



# SCIRA SPEAKS

Newsletter of the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association • Summer 2016 • Vol. XLIX, No. 1



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE...

*By Eddie Marshall*

### “A Year to Remember”

If it could happen this year, it did! If it wasn’t a flood, it was a winter storm. However, WE survived!

I appreciate all the work that everyone has done this year. We had a wonderful conference thanks to Cathy Delany. Our local councils have worked hard this year to provide informative meetings for their members. We have been able to provide many scholarships and grants as a state this year. It is important that we continue to let our educators across the state know about the services and assistance that we provide our members. We do so much good work and no one knows about it. It is no secret; so let’s spread the good news.

We have a great foundation established in this construction project called SCIRA. Let’s continue to move forward into this year ahead and increase our support of literacy in South Carolina. We are going to TEAM UP



*Executive officers receiving the ILA Award of Excellence in Boston*

together and make this year the best in the history of SCIRA. Dale Anthony is planning an energizing conference and Cathy Delany is providing superb thought-out leadership for the upcoming year.

Because of our hard work, SCIRA was awarded the ILA Award of Excellence in Boston at the ILA International Conference.

I appreciate everyone working together, despite the circumstances, to make our year a success. We can look back at the past, but the future is where we need to focus and make our organization stronger each year. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in this great organization and appreciate the opportunity to have served as the SCIRA President this year.

Eddie Marshall, SCIRA President 2015-2016

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# Membership

**News** by Jean Brewington, *Director of Membership*

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SCIRA members were involved in the *Literacy Work Zone, Construction Underway* by joining SCIRA and IRA this year. Our state membership goal for this year, as set by IRA, was 4098 members. As of March 15, 2016, we had 3636 members, which is 88.7% of our goal. Some of our councils experienced building delays and were unable to reach their individual council goals. Other councils completed their building projects on time. Congratulations to all councils and thank you for going the extra mile.

Many new and renewing members have enjoyed the variety of benefits that you gain by becoming a member of SCIRA. I encourage you to continue to share the good news of SCIRA with your co-workers, friends, and neighbors. **NOW** is the time to consider joining or renewing so that you can receive the mailings and be up-to-date with current SCIRA events. Congratulations to the following six councils who met their membership goals for this year: **Edgefield, Kershaw, Laurens, Newberry, Palmetto and Piedmont.**

If you were not able to attend the conference, you missed a great time! The speakers, session presenters, and vendors did a wonderful job and made this conference a success! A special “thanks” and “great job” is extended to Cathy Delaney, our conference planner for this year! Again, we had a blast at the Membership and Hospitality booth! More than 100 people joined or renewed their membership for next year and several IRA memberships were taken. I want to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the following local council membership directors and SCIRA members who helped at the Membership and Hospitality booth during the conference. Several special prize baskets were given to members who joined or renewed SCIRA and IRA.

As we look forward to the coming year, I hope that we can make our membership goals for both the local councils and the state. The opportunities and benefits of being a member of SCIRA are boundless! Join our **Team Literacy** today.



## SCIRA Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle Initial

*Is this a name change? If so, write your previous name here:* \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Local Council Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position:  Elementary  Secondary  Student  Administration

Renewal  New Member  Regular SCIRA Membership (\$10.00)  Student SCIRA Membership (\$5.00)

Make your check payable to SCIRA and mail to: Jean Brewington, 312 Lake Forest Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29307

If also joining IRA, please do not include IRA dues with this application. IRA Application information found at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

# President-Elect's Message

The 41st SCIRA Conference is now part of our organization's history. 2016, "Literacy Work Zone," kicked-off construction with pre-conference sessions filled to capacity. Thursday night, Katie Garner, educational consultant and keynote speaker, put the "foundation" in place with a two-hour session, *Hacking the Brain's Affective Domain for Easy Access to the Hardest Reading & Writing Skills!* Leaving this session with plans, blueprints and tools, attendees were buzzing.



