

SCCTM News March 11, 2021

STEM Education Month

Did you know that about 100 members representing close to 60 organizations that have been part of preparing for SC STEM Education Month in some way? It's true! Together, they are working to support quality STEM education and access to opportunities for ALL students regardless of zip code. We work so ALL students believe they can "See Me in STEM". Working together, we contribute to ensuring ALL students graduate being STEM literate and prepared to pursue in-demand, higher-paying STEM careers available in our State. Take a few minutes to read what members of our team described as "why STEM education is important". Celebrate being a part of this awesome SC STEM Ecosystem.

SC STEM Education Month kicks off on Pi Day, March 14, 2021. Using their S2TEM Centers SC and SCCMS social media networks and #SCSTEMMonth, the SCCMS team will be posting information on activities, events, and the "why" of STEM throughout STEM Education Month . Please use this hashtag when posting about SC STEM Education Month so we can cross-promote and amplify our reach.

All of SCCTM members and beyond are invited like to watch the hour-long live broadcast of the SC STEM Education Day at the Capitol on March 17th at 10:00 am. This hybrid event will feature speakers live at our State House Capitol as well as recognize close to 20 schools for their accomplishments in STEM education. Additionally, the SC Council of Competitiveness will announce the 2021 SC STEM Educator of the Year!

Looking forward to a great STEM Education Month!

Conference News

SCCTM Fall Conference 2021 Special Agents of Δ Academy Columbia, S.C. November 11-12, 2021

The idea of "change" within the context of the 2021 SCCTM Annual Conference and Business Meeting in Columbia, SC, addresses multiple ideas because, if nothing else, COVID-19 has forced us all to make changes. In addition to the idea that the entirety of the field of education has had to make significant change, we'd like to use components of the key recommendations from NCTM's Catalyzing Change: Initiating Critical Conversations as a

guide for the conference theme.

Registration: [Registration Link for the 2021 SCCTM Conference: https://scctm.wildapricot.org/event-4174280](https://scctm.wildapricot.org/event-4174280)

Super-early bird rates are available through May 1, so register early! Follow the link above to see the current rates.

Speaker Proposals: [Speaker Proposal Google Form for 2021 Submissions: https://forms.gle/ryLpSxNVz9xPP5cJ9](#)

In the proposal form, you will enter a title (no more than 90 characters) and a session description (no more than 350 characters) which will be available to participants for determining which sessions they'd like to attend. Your executive board would like each proposal to include a brief statement (no more than 350 characters) telling us how your presentation considers one of the questions below. We thank you for your willingness to share your experiences and expertise!

Vendor Registration: [Vendor Registration Link 2021 SCCTM Conference: https://scctm.wildapricot.org/event-4172622](https://scctm.wildapricot.org/event-4172622)
Vendors must obtain the code from Lane Peeler. exhibits@scctmconference.org

Can you help SCCTM? We are looking for educators who have the time, talent, and willingness to contribute in order to help our state math organization grow stronger and be better able to serve our membership. Please complete the

questionnaire below in order to volunteer with SCCTM. At any time, you may contact the SCCTM Executive Director, Cindy Parker: director@scctmconference.org or SCCTM President: president@scctmconference.org if you have any questions or other ideas about volunteering for or assisting SCCTM. Time and Talents Volunteer form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5XIA4PrGZhUbd_MINO9fcSwWctSjJjWyX3YpfOmG5wd9g/viewform

Conference 2020 Videos: Links to Conference and Exhibits videos from the 2020 Virtual Conference Series are available on our website at <http://scctm.org/conferences>. You will need to be logged into the website and enter through the link on the Conference page.

The Mathmate

The MathMate is seeking manuscripts, lesson ideas, or activities. Share your ideas with the MathMate editor, Leigh Martin, at mathmate@scctmconference.org. The deadline for our May publication is March 15.

The updated due dates for submission are as follows for the May publication:

- March 15th - articles for review are due
- April 30th - articles needing revisions or rewrites must be resubmitted

Use the following link to find submission guidelines: <http://www.scctm.org/The-MathMate>

Teacher Grant Application

The South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (SCCTM) will provide grant funds of up to forty-five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) in any given year (given appropriate budget funding) to support SCCTM members desiring to implement projects in mathematics-related areas. No individual grant will exceed \$1,500.00.

