

## **Access SCSDB**

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

### **SCSDB Students Granted Holiday Wish!**

Sweet melodies will soon fill the halls of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB). Students were presented with nearly 50 new and gently used musical instruments from the Downtown Spartanburg Lions Club and statewide members of the National Pawnbrokers Association (NPA).

Instruments ranging from flutes, violins and trumpets to guitars, drum sets and xylophones were gifted as part of NPA's Musical Instrument Gift Day.

"There are so many new things we can do now. We can expand after-school programs and have a small band – this is just wonderful," said Maggie Park, SCSDB interim president.

Photo of Zharvis Scott with a huge smile holding a new guitar. He is wearing a blue sweatshirt and bright red Christmas tie.

Caption

School for the Blind student Zharvis Scott of Spartanburg proudly displays his chosen instrument - the acoustic guitar.

### **EDP Equipment Available**

Help is readily available to South Carolina residents who need assistive telephone equipment. The South Carolina Equipment Distribution Program (SCEDP) provides free assistive equipment, training and installation to qualifying SC residents who have difficulty using a standard phone.

For more information, go to [www.scedp.org](http://www.scedp.org) or call the toll-free number at 877-225-8337 (Voice) or 877-889-8337 (TTY).

Amplify Life logo.

### **Access to Technology**

SCSDB strives to provide state-of-the-art technological tools to ensure students' success in the classroom and life. The following are just a few examples.

#### **Interactive White Boards**

The Promethean Board (PB), used by SCSDB teachers, enables students to participate in various activities, from math problems to spelling lessons.

The PB is an interactive white board that combines the simplicity of a whiteboard, power of a computer and convenience of a front projector.

It is an interactive classroom tool that engages students with vivid images, video and audio.

Currently, there are 53 Promethean Boards in use throughout SCSDB.

Photo of student and teacher laughing at a photo of a dog being projected onto a white board.

Caption

School for the Deaf teacher Christy Wagner helps Bo Dodd of Greer identify objects on the Promethean Board.

## **Videophones**

SCSDB teaches students how to communicate via videophones (VP). With 14 VPs located throughout the Spartanburg campus and four in the outreach centers, SCSDB aims to increase the number of VPs on campus over the next few years.

VPs are used widely by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to connect with each other using American Sign Language. They are also used to connect with individuals who can hear through Video Relay Service (VRS), a free 24-hour service for the deaf and hard of hearing community that enables anyone to conduct video relay calls with family, friends or business associates.

## **Scanning Devices**

SCSDB teaches the use of portable scanners and mobile readers to support independent living by individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

In grocery stores, the scanner retrieves and reads aloud nutrition and ingredient information when the user scans an item's barcode. It also retrieves cooking instructions.

New mobile readers are multifunction cell phones with camera and speech programs that translate text to voice. They allow access to cell phone applications like text messaging, e-mail and call logs. These devices create personalized labels for everyday items that can be identified accurately for the user.

Photo of child sitting in front of a video phone having a signed conversation with an adult.

Caption

School for the Deaf student Jacob Scarborough of Conway talks to his mother via videophone.

Photo of young woman and adult in a grocery store using a scanner on a cereal box.

Caption

Lee Speer of SCSDB Vision Outreach Services helps School for the Blind student Brittany Bomboy of Shaw Air Force Base use a portable scanner.

## **Teaching Technology Key to Student Independence**

SCSDB has its very own team of technology experts traveling the state to help teachers and students who are blind or visually impaired.

Marty McKenzie, access technology coordinator, and his team of professionals share their knowledge of assistive technology tools to increase student independence. Some

examples of assistive technology are screen readers, refreshable braille displays, braille translation software and text enlargement software.

Clay Jeffcoat, access technology specialist, is the program's representative in the Columbia area. Clay works with public school districts, teaching students who are blind or visually impaired, and the faculty who teach them, how to use access technology.

"Each student has unique needs, so we develop individualized combinations of software and hardware for each individual," said Clay. "These specialized combinations allow them to become competitive with their sighted peers, and maintain that competitive edge throughout their academic career and adulthood."

Photo of Clay Jeffcoat working with a student on a computer with a refreshable braille keyboard.

Caption

Clay Jeffcoat teaches Tori Diamond the latest access technology programs. Tori attends Crayton Middle School in Columbia.