Friday morning's general session opened by recognizing SCIRA's Distinguished Teachers of Reading representing local councils. Introduced by Vickie Powell, each council winner was provided with a certificate of recognition. SCIRA celebrates the contributions of our DTR's. They provide daily encouragement and instructional support to students striving to master literacy skills.



Mary Alice Monroe, keynote speaker, held the audience spell-bound as she used words to touch our hearts and minds with, "The Power of Story." Featured speaker, Jennifer Serravallo, shared her **blueprints** for "Goal-Directed Independent Reading" and "Assessments that Tell us More About Comprehension" to audiences of 300 + attendees. A gracious "thank you" goes to, Kelly Brown, of Scholastic for sponsorship. "Rich Brain/Poor Brain and Literacy... The Real Story," was the research-rich subject

of the mid-day general session with keynote speaker, Linda Karges-Bone. Luncheon speakers, Floyd Cooper, Nicole Seitz, and Sherri Rinker entertained and awed the capacity crowd gathered for lunch. Concurrent sessions provided by educators and authors were filled with engaging activities and challenging ideas.



During Saturday's general session, SCIRA recognized the Exemplary Reading Schools and the Administrator in Reading. Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary and Erica Center were presented with awards. The honor school was Inman Middle School and principal finalists were Rita Martin of Blacksburg Elementary and Nicky Andrews of Greenbrier Elementary.



The positive impact of literacy instruction in these schools offers a **construction plan** for replication. Cris Tovani, national literacy consultant and speaker, spoke on "What Matters Most?" She supported attendees with research questions to guide our work as dedicated educators.

"Literacy Work Zone" joins the list of SCIRA's annual conferences. Partakers left with blueprints, plans, tools and encouragement for literacy instruction. With "TEAM UP and WIN with Literacy" on the horizon, be ready to join the state team to prepare wonderful opportunities for conference 2017.

# State Coordinator's Message

*By Patricia W. Smith*

Greetings,

Literacy is no longer defined as we once knew it; no longer is it fundamental reading and writing. Our need to be productive in a global society has demanded a shift in the basic concept of literacy. Not only must we ensure that the construct of literacy is learned, we are compelled to meet the demands of the new concept of literacy which expands beyond the basics of decoding to a broader understanding of what is needed to sustain one's self in an ever-changing transformative environment. Hence, the paradigm shift suggests the construction of knowledge is necessary and must include, but is not limited to inquiry based learning, higher-order thinking skills...collaboration...team-building...questioning techniques and thinking and communicating with transparency and precision.

SCIRA positions itself as part of a big picture and we are continuously learning as we go. Our work zone includes International Literacy Association (ILA), SC Department of Education, authors, publishers and you who bring current trends and issues in the form of literacy. A special thanks is extended to Eddie Marshall who held it all together with outstanding leadership during a year of unexpected weather.

Many of you attended the SCIRA Conference in Hilton Head in February and experienced a change in atmosphere as you added much information to your knowledge base. Cathy DeLaney worked extremely hard to make each experience one to remember.

ILA has been meeting with its task force since October to determine the directions that affect state and local councils. Additionally, SC Department of Education has made decisions that affect assessment in our state. With this in mind, we must definitely keep abreast of current trends and issues that affect today's children who are our future. We continuously seek your support to assure learning takes place for every child. Join us by renewing your membership and by encouraging others to join your local council to make the efforts in South Carolina a reality.

## 2016 Teachers As Readers Grant Recipients

We are pleased to announce the following SCIRA Members will receive the Teachers as Readers Grant:

Foothills Reading Council submitted by Cynthia (Wendy) Burgess

Laurens Reading Council submitted by Vicky Culbertson

Newberry Reading Council received three grants which was submitted by Kelly Folk, Angelia Lown, and Sarah Clark

