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Vol. 33, No. 3

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of Counties

May 2021

SCAC to Host 2021 Annual Conference and Institute of Government Classes July 30 to Aug. 3

SCAC will host its annual conference and Institute of Government classes July 30 to August 3 in Hilton Head.

The conference, designed to help county leaders govern and serve more effectively, will include educational sessions and other opportunities for county leaders to network and discuss common challenges and successful strategies.

Conference participants will also be able to meet with SCAC's Corporate Partners and conference exhibitors to discuss products and solutions. New SCAC officers and board members will be elected, and Institute of Government graduates will be recognized.

Winners of the association's annual awards program will be announced, COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase entrants will be recognized, and association groups will meet.

The conference schedule has been streamlined to provide an opening session Monday morning for all county officials to meet jointly to hear from members of the S.C. General Assembly and a keynote speaker.

Another enhancement this year is the addition of the Rural and Urban Caucus Meetings Monday afternoon. During this time, county officials will be able to meet to discuss issues and challenges specific to their type of county.

The President's/Exhibitors' Reception will be held Sunday evening and the banquet and dance will be held Monday evening. The conference will conclude with the general session Tuesday morning. (*See Program at a Glance, P. 2*)

Institute of Government classes will be offered Friday, July 30 – Sunday, August 1. This schedule will allow the Association to offer more classes since county officials have not been able to take in-person classes since last summer.

The following Institute courses will be offered:



Institute of Government Graduates to be Recognized at the General Session

Friday, July 30

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Level I (R): Ethical Leadership and Public Service*

Level II: The Property Taxation Process**

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Level I (E): Public Speaking

Level II: Financial Management**

Saturday, July 31

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Level I (E): Strategic Planning**

Level II: Effective Communications

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Level I (E): Understanding and Seeking Differences

Advanced: Building Resiliency for Your Community

Sunday, August 1

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Level I (R): Legal Issues

Advanced: Putting Dollars to Work for Your County: State & Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds

*Approved for three hours of continuing education.

**Classes will be available on demand after the conference.

Conference registration will be shared electronically with all county officials by mid-May. Conference participants will be encouraged to wear face masks and practice social distancing during all conference events.





Program at a Glance

for

SCAC's Annual Conference

Hilton Head Marriott Hotel, Hilton Head Island

July 30 – Aug. 3, 2021

Friday, July 30, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Institute of Government Classes
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Institute of Government Classes

Saturday, July 31, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Institute of Government Classes
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Institute of Government Classes

Sunday, August 1, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Area Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Institute of Government Classes
1:30 p.m.	County Managers, Administrators & Supervisors' Business Meeting
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Clerks to Council
2:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee
2:30 p.m.	Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	President's/Exhibitors' Reception

Monday, August 2, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Exhibit Area Open
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Councils of Governments Executive Directors
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Probate Judges
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Workshop
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Rural Caucus and Urban Caucus Meetings
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Annual Conference Banquet (Ticket Required)
8:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Dance

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

9:30 a.m.	General Session
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2021 Annual Awards Program and COVID-19 Responsibility and Resiliency Showcase

SCAC has announced its 2021 Annual Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. Building on the success of the 2020 Awards Program and Showcase, the Association will again host the Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase at the SC ETV Studios in Columbia. Showcase entrants will be recognized, and the award winners will be announced during SCAC's Annual Conference in Hilton Head. Below is the schedule of events, which is different from previous years.



June 8, 2021 — Awards competition and showcase held at SC ETV and live streamed

Aug. 2, 2021 — Live streamed announcement of award winners and recognition of showcase entrants at SCAC Annual Conference banquet

The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase will be offered again for counties to share ways they have enhanced services and programs or learned from their response to the health crisis. Counties that entered last year's showcase, and would like to enter again are asked to focus on additional enhancements or changes that were not included in the 2020 Showcase.

For nearly 50 years, the Association has recognized innovative projects completed by South Carolina's counties. The awards program accepts applications that address all areas of county government—from simple, unique ideas that maximize limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

To view videos and applications from previous winners and to learn more about the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, visit the Association's website. If you have additional questions, please contact Susan Turkopuls at 1-800-922-6081 or sturkopuls@scac.sc.





SCAC Awards Scholarships to Five High School Seniors

SCAC's 2021 Presidential Scholarship Winner



Brady A. Crider
*Orangeburg
Preparatory School*
ORANGEBURG COUNTY

SCAC's 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship Winners



Emily M. Danielski
*Ashley Ridge
High School*
DORCHESTER COUNTY



Rhida Fatima
*Spring Valley
High School*
RICHLAND COUNTY



Emerson Grace Buzhardt
*Gray Collegiate
Academy*
SALUDA COUNTY



Reika Shiraki
*Gettys D. Broome
High School*
SPARTANBURG COUNTY

SCAC recently awarded scholarships to five high school seniors planning to attend a South Carolina college or university, or two-year technical college in the fall.

