary with a retrospective conference. Hosted by the South Carolina Vision Education Partnership (SCVEP), of which SCSDB is a part, the annual summit aspires to ensure high quality education for children who are blind and visually impaired through teacher education and professional development.

Additional SCVEP partners include USC Upstate, SC Department of Education, SC Commission for the Blind, National Federation of the Blind of SC, Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired – SC Chapter, SC State University Orientation & Mobility Program and Medical University of South Carolina Storm Eye Institute.

**Photo 1:** An art teacher is standing behind a young School for the Deaf student. They are holding up their hands that are covered in blue paint and smiling!

**Cutline:** Having a great time with paint are School for the Deaf student Landon Godwin of Clinton and his art teacher Jenny Mascari!

**Photo 2:** A teacher and School for the Blind elementary student are standing in a hallway and holding up their brailers.

**Cutline:** Preparing for The Braille Challenge are SCSDB School for the Blind student Zharvis Scott of Spartanburg and Lori Finnerty, York School District 3 teacher of the visually impaired.

## **Welcome New Students!**

### **School for the Blind:**

Cory Thompson, Spartanburg

### **School for the Deaf:**

Darius Fields, Elloree

Raymond Rudder, Spartanburg

### **School for the Multihandicapped:**

Hakeem Green, Yemassee

**Photos:** Head and shoulders picture of each new student.

## **Options and Opportunities . . .**

The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind 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 at no cost to parents/guardians;
- 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. For more information, contact us toll-free at 1-888-447-2732 extension 7506# or via e-mail at [access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org).

### **South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind**

#### ***Access SCSDb is accessible 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](mailto:access@scsdb.org). You may also visit [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org)!

#### **Get the next issue of *Access SCSDb* delivered directly to YOU!**

To be added to our mailing 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](mailto: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

#### **A Palmetto Gold School**

#### **A Red Carpet School**

### **South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind**

#### **Main Campus**

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

#### **Piedmont Regional Outreach Center**

*Spartanburg (Main Campus)*  
(864) 577-7502 Voice/TTY

#### **Midlands Regional Outreach Center**

*Columbia*  
(800) 984-4357 Voice/TTY

#### **Available Resources**

The Keck Professional Library for parents and professionals houses materials on disability related topics. For more information on available materials, please contact Galena Gaw at (864) 577-7642 or [access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org).

The Deaf-Blind Resource Library is available for families and professionals who work with children who have sensory challenges. For more information on available resources for checkout, please call (864) 577-7770 or e-mail [SCDeafBlind@scsdb.org](mailto:SCDeafBlind@scsdb.org) or visit [www.scsdb.org](http://www.scsdb.org).