# Legislative News for South Carolina

*Submitted by Nancy Cowart*



## **Funding**

### **The Senate version of the budget:**

- Sets aside \$487 million in reserves
- Provides nearly \$150 million in disaster relief from last year's flooding
- Sends \$240 million to local governments, nearly \$28 million more than the House budget
- Provides a 4% pay increase for state employees & fully funds health insurance increases
- Spends \$203 million on road and bridge improvements. The money will be bonded to allow SCDOT to access more than \$2 billion over ten years.
- K-12
  - Increases Base Student Cost by \$130 per student
  - \$28 Million for purchase of new school buses
  - 4% pay increase for teachers
  - \$16.8 million for technology technical assistance and upgrades
  - \$29.3 million for K-12 technology initiatives
  - Additional \$13 million for Public Charter School District -

The budget now goes back to the House of Representatives

### **Senator Shane Massey Legislative Update - Week Of 05/03/2016**

#### **Compromise between Senate and House**

S.C. state employees to get 3.25% pay increase --

About 61,000 state employees would be eligible for a 3.25 percent pay hike approved Saturday by budget negotiators. About 21,000 of those employees work in Richland County, according to the state Department of Administration. Another 2,100 work in Lexington County. Pay raise would be largest in 10 years.

Debate arises as to whether or not the 3.25% will be enough to cover the health costs and increase – additional .05% of salaries – state employees will be paying towards retirement.

“Washington and Richland County state senators had pushed for a 5 percent pay hike earlier this legislative session. The S.C. House passed a 2 percent increase in its version of the state budget, and the Senate approved a 4 percent hike. The 3.25 percent increase approved Saturday by House and Senate budget negotiators was a compromise, said Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence. Leatherman noted the state also will pick up all of the increased cost of state workers' health insurance premiums”

**THE BUZZ STATE May 28, 2016 12:28 PM BY CASSIE COPE**

*Continued on page 6*

## Grading Scale

**South Carolina high school students will be graded on a ten-point scale beginning 2016-2017 school year.**

**Highlights of the Webinar by Dr. Julia Fowler and Dr. Sheila Quinn on May 2, 2016:**

- Decision to change the grading scale was based not on research but to give SC students a smoother transition into college grading, to give our students a level playing ground with other states, to provide more opportunities for state funded scholarships.
- Teachers will need to consider their grading criteria in efforts to continue the rigor and high standards we want our students to achieve.
- Elementary and middle schools will determine by district whether or not they will use the 10-point scale or keep the seven-point scale. Students in middle school who take high school courses will be graded on the ten point scale for the high school courses.
- Power School will not on transcripts when the grading scale changed so colleges will be aware.
- Credit recovery and minimum grades will be specified during the '17—'18 school year.

For more information tune in to **South Carolina Department of Education - YouTube [www.youtube.com/user/SouthCarolinaDeptEd](http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthCarolinaDeptEd) South Carolina Department of Education. ... SCDE 10 Point Grading Scale Webinar - Duration: May 2, 2016**

**Dr. Julie Fowler and Dr. Sheila Quinn**

## Student Learning Objective

**Educator Evaluation Guidance 2016-17**

**Why continue Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) with the Every Student Succeeds Act?**

Going forward, student growth measures will continue to be included in the evaluation of educators in South Carolina. SCDE emphasizes the use of formative assessments and local measures in the SLO process to drive instructional decisions regarding student growth. The Office of Educator Effectiveness has gathered educator feedback with regards to possible ways to embed student growth (SLOs) as an artifact in teacher evaluation instead of a stand-alone measure. (Coward underlined.)

**How many SLOs are required as part of the Expanded ADEPT Support and Evaluation System?**

SCDE is requiring one SLO be created annually as part of a teacher's evaluation. It is recommended that Elementary teachers (generalists) focus their SLO on either literacy or math. Early Childhood teachers must focus their SLO on literacy. Teachers with multiple subjects will select one subject as the focus of their SLO. Districts may choose to have teachers complete more than one SLO, however no more than two SLOs should be required each year

**Will 2016-2017 SLOs be scored?**

SLOs have been aligned with the Long Range Planning (LRP, TT1) document in order to reduce redundancy and paperwork. Components of the SLO template that are aligned to the LRP through the APS Key Indicators can influence ratings in the related APS standards as they have in the past. The growth targets section of the SLO is NOT aligned to the LRP and is to be scored using the SLO Feedback Rubric. The growth targets score is to be used for feedback, reflection and professional growth and development unless otherwise indicated in the local ADEPT plan.