## **Welcome to Access SCSDB!**

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the first edition of Access SCSDB! As the name indicates, we want to help you access the many services that are available for students who are deaf, blind or sensory multidisabled.

As the mother of four, I quickly learned that each of my children was very different in their educational, physical and emotional needs. That was also very true in my classroom of special needs students. For example, one of my students needed individualized instruction to learn his spelling words while another needed additional challenging bonus words each week.

To meet the unique needs of each child, SCSDB offers individualized programs on our main campus in Spartanburg as well as a wide variety of educational and accessibility services across the state. We are committed to working with you to maximize student success.

We hope you will enjoy our new publication and invite you to visit us. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Park  
Interim President  
South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

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 is head and shoulders portrait of Maggie Park, SCSDB interim president.

Photo of four students from the School for the Blind running toward the camera on the track at this year's Turkey Trot. They all have big smiles!

**Caption**

School for the Blind students race at the 2009 Turkey Trot on SCSDB's Spartanburg campus. Left to right: Elijah Gregory of Union, Katie Roche of Spartanburg, Dylan Gregory of Pacolet Mills and Bill Pryor of Boiling Springs.

**Growing Up SCSDB**

Darren Reed, 33, is an avid Clemson fan, bowler, disc golfer, and Fantasy Football player. He enjoys a successful 12-year career as a CNC/MTT specialist, or computer numerical control and machine tool technology specialist.

Darren Reed is also deaf and an SCSDB graduate.

Darren attended SCSDB as a residential student from age 7 through his high school graduation in 1996. In high school he mainstreamed in math and science classes at Dorman High School (DHS), and played SCSDB sports, including football and track.

"The ability to mainstream at DHS was a positive influence for me," said Darren. "And at SCSDB, I learned so much from the total immersion in education and deaf life on campus. Teachers, who are also deaf, made learning so much easier and fun!"

After SCSDB, Darren went on to Spartanburg Community College where he achieved a two-year technical certificate in computer numerical controls and an associate's degree in industrial technology/machine tool technology.

"I knew I had to have a college degree to get a good job. The exposure gained at SCSDB and its vocational education program helped guide my career path and college goals," said Darren.

Darren also credits SCSDB with helping him become the man he is today.

"As a deaf person, I cannot emphasize how fortunate I am to have been a student at SCSDB. It was there that I learned to be proud of myself, accept my deafness as a difference and not as a handicap, and to realize that I can do anything," said Darren.

Since leaving SCSDB, Darren has remained friends with several classmates and SCSDB staff members.

"That is one of the great benefits of the residential educational experience at SCSDB – the deaf family network of learning, sharing and community that goes on well after you leave school," said Darren.

His future goals include having a family and home of his own and giving back to those who have helped him along the way.

"I want to live a life that other young deaf men and women will look up to as what they aspire to be in their future," said Darren. "SCSDB is very important to me, so I want to be able to give back to the deaf community."

Photo of Darren Reed in a Clemson t-shirt working in a machine tooling shop. He is making coils.

**Caption**

Darren Reed works for the Springmasters/B&S Screw Machine Division of MW Industries, Inc. in Greer producing high-performance racing suspension coils, composite leaf springs, torsion and extension springs.

## **The Walker Foundation (Foundation logo Inset)**

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.

## **Statewide Technology Summit**

Technology tools were featured at the South Carolina Deaf/Hard of Hearing Education Summit in Columbia. The summit brought together educational and technology experts to discuss the latest technological advances to increase reading and language skills.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Nover, world-renowned founder and director of the Center for American Sign Language/English Bilingual Education and Research at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

## **Interpreting Services**

Sign language interpreters are available to facilitate communication in a variety of settings, including medical, legal, social services, higher education and business. Interpreters are screened and certified through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Fee schedules are available upon request.

For more information, contact interpreting services at [access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org) or toll-free at 1-888-567-0980.

Photo of local legislators and Maggie Park giving the applause sign in ASL and smiling.

### **Caption**

SCSDB Interim President Maggie Park and Senator Harvey Peeler sign “applause” at the opening of the new accessible stadium at the SCSDB Spartanburg Campus. Joining in the celebration is SC Representative Mike Forrester.

