



# The Beacon: Guiding Excellence in Everyone's Education

## South Carolina Council for African American Studies

### 110 STRONG & GROWING

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SCCAAS

The South Carolina Council for African American Studies was established in January 2006 by 12 educators from K-12, higher education and other organizational entities. They came together to provide assistance and support to educators across the state in the challenge to incorporate the history, culture and contributions of African Americans across disciplines.

SCCAAS held its inaugural conference in October 2006, in Charleston, South Carolina with 110 educators and community stake holders in attendance. The response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive.

With 110 members, SCCAAS is moving forward and growing stronger. We are planning the 2007 conference to be held in Columbia, South Carolina , October 4—6 at the Marriot Hotel.

The conference theme this year — “SC Educators Leading and Shaping: Identities, Cultures, and Futures” — emphasizes the importance of culturally relevant curriculum and pedagogical practices to the development of all students. This conference promises to be engaging and informative with a literary event, workshops, and interesting speakers.

Registration is open and avail-

able on the website:  
[www.sccaas.org](http://www.sccaas.org).

If you know of others who might benefit from the information included in this newsletter or in SCCAAS, please encourage them to join us in “Guiding Excellence in Everyone’s Education.”



Luxurious Marriot of Columbia hosts SCCAAS Fall Conference

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Membership in SCCAAS \$20 annually
- Annual Conference 2007, October 4—6 in Columbia, SC
- Call for papers
- Join the Executive Committee
- [www.sccaas.org](http://www.sccaas.org)

### GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of SCCAAS, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the organization. It is my wish that you acquire the resources and support that will aid in the enhancement of African American studies instruction.

The intent of this newsletter is to provide a communicative

vehicle for disseminating information to our members and hopefully attracting new members to our cause. The newsletter will be released quarterly.

You should feel free to share this information with friends and colleagues and submit any information that you would like to share. We look forward to working together in

“Guiding Excellence in Everyone’s Education.” !





## CALL FOR PAPERS “SC EDUCATORS LEADING & SHAPING: IDENTITIES, CULTURES AND FUTURES”

SCCAAS is accepting proposals for the fall conference 2007. This year’s theme, “SC Educators Leading and Shaping: Identities, Cultures, and Futures,” hopes to address the ways that pedagogy impacts the ways that children see themselves and their opportunities for success.

Presenters are encouraged to submit an abstract of not more than two pages describing the presentation and offer bibliographic references to be shared with conference attendees.

In addition to the abstract, we ask that a description of no more than 50 words for the conference agenda.

The presentation can address any aspect that relate to the teaching of African and African American Studies in all K–12 academic areas: Social Studies, Math, Science, English/ language Arts, Fine Arts, US History, Global Studies (International Education), Economics (Financial Literacy), Psychology, Sociology, etc. Subjects may include Current

Trends in teaching the African and African American, experience, Cultural Diversity, Achievement Gap concerns, or “Best Practices.”

Our goal is to offer practical and useful information that educators may readily use in their classrooms.

Please visit the Web site as soon as possible to complete the call for papers form.

## EDUCATION PARTNERS

**“State Department of Education and SCETV partner with SCCAAS to promote resources for instruction”**

SCCAAS partners with the SC Department of Education and SC Education Television to promote resources to aid in the instruction of the African American experience.

SCCAAS works with SCETV to produce “Curriculum Resources” on ITV to provide information and suggestions on

the inclusion of African American studies. This quarterly programming is shown on closed circuit in most of the schools of South Carolina.

In April we will highlight the outcome of the Fall 2006 Conference to include an interview with historians, Dr. Darlene Clark Hine and Dr. Valinda Littlefield.

We want to use the ITV programming as another vehicle of communication to talk about teaching practices, curriculum development, and lesson planning for African American studies inclusion.