**Copied and pasted from the SC Department of Education webpage.**

Educators, including teachers and administrators, met in small groups across South Carolina to follow a guided format of questioning and discussion to determine teacher evaluation fairness and objectivity. The Office of Educator Effectiveness required strict guidelines in the conversations and teachers were very honest and open about concerns and what seems fair from the teachers' and students' perspective. (Coward)

*Continued on page 7*

## **Other Matters of Interest**

**Physical Education Credit for Marching Band** – The Senate passed S.1204, a bill that would allow students who participate in marching band to receive P.E. credit for the activity. **Senator Shane Massey Legislative Update- Week Of 05/17/2016-05/19/2016**

**Juvenile sex offender registry** to petition the family court to remove the person’s requirement to register as a sex offender once the individual has reached twenty one years of age and has been released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, South Carolina Department of Corrections, or South Carolina Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services. **Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. SC House District # 102 May 27, 2016**

**Educational goals** – The House and Senate agree on amendments to H.4936. This bill designates goals and standards for all SC high school students. This bill concurs with “the principles outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, published by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and approved by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, the Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education and Transform SC schools and districts...” **Rep. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. SC House District # 102 May 27, 2016**

**Be aware of, contact your Senators and Representatives to make sure the following issues are addressed during the next session:**

- Full Funding of Mandated Programs
- Security of the EIA Penny for Innovation
- State Must Fund the Fringe Benefits Program
- Full Funding of the Education Accountability Act
- Funding K-12 Education
- Funding K-12 Reading
- Enact Comprehensive Tax Reform
- Recruitment, Retention, Compensation, and Evaluation of Professional Educators
- School Safety
- Academic Standards
- Enhancing the Teaching Profession
- Assault and Battery of School Employees
- School Choice
- South Carolina Retirement System
- School Governance

**Sources: Shane Massey Legislative Update Weeks 5/03/16 and 5/17/16; PSTA Legislative Alert Network Spring; Cassie Cope State May 28,2016; SCDE webpage; Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. Legislative Report May 27, 2016**

**Information gathered by Nancy Cowart**

# **Reading Matters**

*By Jackie Malloy and Sarah Hunt-Barron*

The Winter 2015 issue of *Reading Matters* highlighted articles from across the state and beyond; our authors were from Winthrop, Spartanburg 6, USC Upstate, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Clemson, Armstrong State, Georgia Southern, Duquesne (PA), James Madison (VA), and Western Carolina. It was exciting to have so many new voices in the journal! Look for it online – and think about adding your voice to this year’s issue.

# “From Pencils to Podcasts”: SCIRA Members Co-Author New Book

By Katie Stover & Lindsay Yearta

Strolling down tree-lined Main Street in Greenville, South Carolina on a warm, spring day, we notice people texting on their smartphones, reading on tablets, working on laptops at cafes, and taking selfies at Falls Park. Technology surrounds us as an integral and constant part of our daily lives. In fact, our youngest generation of learners have not known a world without Siri, wifi, and FaceTime; this is their norm as digital natives (Prensky, 2001). While technology seems to be ubiquitous, we must be reflective and purposeful in selecting technology for our students to use as tools to facilitate learning. In fact, as educators in institutions of higher education that prepare both preservice and inservice teachers, we believe it is paramount that technology is integrated meaningfully into classrooms at all levels. Even though technology may seem overwhelming for those of us who are immigrants to this digital landscape, it is our responsibility to prepare students to use technology to be participatory citizens in our interconnected society (International Literacy Association, 2009).

