



# NEWS

## The S.C. Commission on Higher Education

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The distinguished winners of the 2014 South Carolina Governor's Professor of the Year award were announced today at a press conference held in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Selected from a total of 30 candidates nominated by their respective institutions, the recipients of this prestigious award exemplify excellence in teaching and student advising. This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the award.

The award is presented each year to a professor representing the state's senior public and independent universities and a professor representing the state's two-year colleges. The two 2014 named Professors of the Year are Dr. Milind N. Kunchur, Professor of Physics at the University of South Carolina, and Mr. Christopher J. Hall, M.P.A, Instructor and Academic Program Manager for Criminal Justice Technology at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, South Carolina. Governor Nikki Haley presented Dr. Kunchur and Mr. Hall each with a framed certificate and a check for \$5,000. (A brief biography and picture for each is attached.)

Also recognized were nine finalists for the 2014 S.C. Governor's Professor of the Year Award who were presented with certificates signed by the Governor in honor of their accomplishments. The nine finalists include: Ms. Deborah Ann Brock, M.H.S., Instructor, Medical Laboratory Technology, Allied Health, Tri-County Technical College; Mr. Daniel A. Kiernan, M.S., Instructor of Biology, University of South Carolina Sumter; Dr. Robin Kowalski, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Clemson University; Dr. Margaret T. McGehee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Southern Studies, Presbyterian College; Dr. Pamela L. Martin, Ph.D., Professor of Politics, Coastal Carolina University; Dr. Sarah E. Miller, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of South Carolina Salkehatchie; Dr. Charles William "Bill" Mulkey, Ed.D., Programs Director and Instructor for Radiologic Technology, Midlands Technical College; Dr. Donald Gene Pace, Ph.D., Professor of History and Spanish, Claflin University; and Dr. Melissa Walker, Ph.D., Johnson Professor of History, Converse College.

For additional information on the S.C. Governor's Professor of the Year Award, please visit: [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov) and click on "Professor of the Year".

***S.C. Governor's 2014, Professor of the Year for Senior Colleges and Universities:***



**Dr. Milind N. Kunchur, Ph.D., Professor of Physics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, is named as the S.C. Governor's 2014 Professor of the Year for senior colleges and universities.**

Dr. Milind Kunchur is a professor of physics at the University of South Carolina. He is a world renowned scientist who has conducted research across many disciplines such as super conductivity and the neurophysiology of human hearing.

Kunchur won the Michael J. Mungo Teaching Award in 2001 and the Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor of the Year award in 2012. His research has been recognized by his having won the Martin-Marietta and the Ralph E. Powe Research Awards. The American

Physical Society has elected him as a Fellow. Additionally, he has published 60 refereed publications including 5 book chapters and 2 review articles, and has given over one hundred invited talks across the world.

Currently, he serves as an Advisory Board Member for the *Physica C* journal, and serves on panels for the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy, as well as numerous committees within the university.

Prior to his tenure at the University of South Carolina, Kunchur worked at the Oak Ridge National Lab and Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and received his Ph.D. in Physics from Rutgers University in 1988.

He is a dedicated teacher and is especially known for his popular "Musical Acoustics" course.

***S.C. Governor's 2014, Professor of the Year for Two-Year Colleges:***



**Mr. Christopher J. Hall, M.P.A, Instructor for the Criminal Justice Technology and Academic Program Manager, Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, South Carolina, is named the 2014 S.C. Governor's Professor of the Year for two-year colleges.**

Christopher J. Hall is the Academic Program Manager and Instructor for the Criminal Justice Technology Program at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter, South Carolina. In addition to his work at Central Carolina, he serves as a Reserve Deputy with Richland County Sheriff's Department and is a Sergeant in the Provost Marshal's Detachment of the South Carolina State Guard. Prior to teaching for Central Carolina, Hall taught at Denmark Technical College and he previously served as a corrections officer and training resource officer for the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Hall holds a Master of Public Administration, with a concentration in Criminal Justice from Jacksonville State University, a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of South

Carolina, and a Certificate of Higher Education Administration from the University of South Carolina. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration Degree at University of Maryland University College.

A recipient of the 2013 E. C. “Red” Kneece Instructional Excellence Award presented by the Central Carolina Foundation and the 2004 Central Carolina’s Educator of the Year, Hall is a dynamic and outstanding master teacher who continually renews himself and his instruction, materials, and delivery methods to remain current and effective. He uses his extensive knowledge and experience in the criminal justice field to bring current cases to the classroom and forensics lab so that students receive real world application and active learning. He challenges his students to reach increasingly high levels of accomplishment and achievement in the classroom and community. His dedication and hard work have helped his program grow to over 160 students in the 10 years he has been with Central Carolina. In addition, his program boasts annual placement rates close to 90% with students often obtaining employment offers before they graduate.

Hall serves students outside of the classroom through academic advisement, counseling and student activities. He is faculty advisor to the Central Carolina Criminal Justice Association and the Cultural Diversity Club. He implemented an Officer Cadet Program for students and includes leadership and team-building activities as part of his capstone course. Last year he and his students held a fundraiser for a student who was receiving a multiple organ transplant.

Hall is an innovative user of technology. In his classroom, he provides lively debates on current events and utilizes an interactive board and student response devices to engage and assess students. A Certified Online Instructor, he creates and teaches rigorous online courses and instructs and mentors other faculty in the use of technology in teaching and learning.

Hall is very active in the community through his church, youth mentoring and sports activities, and fraternal and civic organizations. He has received several awards for his volunteer and public service with law enforcement, sports teams, and community events. When not working, he enjoys recreational and competitive bass fishing, hunting, camping and outdoor photography.

His personal motto is, “If you need help achieving your dreams, stand on my shoulders!”