Photo of Hornet’s quarterback rushing with the football while members of the Georgia School for the Deaf players chase him.

### **Caption**

Quarterback Dedrick Simpson of Kingstree carries as the Hornets beat the Georgia Tigers at the Homecoming Game! Simpson finished his high school career with over 4,000 total yards setting a new SCSDB school record!

## **SCSDB Gold Stars!**

**Jr. NAD Conference:** SC School for the Deaf and the Blind students Chris Simons and Bree Crayton, both of Spartanburg, were selected to attend the 2009 Junior National Association of the Deaf National Conference in Texas. The national conference promotes developing scholarship, leadership and fellowship in students from different schools all over the country.

Photos are head and shoulders school portrait photos of Chris Simons and Bree Crayton included in story.

**Art Display:** SCSDb students' artwork is on exhibit for one year at the SC State Library in Columbia. More than 25 pieces of art created by SCSDb students were selected for the exhibit!

**Art Fair Winners:** The Piedmont Interstate Fair recently chose three SCSDb fine arts students as award winners in their visual art contest. Laquitia Harris of Greenville, School for the Multihandicapped, took first and third place honors; Billie Ann McDaniel of Gaffney, School for the Multihandicapped, received a second place ribbon; and Paul Watson of Woodruff, School for the Deaf, received an honorable mention.

Head and shoulders school portrait photos of Laquitia Harris, Billie Ann McDaniel and Paul Watson included in story.

**Subway Fresh Fit:** Students in the School for the Blind's elementary wing were named runners-up in the Subway Fresh Fit competition and received a \$100 Subway gift card.

### **Unified Soccer Team Invited to 2010 National Games!**

The SCSDb unified soccer team has received its first-ever invitation to the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, NE!

Team Roster

SCSDb School for the Multihandicapped:

Dominique Dotson – Greenville

Neal Ellis – Lancaster

Laquitia Harris – Greenville

Chassidy Kelly – Columbia

Christopher McLeod – Dillon

Curtis Sparkman – Andrews

Ther Tee Vang – Roebuck

Unified Partners:

Jacklin Fleifel – Spartanburg High School

Amanda Goodenough – Spartanburg High School

Erin Shook – Dorman High School

Photo of unified soccer team with Kim Speer, SCSDb athletics director, cheering!

Photo of SCSDb teacher tutoring School for the Deaf elementary students in Thackston Hall.

Caption

Left to right: School for the Deaf students Tommy Fernandes of Greer, Chase Sizemore of Aiken and Angel Williams of Spartanburg do homework with guidance from residential teacher Jessica Gribble.

Photo of elementary-aged girl dressed up in a WWII-like military costume with hat, signing and smiling.

#### Caption

School for the Multihandicapped's Roxy Gregory of Pacolet Mills signs "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" during SCSDB's Veterans Day celebrations.

### SCSDB Tutoring Program

SCSDB offers an extensive after-school tutoring program for all of its students at the Spartanburg campus. Study skills such as organization, note-taking, test preparation, time management and prioritization skills are emphasized. In addition, reinforcement for Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals, math and reading drills, and the Pizza Hut BOOK IT reading incentive program are part of the tutoring program.

### Beyond Spartanburg!

SCSDB currently serves 412 outreach students in public school districts throughout the state.

The SCSDB Vision Outreach Program serves 354 K-12 students in 63 public school districts and the SC Virtual Charter School.

The SCSDB Hearing Outreach Program serves 58 students in 13 public school districts.

### You're Invited!

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2/4     | <b>Braille Challenge</b><br>State Library, Columbia<br>1 <sup>st</sup> thru 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students who read and write braille participate in national competition. Prizes will be awarded!   |
| 2/19-20 | <b>2010 First Steps Early Learning Conference</b><br>First Baptist Church, Spartanburg<br>Statewide conference for childcare providers, teachers, administrators, First Steps directors, public school teachers and anyone working with young children. |
| 2/26-27 | <b>"Reach for the Stars" Early Intervention Family Transition Conference</b><br>SCSDB Outreach Center, Charleston<br>For families with children ages 2 and 3.   |
| 3/9,11  | <b>Student Spring Theatre Production</b><br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>Drama production by students from the SC Schools for the Deaf and Multihandicapped.   |
| 3/19    | <b>2009 Vision Summit – 10th Anniversary: 10-year Retrospective</b><br>SC Archives and History Center, Columbia   |
| 3/26-27 | <b>"Reach for the Stars" Early Intervention Family Transition Conference</b><br>SCSDB Campus, Spartanburg<br>For families with children ages 2 and 3.   |
| 6/20-26 | <b>Summer Camps</b><br>SCSDB, Spartanburg<br>For students ages 6-14.  |

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#.