In many classrooms we visit, we often observe teacher-led use of technology with flipcharts and powerpoint presentations on Smartboards. Students use classroom computers to complete online math and reading programs or take standardized assessments. While we understand that these practices are common uses of technology, we argue that technology can be utilized as a way to engage students in more active approaches to learning where they have opportunities to communicate, collaborate, create, and share in authentic ways with a wider audience. Rather than being viewed as an add-on to the already full instructional day, technology can and should be seamlessly integrated as a way to substitute or augment traditional literacy practices. In our upcoming book titled, *“From Pencils to Podcasts: Digital Tools for Transforming K-6 Literacy Practices,”* we provide numerous technology tools to mediate classroom literacy instruction.

This book offers suggestions to incorporate a range of digital tools to foster creation, communication, collaboration, sharing and ongoing assessment of student learning. Rather than a scripted one-size-fits-all approach, this book offers suggestions from our own teaching, from teachers across South Carolina, and from representative classrooms gathered from our extensive experience in schools that can be adapted for any classroom setting. Each chapter includes a classroom vignette, research, description and procedural information for the digital tool, and a classroom example to contextualize it with content area suggestions and adaptations.

Chapter topics include infographics for expository writing, digital word walls to enhance vocabulary, Edmodo to foster online reader response, Google docs to collaboratively revise writing, critical evaluation of online sources for research, collaborative digital storytelling with Puppet Pals, self-evaluation of performance reading with iMovie, online audiorecorded book reviews, reflection of reading histories, and publication with Book Creator. Finally, several chapters explore authentic assessment with online tools such as SeeSaw and Confer.

*“From Pencils to Podcasts: Digital Tools for Transforming K-6 Literacy Practices”* was due to be released in August by Solution Tree Publishers. For more information contact Katie and Lindsay at [katie.stover@furman.edu](mailto:katie.stover@furman.edu) or on Twitter @kstover24 and [yeartaL@winthrop.edu](mailto:yeartaL@winthrop.edu) or on Twitter @LYearta.

## References

- International Reading Association. (2009). *New literacies and 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies: A position statement of the International Reading Association*. Newark, DE: Author.
- Prensky, M. (2001). Digital natives, digital immigrants. *On the Horizon*, 9(5), 1-2.

*Submitted by Laura Turok-Ellis, Membership Director*



Four years ago, then-President, Cindy Bise took an idea from her Berkeley Reading Council predecessor, current SCIRA President-elect Cathy Delaney, and re-established an old BRC tradition of a spring book banquet. It was to be a special occasion when Berkeley Reading members and their colleagues could gather to celebrate literacy. The current year's event did not fail to do just that!

Competing with St. Patrick's Day proved a slight problem, but was overcome to the delight of all as more than 70 people attended the event featuring Cane Bay High School band members Adam Garner, Caroline Bohanna,

Jacob Sturdivant, Hannah Sturdivant and Sarah Creel parading around in literacy costume, including the likenesses of Sherlock Holmes, Alice In Wonderland and the Big Bad Wolf! And, while everyone raves about the dinner of steak and potato, the introduction of Berkeley High School Forensic team member Victoria Udochu performing Fancy Nancy was a surprise hit.



The main event, author, J.E. Thompson (The Girl From Felony Bay and Disappearance at Hangman's Bluff,) entertained with his stories of getting started as an author and the perseverance necessary to being published. Thompson regaled the crowd with a reading from one of his books and chatted with members of the audience with questions they had about his literary path. Later, he spent time autographing his books



and even donated money to the Berkeley Reading Council, which in turn is using proceeds from the event for the ILA International Literacy Project. The best part of the evening was, of course, the drawing of door prizes from local businesses and the ultimate prize of a basket of books, won by Sasha Wilson, Nexton Elementary School.

ILA representative, Pat Smith, was in attendance, as was SCIRA President-elect Cathy Delaney. The banquet was a lot of hard work, but all current members of the BRC executive board agreed that it was well worth their efforts and were already planning for next year!



## CHARLESTON READING COUNCIL NEWS

## COUNCIL NEWS

We had an exciting year last year in the Charleston County Council. We kicked off the year in August welcoming new teachers at the annual Charleston County School District Great Teachers, Great Leaders event. We were able to introduce the council and share some fun “swag bags.”