Each grant applicant must agree to the following to receive the funds:

1. Be a member of SCCTM and be employed in South Carolina.
2. Obtain approval and signature of your supervisor and, except for higher ed. applicants, your superintendent.
3. Complete the online SCCTM Grant Application.
4. Conduct the project and submit results in an End-of-Project Report by June 30.
5. Agree to present the results of your project at the SCCTM Annual Conference, and/or write an article describing your project for The MathMate within one year of completion.

If any of the above criteria are not met, the applicant must repay the grant award to SCCTM.

Grant applications may be made for almost any mathematics-related purpose. Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to, such items as follows: developing training materials, purchasing equipment, paying for substitute teachers for release time, writing curriculum or lesson plans, paying for project-related printing or postage, providing training for appropriate personnel, and developing or producing a product. No more than 20% of the grant

amount may be budgeted for unreimbursed expenses (registration, hotel, travel, meals, sub pay) to attend the SCCTM conference to conduct a session about your project.

Grant awards to SCCTM members will be based on the recommendation of the SCCTM Grants Committee and upon the availability of funds. The SCCTM Executive Board will annually determine the total amount of grant monies available for the year. Announcement of the grant recipients will be made on or near the date of June 15.

To apply, the [online form](#) must be completed by April 15.

Government Relations

Keeping up with SC Legislation

Download the SC Legislature

App: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sc-legislature/id1294829381>

This section provides SCCTM members with information on current legislation that impacts mathematics education.

-The Senate passed S. 16. It replaces the half-credit graduation requirement in Economics with a half-credit graduation requirement in Personal Finance. Economics can still, however, be offered as an elective.

-The House has put H. 3588 on hold for debate until March 2nd. This bill would require seniors to take a credit in English and math or computer science in order to be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship.

-The U.S. Department of Education announced to states that it will not be granting "blanket" waivers to states from the student testing requirements of the ESSA. In South Carolina, these tests include SC READY, SC PASS, and the high school End of Course Exams in Algebra 1, English 2, and Biology 1. However, the Department announced that it is willing to accept "flexibility waivers" from states for federal testing requirements. South Carolina is already prepared to submit a flexibility waiver. This would alleviate testing burdens on students. This time-sensitive, but Superintendent Spearman is working to push this request to the US Department of Ed.

This information has been provided from scstatehouse.gov and the PSTA Legislative Action Network.

Donations to SCCTM

As many of you know, the annual in person conference that SCCTM has held each year for decades helps SCCTM earn the funds in order to support the scholarship and grants programs. SCCTM has always been able to keep membership and conference registration fees low due to the support from the vendors who reserve exhibit hall booths and so generously make donations toward the coffee breaks and reception for our members. Without the conference and its exhibit booth sales, our finance committee has had to rework and rethink what is now a very constricted budget.

If you are able to help support SCCTM at this time, you may donate online at: scctm.org/donations or you may mail a check made out to SCCTM, 6 Sandalwood Lane, Sumter, South Carolina 29154.

Membership Benefits

If your membership lapsed with the non-traditional conference this year, here is a reminder of the benefits of membership in SCCTM:

- SCCTM hosts the largest annual statewide math education conference with more than 50 Exhibitors and HUNDREDS of presentations per year!
- SCCTM members get a reduced rates for the conference.
- SCCTM members are eligible for the conference door prize drawings (totalling more than \$2000 worth of prizes on average per year)
- SCCTM members receive news blasts via email containing statewide opportunities and upcoming events.
- SCCTM members receive an online subscription to the teacher friendly and peer-

reviewed hybrid journal, The MathMate, published by SCCTM.

- SCCTM sponsors Scholarships, Grant, and Competition Opportunities which provide teachers and students with more than \$10,000 per year!

- SCCTM provides professional development and networking opportunities!

Members often get discounted rates on NCTM memberships and NCTM store discounts!

Submissions for the e-blast

The SCCTM sends out a monthly news blast. The format for submissions is a short (less than 250 words) description paragraph and links to any flyers or forms on the originating organization's website/storage. This format avoids us housing other organization's documents/flyers on our listserve server's limited space. All submissions must also meet our mission as stated on our website:

"The South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics acts to support quality mathematics teaching by advocating at the state level for South Carolina educators and students; providing opportunities for leadership, professional development, and networking; and encouraging the creation of research-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment."