



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Douglas R. Forbes, D.M.D.
Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Dr. Louis B. Lynn
Ms. Cynthia C. Mosteller
Mr. James R. Sanders
Mr. Y. W. Scarborough, III
Mr. Charles L. Talbert, III, CPA
Mr. Guy C. Tarrant, CCIM
Mr. Hood Temple
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2009

Contact: Rita Allison
Director of Communications
803-767-8352
rallison@che.sc.gov

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the S.C. Department of Education Presents the SC HEART Award for School Counselors

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Education, is pleased to announce the winners and finalists for the Higher Education Awareness Readiness Transition (HEART) Award. The HEART Award recognizes excellence in school counseling by identifying South Carolina school counselors with proven records of accomplishment in promoting higher education awareness. The 2009 HEART Award winners and finalists were announced at the Capital City Club in Columbia on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Recipients of the 2009 HEART Award are **Dr. Jennie Band** from Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School in Pomaria, S.C., **Dr. Ayanna Shivers**, from Waccamaw Middle School in Pawleys Island, S.C., and **Mr. Greg Bearden** from Walhalla High School in Seneca, S.C. Each HEART recipient received a \$3,500 award and a \$1,500 incentive grant for their current school's counseling department.

Dr. Jennie Band - 2009 HEART Award Elementary School Recipient *Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School, Pomaria, S.C.*

Dr. Band has been active in public education for over thirty years. She has developed an innovative career awareness and character education program that integrates higher education awareness along with career exploration and character development throughout the year. She is a National Board Certified Counselor and an adjunct professor at a local university.

Dr. Band credits her father and late mother for encouraging her to become an educator and her husband for all of his support throughout the years. She comes from a long line of educators and knows that teaching has always been in her genes. Dr. Band says that seeing students evolve through education and knowing that she has played at least a small part in their growth is very rewarding.

Dr. Ayanna Shivers - 2009 HEART Award Middle School Recipient *Waccamaw Middle School, Pawleys Island, S.C.*

Dr. Shivers provides comprehensive college and career development service for all students. She graciously shares components of her guidance program to colleagues within her district. Her untiring and innovative efforts to provide college and career guidance to middle school students and her willingness to mentor and inspire other college and career educators made her truly worthy of the HEART Award.

Dr. Shivers credits her parents for being her role models and for encouraging her to do her best. She also acknowledges her church family for their love and support. Dr. Shivers is very active at her church, Love Chapel Deliverance Center, where she is an ordained minister and head of the Youth Department. She is a member of Lambda Omicron Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Greg Bearden - 2009 HEART Award High School Recipient
Walhalla High School, Seneca, S.C.

Mr. Bearden is a model counselor in every realm. As a counselor, he has fully embraced and translated the value of postsecondary education and training to all students. He encourages students to take courses that are more challenging, to complete career clusters, to participate in dual credit opportunities, and to graduate from high school with a focused program that lays a seamless path to postsecondary education. He represents the best in Higher Education Awareness, Readiness, and Transition.

Mr. Bearden stresses the importance of making concrete connections for students between higher education and the world of work. He stresses that comprehensive counseling is all about equity and access for all students, and that counseling is a partnership between students, parents, and educators. Therefore, his department's mission is to create strong connections among these groups to ensure that students have the best foundation to enter life beyond high school.

Mr. Bearden thoroughly enjoys working with his senior students and knows the senior year is a pivotal time in a student's life. His reward in counseling comes from being a part of the decision making process for young people. Mr. Bearden's favorite quote and personal philosophy is, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." His reward is being the world to at least one young person.

In addition to award recipients, The SC Commission on Higher Education and the SC Department of Education recognized three finalists. Finalists for the SC HEART Award are **Ms. Brenda Dooley**, from Lake Murray Elementary School, in Lexington, S.C.; **Ms. Terri Kite**, from John Ewing Middle School, in Gaffney, S.C.; and **Mr. Robert Urbaniak, Jr.** from Socastee High School, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Finalists received a \$500 incentive grant for use in their current school's guidance and counseling program.

The SC HEART Award is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education and the College Access Challenge Grant. Information about the SC HEART Award is available on the SC Commission on Higher Education's web site at http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/HEART_Award.htm.