In September, we took inspiration from home business models, and hosted our first Facebook meeting. Our meeting was quite a success. We included games and prize drawings, videos, informational images and Facebook “chat” opportunities. Members were able to participate in a great meeting from the comfort of their home!



In November, we hosted our Distinguished Teachers of Reading event in which eleven talented educators presented effective literacy strategies used in their classrooms. It was an amazing evening of professional sharing. Stephanie Doksa of North Charleston HS was selected as the Secondary DTR and Maria Meyers of Murray LaSaine ES was selected as the Elementary DTR. *(pictured are the 11 DTRs to present on November 12, 2015)*

Lastly, we recognized and celebrated the talents of our young writers on April 14th at our annual Growing Young Writers event. We hosted the event at our local Barnes and Noble with a book fair running concurrently. A percentage of the proceeds from the book fair was then used to purchase books for children being served by the Carolina Youth Development Center. *(pictured are the young authors honored during the 2015 event)*



## COLUMBIA AREA READING COUNCIL NEWS

## COUNCIL NEWS



2015-2016 started strong for the Columbia Area Reading Council. Our leadership was hard at work planning great meetings and activities for our area members. We strived to continue our mission of providing opportunities for professional growth, leadership development, and establishment of a forum for discussion of best practices in the teaching of literacy. The Columbia Area Reading Council kicked off its 2015-2016 year with our first meeting, which was held September 10, 2015 at Saint Andrews Middle School. We were excited to have the wonderful story teller Tim Lowry join us for this meeting. We had a great time listening to all the wonderful stories and lessons from Tim Lowry. Additional meetings followed, with many things in store for our wonderful members. It was a great year in CARC!!

## AIKEN READING COUNCIL NEWS

## COUNCIL NEWS

The Aiken Council is spreading the love of literacy throughout Aiken County! Last spring members collected and donated books to The Hope Center in Graniteville, South Carolina, to be used with the Kids Club and various childrens programs at The Hope Center. This fall, the Aiken Council is continuing to reach out to the members of the Aiken community by supporting and encouraging The Little Free Library initiative sponsored by the International Literacy Association for International Literacy Day. We hope to involve our schools and our community to provide Little Free Libraries to encourage reading at all ages. We



are also looking forward to partnering with the Aiken County Parks, Recreation and Tourism department to sponsor Story Time in the Gardens by providing books to children and families free of charge. Our year has gotten off to a great start and we look forward to spreading the love of literacy not only within our schools, but in our community as well!

## CHEROKEE COUNTY READING COUNCIL NEWS

## COUNCIL NEWS

The Cherokee County Reading Council had a productive year last year. In August, local building representatives received packets of information for their schools and our membership drive began. Council officers were introduced: Tina Morris, President; Kim Propst, Vice-President; Kim Camp, Secretary; Virginia Scates, Treasurer; and Kristin Mitchell, Membership Director. The South Carolina International Reading Association (SCIRA) theme, “Literacy Work Zone: Construction Underway,” was announced. Building representatives shared ideas for a successful membership drive.

Throughout the year, we purchased children’s books for our local book mobile. We believe that children’s books placed in the book mobile will assist in our beliefs of the importance of reading to a child and talking about books. It is our wish that our donation of books will inspire and motivate readers of all ages.

In November, our council sponsored our *Reading Teacher of the Year* Banquet. Each school winner received an engraved plaque and a copy of the digital photo story video shown during the banquet. The video highlighted the 20 school winners with pictures of each teacher working with their students. Administrators also play a key role in our council. We recognized our administrators nominated for the SCIRA Administrator of the Year at this banquet.

In April, our council sponsored the annual Young Writer’s Gala which showcases students’ poetry and prose. School and district winners’ work were printed in an anthology and distributed at the gala. Over 400 parents, grandparents, principals, teachers, and friends were expected to attend the event. Students received a certificate, medal, anthology, and monetary reward at this event.

The Cherokee Reading Council is continuing to look for opportunities to “construct literacy” in our schools, county, and state. We are extremely proud of all the accomplishments, dedication, and talents of each of our CRC members and officers, and we are looking forward to another exciting year.

The Newberry Reading Council was busy last school year providing our members with new and exciting events to attend throughout the year. We started the year off with a technology session highlighting apps the teachers could use in their classrooms. Our district technology coach hosted the session at the district office in September. In November the council celebrated thirteen Distinguished Teachers of Reading and four Distinguished Administrators of Reading during our second annual banquet. It was wonderful to see over 100



*Distinguished Administrators of Reading: (L-R) Kim Hamilton, Lindsay Folk, Kim Mack, and Deedee Westwood. Mrs. Kim Mack was chosen the District Administrator of Reading.*



*District Distinguished Teachers of Reading: L-R Amanda Huffstetler - Elementary DTR, Christie Corbett - NRC President, and Lea Smith - Middle/High DTR*

family, friends, and colleges join us in honoring these leaders in reading. The council was excited to take on a new community project in December by providing a beautiful bookshelf full of new books to a local shelter for women and children. The Newberry County Career Center joined in the project by building and donating the bookshelf. We delivered the books and shelf to the shelter prior to the Christmas Break. At our last event in the spring, The

Annual Young Writer's Celebration, we celebrated hundreds of young authors from kindergarten to 12th grade in a district-wide celebration where each chosen author received a personal anthology and certificate.



*Distinguished Teachers of Reading*



*Banquet - Each DTR created a display board to highlight their teaching of reading. The judges were able to talk with each nominated DTR and ask additional questions they may have had after reading the application essay.*



On January 14, 2016, the Foothills Council was very fortunate to have author Stephanie Morgan conduct a writing workshop.

Mrs. Morgan is from Greenville, SC and is the author of **Hey Blue!** and **Oh, Beautiful!** These children's picture books are set on the Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Trail. The characters bring stories of perseverance, friendship, family support, and healthy living. She stated she wanted to bring families together to talk and read.



During the meeting, Mrs. Morgan shared her love for reading and how she started as a writer. She also shared how she speaks to local schools encouraging a love for writing. She also did a mini lesson using **Hey Blue!** to show how to do a lesson on verbs.

Everyone truly enjoyed the evening and walked away with a valuable lesson to use in their classroom.

Palmetto Reading Council ended the 2015 year with a bang! During the month of December, Palmetto Reading Council participated in a service project during the week of the local Christmasville festivities. The council gave away Christmas books to elementary children who attended "Elves in the Shelves" at the public library. Also during the month of December, Palmetto Reading Council held a Christmas social for its members at Mount Holly Elementary School in Rock Hill. Members had a great time doing Christmas shopping from local vendors who attended. Many shopped for themselves in addition to those on their personal list. Palmetto Reading Council's Distinguished Teachers of Reading Nominees and Finalist were recognized at this meeting. Local educators and a student from Mount Holly Elementary School shared their favorite Christmas stories too!

The new year began as exciting as 2015 ended. Members hosted another service project in the spring at the Museum of York County's Earth Day Birthday event. Members gave away gently used books that had been collected by educators at local schools. Books appropriate from the very young to the very old were given away to spread the love and joy of reading as well as to promote the Earth-friendly habit of reusing materials! On May 5th, Palmetto Reading Council held its Spring Banquet at the Spratt Building in Fort Mill. Members were fortunate to hear Dick Wall, who spoke on his late wife's book Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening. His wife, Carol Wall, was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after publication of Mister Owita and was unable to go forward with national tour. This memoir was chosen by USA Today and AARP as top ten books in 2014. Members were touched by his presentation and ready to discuss this with fellow readers, just as we expect our students to do.

Palmetto Reading Council is looking forward to Leadership Training and planning events for the 2016-2017 school year!