Each year, SCAC awards a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of the same county as that year's SCAC president.

SCAC also awards four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Counties selected in the 2021 draw were Dorchester, Orangeburg, Richland, Saluda and Spartanburg counties.

SCAC'S 2021 Presidential Scholarship Winner

SCAC awarded its 2021 Presidential Scholarship to Brady A. Crider of Orangeburg Preparatory School in honor of Orangeburg County Council Chairman and SCAC President Johnnie Wright Sr.

Ranked second in his class, he plans to study biology/pre-med at the University of South Carolina. In addition to serving as junior class treasurer and participating in National Honor Society and Key Club, Crider was a member of the chess team, the math team, and the academic team. He also played junior varsity baseball and served as graduation marshal.

Crider is active in the Fellowship and Praise Church and youth group, the Cornerstone Community Church and youth group, and has participated in local community food drives. He has also participated in the College Board National Rural/Small Town Recognition service.

He is the son of Corey Crider and Stephanie Crider, both of Orangeburg.

SCAC'S 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship Winners

Dorchester County

SCAC awarded a 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship to Emily M. Danielski of Ashley Ridge High School. Ranked in the top 20 percent of her class, she plans to double major in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security and Emergency Services at the University of South Carolina.

In addition to serving as the Ashley Ridge Student Body President, Danielski is a three-sport varsity letter winner and is captain of the women's soccer team. She is on the yearbook staff, involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and serves as a Teacher Cadet.

Her honors include induction into the National Honor Society and selection to attend South Carolina Girls State. She is a Dorchester District II Academic Award Recipient, and was inducted into the S.C. Association of Student Council's Terry McCoy Hall of Fame.

Danielski's volunteer service includes advocating, educating, and fundraising for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and mission work in Guatemala, where she helped build an elementary school and taught English through Engadi Ministries.

She is the daughter of Craig and Jill Danielski of Summer-ville.

Richland County

SCAC awarded a 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship to Rhida Fatima of Spring Valley High School. Ranked third in her

(Continued on next page)



class, she has served as the advertising and presentation chair for National Alliance for Mental Illness Arts and Music Showcase, and as a volunteer at Lexington Medical, Riverbanks Zoo, and the Deckle Edge Festival.

Fatima is a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and National Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society. Among numerous academic recognitions, she has received awards for Scholastic Art and Writing for poetry, science fiction, and flash fiction; as well as for science research from the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science, the University of South Carolina Science and Engineering Fair, and the American Junior Academy of Sciences.

She received the Randolph College Classics Award and the Ben Nesbit Social Studies Award, and she was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. Fatima participates on the Teen Advisory Board; WORD Poetry Club; and in Vex Robotics, where she has won multiple competitions.

She is the daughter of Muhammad Rafiq and Hina Chaudhry of Columbia.

Saluda County

SCAC awarded a 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship to Emerson Grace Buzhardt of Gray Collegiate Academy. Ranked third in her class, she plans to study health science at Furman University.

She is an officer in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and serves as president of the National Honor Society. Named a National Society of High school Scholar, Buzhardt serves on

the Principal's Advisory Council, Student Council, and as a peer tutor. She has played varsity basketball, softball, and volleyball, receiving multiple recognitions for athletic excellence and leadership.

Outside school, Buzhardt participates in the Radius Church Saluda Youth group and performs mission work repairing homes in her local community. She has volunteered with local youth travel ball teams and played on a national softball team.

She is the daughter of Daryl and Pamela Buzhardt of Saluda.

Spartanburg County

SCAC awarded a 2021 Board of Directors Scholarship to Reika Shiraki of Gettys D. Broome High School. Ranked second in her class, she plans to major in nursing or biology at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Shiraki has received multiple awards for academic and athletic excellence, including being named to the Principal's Honor Roll four times and serving as Lead Junior Marshal. She was named an AP Scholar with Honor, a Columbia University Junior Scholar, a University of South Carolina Upstate Junior Scholar, and was awarded the Presbyterian College Fellows Award.

Shiraki is active in student government, Beta Club, and marching band where she has served as drum major. Shiraki also participates in track and field, winterguard, and dance.

She is an active community member, having participated in the American Legion Auxiliary and Amnesty International. She also volunteers with the Cannons Campground Methodist Church Food Drive and the Cherokee Children's Home, where she planned and executed a personal hygiene product donation drive.

She is the daughter of Miki and Mona Shiraki of Pacolet.