### **Extra Special Gift!**

Scott Alexander, a devoted Clemson fan and long-time volunteer for the Mary Black Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, was honored with a \$10,000 check from the auxiliary to one of his favorite organizations – SCSDB.

The 2002 SCSDB graduate was surprised by almost 200 people – all dressed in his favorite colors of orange and white, and the Clemson Tiger!

Scott travels the hospital's halls in an electric wheelchair complete with a Clemson tiger tail. He also volunteers weekly at SCSDB.

The \$10,000 gift will be used to purchase two lift devices for students with limited mobility.

Photo of Scott Alexander, with the Clemson Tiger standing behind him, receiving an oversized check from the auxiliary members.

#### **Caption**

Scott Alexander accepts a generous gift from Carolyn McKee, president of the Mary Black Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Left to right: Carolyn McKee, Maggie Park, SCSDB interim president, Phyllis Alexander, Elaine Sveen, Scott Alexander, Clemson Tiger.

Photo of SCSDB color guard in uniform on the stage of Pulliam Auditorium.

#### **Caption**

SCSDB Color Guard honors Leadership SC visitors with the "Pledge of Allegiance." SCSDB was one of a select group of schools chosen for a visit by Leadership SC. Left to right: Eric Johnson of Olar, Ther Tee Vang of Roebuck and Dominique Dotson of Greenville.

Photo of seven SCSDB students on a stage in Panthers stadium. There is a young girl in a pink jersey singing in front.

#### **Caption**

SCSDB students were guests of the Carolina Panthers in October. They performed the national anthem in American Sign Language for a crowd of more than 70,000. From left to right in blue sweatshirts: Brandon Holst of Inman, Meka Minton of Rock Hill, Caitlin Williams of Lyman, Kia Smith of Dorchester, Kelli Jane Barnes of Spartanburg, Lee Miller of Roebuck and Jane Enabore of Duncan.



## **Welcome New Students!**

### **School for the Blind**

Chrystal Ballentine, Gaston  
Deonna Burns, Anderson  
Mya Cornelius, Spartanburg  
Cooper Gilliam, Spartanburg  
Charles Harris, Spartanburg  
Tristan Horry, Ridgeland  
Hayleigh Huggins, Marion  
Sam Miller, Ridgeland  
Katie Roche, Spartanburg  
LeAnglea Parker, Manning  
Steven Thomas, Darlington  
Ta'Rik Thompson, Ridgeland

### **School for the Deaf**

Dontaé Banks, Anderson  
Bo Dodd, Greer  
Kristen MacPherson, McColl  
Cierra Morgan, Blacksburg  
Samantha Woods, Clover  
Matthew Wright, Laurens

### **School for the Multihandicapped**

Lillian Elmore, Orangeburg  
Jasmine Gamble, Colleton  
Jason Harmon, Spartanburg  
Joseph "Malachi" Mahaffey, Gaffney  
Zachary Risher, Pickens  
Kaneesha Sampson, Spartanburg  
Rushanti Smith, Anderson  
Tyler Willis, Aiken

Photos are head and shoulder school portrait photos of each new student.

The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome throughout the school year.

## **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;
- 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).

### ***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)!

### ***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](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

**South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind Logo**  
Statewide Leadership in Education and Accessibility

**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](http://www.scsdb.org)

[access@scsdb.org](mailto:access@scsdb.org)

Or contact the SCSDB location near you:

**Piedmont Regional Outreach Center**

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

**Low Country Regional Outreach Center/**

**Colson Center of Outreach Services**

Charleston (843) 852-4160 Voice

(843) 852-4162 TTY

**Midlands Regional Outreach Center**

Columbia (800) 984-4357 Voice/TTY

**Coastal Regional Outreach Centers**

Conway (843) 248-8100 Voice

(843) 248-0937 TTY

Florence (843) 665-9705 Voice/TTY