**SCIRA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
*Fall Literacy Workshop*  
Featuring  
*Rick Wormeli*

“Cultivating Perseverance and 'Stick-to-itiveness' in Students”



**Saturday, November 19, 2016**

Clinton High School, Clinton, SC

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Full Day Workshop, Lunch, and Vendors

\$60 Members      \$85 Non-members

\$35 Undergraduate Students

Registration forms at [www.scira.org](http://www.scira.org)

Limited space — register by **Monday, Oct. 24, 2016**

***Register early to make sure that you get to be a part of this fabulous professional learning opportunity.***

Suggested hotel accommodations in the area: Hampton Inn, I-26 Clinton Exit 54 864-938-1040, and Comfort Inn & Suites, I-26 Clinton Exit 52 864-833-1800.

For workshop information, contact Eddie Marshall at [eddiemarshall@lcsd56.org](mailto:eddiemarshall@lcsd56.org)

For registration information, contact Judy Redman at [jredman@comporium.net](mailto:jredman@comporium.net)

## **Cultivating Perseverance and ‘Stick-to-itiveness’ in Students**

Tenacity is a virtue, but the personal fortitude to stick with an arduous task takes time and experience to mature. Many students grow impatient with content not parsed into sound-bytes, and reading extended, logical rhetoric through each argument to its ultimate conclusion is almost unheard of. On the other hand, if the story is good, students will read books of over 700 pages. They play on-line games working their way through 12 levels of difficulty for six hours, and they stay after school into the evening to practice for theater productions, get ready for sports tournaments, and conduct fun science experiments for the public.

Join us for a compelling session on how to help students find the reserves to stick with projects and tasks, be they physical or intellectual, with special emphasis in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy. We'll look at elements in multiple areas, including what does and does not motivate students' personal investments in their learning, meaning-making, constructive responses to failures, compliance vs engagement, metaphor use, interpersonal relationships, and much more.

There is no such thing as laziness; our students want to do demanding, complex learning, they want to persevere! To this, our students aspire; with this, our world was built. In our classrooms right now, there is an eager William Wilberforce, Malala Yousafzai, and younger versions of J.K. Rowling and Theodore Seuss Geisel, both of whom were turned down repeatedly for their manuscripts, looking for inspiration. This generation is more than ready for what it takes to make the world their own. Let's light this rocket!

The South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association  
presents 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Literacy Workshop featuring

## Rick Wormeli

Saturday – November 19, 2016

Clinton High School

18132 Hwy 72 E., Clinton, SC 29325

In an effort to provide professional development to teachers at a time when district budgets have been drastically slashed, SCIRA is offering a Saturday workshop at a rate that will fit any teacher's budget.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Rick Wormeli Presentation, Lunch, and Vendor Exhibits

Visit [scira.org](http://scira.org) for complete Literacy Workshop information.

Registration/payment deadline: **October 24, 2016**

Fax: 803-329-1952

**Instructions:** To register, please complete this form and mail it and a *check made payable to SCIRA* to the address below. **Payment is due with registration.** Register early since enrollment will be limited. Registration/payment should be received by **October 24, 2016**. Faxes may be sent to 803-329-1952. A confirmation email will be sent to registrants. **An email address is required for confirmation.**

### Conference Registration Fee

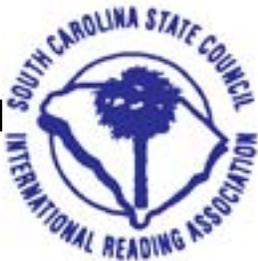
Members:	SCIRA Member Number _____ Council Name _____	\$60.00	\$ _____
Nonmembers:		\$85.00	\$ _____
Undergraduate Students:		\$35.00	\$ _____

*For services provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Eddie Marshall at [eddiemarshall@lcsd56.org](mailto:eddiemarshall@lcsd56.org) no later than October 24, 2016.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
School Email \_\_\_\_\_ (please provide)  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Email \_\_\_\_\_ (please provide)

Complete and return with remittance to:  
SCIRA, Attn: Judy Redman, PO Box 10101, Rock Hill, SC 29731  
[jredman@comporium.net](mailto:jredman@comporium.net)  
FAX: 803-329-1952 PHONE: 803-329-3627

South Carolina State Council IRA  
P.O. Box 10101  
Rock Hill, SC 29731



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