SCAC's Scholarship Selection Committees met in the spring to evaluate applicants for the Presidential Scholarship and the four Board of Directors scholarships. Each applicant was required to complete and submit an application, and to write an essay on his/her aspirations and goals. Scholarships were awarded based on essays, grades, school activities, and community involvement.



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Seventeen S.C. County Officials Graduate from NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy

SCAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) are proud to announce the new graduating class of NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy—a 12-week online program that empowers county government officials and employees with fundamental leadership skills.



More than 800 county officials nationwide have completed the program. The following 17 South Carolina county officials and staff recently completed the program:

- ☆ **Crystal Barnes**, Assistant to County Administrator/Clerk to Council, McCormick County
- ☆ **Kimberly Belk**, Deputy County Administrator (Interim), Lancaster County
- ☆ **Denise Christmas**, Deputy County Administrator/CFO, Calhoun County
- ☆ **Hart "Doc" Clark**, Building and Planning Director, Edgefield County
- ☆ **Vivian Fleming-McGhaney**, County Council Member, Sumter County
- ☆ **Debra Ham**, Human Resources Director, Greenville County
- ☆ **Garrett Lynn**, EMS Director, Edgefield County
- ☆ **Garrett McDaniel**, Council Member, Laurens County
- ☆ **Joshua Morton**, Emergency Management Director, Saluda County
- ☆ **Brown Patterson Jr.**, County Council Member, Laurens County
- ☆ **Kiera Reinertsen**, Planning and Zoning Director, Dorchester County
- ☆ **Teria Sheffield**, Purchasing Director, York County
- ☆ **Stephen Taylor**, Economic Development Director, Abbeville County

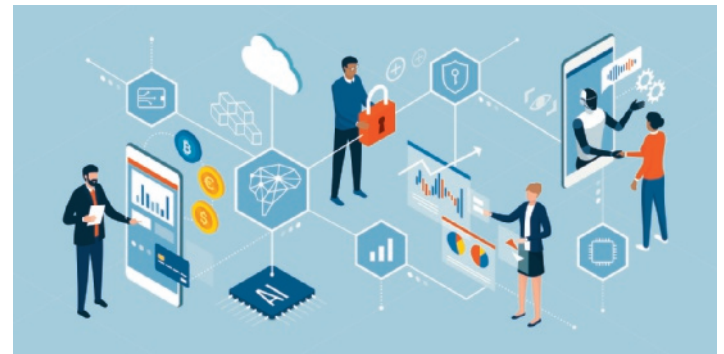
- ☆ **Jason Walters**, Chief Information Office, Dorchester County
- ☆ **Jason Ward**, County Administrator, Dorchester County
- ☆ **Dana Waters**, Finance Director, Edgefield County
- ☆ **Harold Young**, County Administrator, Orangeburg County

Congratulations to these individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to leadership development for their counties. To learn more about the NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy, visit: <https://www.sccounties.org/news/new-scac-and-naco-partnership-naco-leadership-academies>



NACo Cyberattack Simulations

In response to the growing threat landscape and complexity of the interdependent and networked business of counties, NACo is offering cyberattack simulation training.



One of the highlights of the program is the practitioner-led, reality-based cyberattack simulation. Counties often lack fully tested incident response procedures and fully detailed operationalized playbooks ready for use to mitigate cyber threats and to adequately respond to attacks before they become a crisis.

Nothing tests preparedness like reality and there is nothing better to plan for a crisis like a well-designed, reality-based simulation.

Who Should Participate?

The NACo Cyberattack Simulations are designed for cy-
(Continued on next page)



bersecurity managers, their teams, and others in the county responsible for risk defense, protection, and recovery (including managers in HR, policy management, finance, public safety, and emergency services).

What Is the Time Commitment?

The simulations are designed with a time commitment of 45-90 minutes per day for one week. Activities can be completed on the participants' schedule and accessed online anywhere.

What Is the Cost?

All NACo member counties can participate for FREE!

To learn more about the simulations including registration, visit <https://www.naco.org/naco-cyberattack-simulation>. The following three simulations are scheduled for the remainder of 2021:

- June 21, 2021 — Pandemic
- September 27, 2021 — Third-Party Partner
- November 29, 2021 — Insider Threat



SCAC Now Offers Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials Webinars Online!

SCAC has now made the Orientation for Newly Elected County Officials webinars available online! Both part one and part two have been combined into a single course on SCAC's Learning Portal.

County officials can take this online course to learn important information on topics such as the structure of county government, the roles and responsibilities of county council, and the various services and programs SCAC offers among many other topics.



Upon completion, participants will receive credit in the Institute of Government for County Officials for both Orientation to County Government I and Orientation to County Government II, which are both Level I required courses.

This is a great opportunity for county officials to begin earning credit towards a Level I certificate.

In order to access the course on SCAC's Learning Portal, officials will need to first have an account with SCAC. For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley, SCAC, at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

New Career Pathway Created for Law Enforcement

The S.C. Technical College System and the SC Criminal Justice Academy recently announced a partnership that provides a new career pathway for law enforcement. This pathway is designed to address the industry's current workforce shortage and enhance the law enforcement profession overall. With the aid of the Lottery Tuition Assistance program and the SC WINS Scholarship program, tuition for the new pathway will be covered for participating students.

The new Police Pre-Academy Training Certificate provides a simple path to becoming a law enforcement officer. Candidates first apply to one of the state's 16 technical colleges and complete the 14-week certificate program. Over the 14 weeks, candidates will learn basic and introductory law enforcement training, tactics, and procedures. In total, they will complete four courses totaling 12 credit hours that can apply toward the 66 credits required to earn an associate degree should candidates decide to further their studies.

Next, candidates secure employment with a South Carolina law enforcement agency within one year. Once employment is secured, candidates must pass a cumulative exam and physical assessment test administered by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy. If candidates pass the exam and physical assessment test, they complete an eight-week training program at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia. Once these steps are complete, candidates are ready to begin their career as a certified law enforcement officer in South Carolina.



On April 25, sheriffs in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties published an op-ed in *The Anderson Independent-Mail* that said the program will enhance law enforcement training. To read the op-ed, visit: https://independentmail-sc-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=1c2fb4688_1345d1d.

For more information about the program, contact one of 16 technical colleges strategically located across South Carolina. Visit www.sctechsystem.edu.





SCAC/NACo Partnership Offers New Online Leadership Academy

SCAC recently announced a new partnership with NACo to build strong county leaders. The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that empowers county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties.

The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk

management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a registration fee of \$1,545 (instead of the \$2,495 retail price).

For more information about High Performance Leadership Academy, visit: <https://www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy>.



County Jobs?



Is your county looking for ways to advertise job openings? SCAC often gets requests to post open county positions on [SCCounties.org](https://www.sccounties.org). Postings are available under the County Jobs button at the top of the website. Local governmental entities wishing to post open positions should include closing dates, salary information (if available), and application instructions. This is a complimentary service and considered part of SCAC's member services package. Visit the form at this link to post a position: <https://bit.ly/3mGtu67>

In addition to posting on the SCAC website, there are other options to consider when advertising position openings.

(Continued on next page)

SCAC's Digital Communications:

Are You in the Know on the S.C. General Assembly's Actions and Association Events?

SCAC is now distributing *Friday Reports*, *Legislative Alerts*, and conference registration information digitally through social media, Constant Contact emails, and on its website. Paper copies will no longer be mailed. As local leaders, SCAC wants to make sure all county officials and staff members continue to receive critical legislative and conference information. If you have not been receiving the *Friday Report* e-mails, please contact Jennifer Haworth, SCAC Member Services Coordinator, at jhaworth@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Follow SCAC on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to learn what's happening at the State house and how SCAC's programs, services, and conferences can benefit your county. Find us at SCCounties on Facebook and Twitter, and South Carolina Association of Counties on LinkedIn. Help us amplify your county's good news by tagging SCAC in your posts and/or using the #SCCounties, #LocalLeaders, and #StatewideStrength hashtags.



NACo advertises openings online and in print. NACo member counties can post ads to NACo's website (<https://www.naco.org/resources/hire-quality-staff>) for \$200 per two weeks or any fraction thereof. The fee for non-NACo members is \$300. A county can also run a print classified ad in the County News Job Market. Job Market classified ads cost \$7 per line for member counties and \$10 per line for all others. If you have questions regarding job listings, contact NACo's Editorial Assistant at edassist@naco.org.

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) offers to post open positions for both members and non-members at <https://icma.org/job-center>. The member fee is \$450 to post an opening, and the non-member fee is \$600. If you have questions or need additional information on submitting a position to ICMA, call (800) 745-8780.



Webcasts and Webinars



NEW!

SCAC has now made the Orientation for Newly-Elected County Officials webinars available online! Both part one and part two have been combined into a single course on SCAC's Learning Portal.

For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

SCAC's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 30 – Aug. 1
Aug. 1 – 3

Institute of Government for County Officials
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

You can register and pay online for SCAC conferences at www.sccounties.org/meetings.



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 9 – 12

Annual Conference
Prince George's County, Md.
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center

Did You Know?

South Carolina
State Ethics Commission:



Did you know that a public official may vote on entire budgets that contain items affecting the economic interests of himself, his family members, businesses with which he is associated, or individuals with whom he is associated, but is prohibited from voting on specific line items affecting such economic interests and is prohibited from participating in work shops or budget committees dealing with such interests?

For more information, please see Advisory Opinion 2020-002 which is available on the Commission's website at ethics.sc.gov.

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