**Darlene Clark Hines, Ph.D.**  
2006 Keynote Speaker

## SPOTLIGHT ON A HISTORIAN DARLENE CLARK HINE

Renown historian, Dr. Darlene Clark Hine was the opening keynote speaker at the Fall 2006 conference in Charleston, SC. For “Promising Practices in Teaching African American Studies,” Dr. Hine lauded SC Teachers for their diligence toward including African American history, a portion

American history whose absence gives a very incomplete and distorted view of the American landscape.

Dr. Hine’s work was instrumental in convincing Philadelphia public schools to mandate a course in African American studies for all students before

graduation.

## SCCAAS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTS THE STATE

The executive committee of SCCAAS has a few vacancies. We would like for the committee to have representation from areas across the state.

The vacancies include:

2 Middle School representatives

1 representative from a professional organization.

You can find the current executive committee mem-

bers on the web site and if you're interested simply attend the next meeting. You will also find it posted on the site.

The primary responsibility of the executive committee is to make policies for the governance of the organization. It is important that districts and stakeholders throughout the state are represented and various interests are served.

The executive committee meets every quarter and attempt to located the meetings in various locations for convenience and accessibility.



## SHARE YOUR BEST PRACTICES

South Carolina teachers are creative and serious about African American studies inclusion. Often the best resources for new ideas and lesson plans come from our peers and friends.

If you have shared the history culture, and contributions of African Ameri-

cans in your class and you think that the information would be useful to other teachers please submit your ideas to SCCAAS. We will make it available on our website and highlight the teacher, grade and school from where the "Best Practice" comes.

At the 2006 Conference we

learned a great deal about how the contributions and experiences of African Americans can be shared in Science, Mathematics, English language arts, Economics, Psychology, as well as Social Studies and US History.

"South Carolina teachers are creative and serious about African American studies inclusion"

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH SCCAAS

To provide leadership for the study of African Americans in K-12, College, Universities, and professional organizations, SCCAAS facilitates workshops and training institutes for teachers. Serving as a liaison between K-12 and higher

education entities, we work to bring current histories, and new pedagogical trends to K-12 education.

Additionally, we work with teacher education programs to encourage the inclusion of the teach-

ing of the African A experience.

To inquire about trainings and workshops for your school or district and fees contact the executive director of SCCAAS with the information provided.



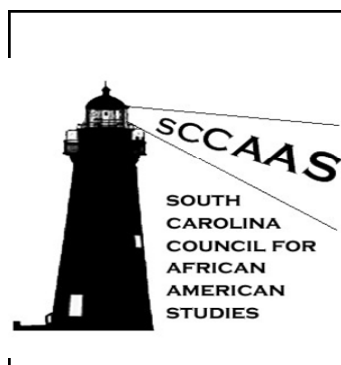
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## WE'RE ON THE WEB! **THE RATIONALE FOR SCCAAS** WWW.SCCAAS.ORG

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**Guiding Excellence in Everyone's Education**



Since the 1970's, scholars have investigated and examined the phenomenon of disparities or "gaps" in the academic achievement between African American and white students in what a first appearance equal classroom environments. What they found as a common denominator were inequities in the curriculum content. Findings from these investigations determined that pedagogy that focuses on cultural knowledge, prior experiences and performance styles of diverse students make learning more appropriate and effective for them. Referenced as Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, it acknowledges the legitimacy of the cultural heritages of different

ethnic groups, both as legacies that affect students' dispositions, attitudes, and approaches to learning and as worthy content to be taught in the formal curriculum. The empirical proof exists that supports the notion that test scores have increased where there has been a commitment to a culturally relevant pedagogy and the school has made strides towards cultural competence.

The public schools of South Carolina serve 277,785 African American students that constitute 41% of the population. However, the history, culture, and contributions of African Americans is largely

absent from the curriculum. What this means for African American children is that they lack a comprehensive understanding of their own culture and for non-African American children, they lack the understanding of the total American experience.

Since the inception of the African American history legislation, the State Department of Education has outlined program goals that include: providing teachers with content information on the teaching of African American history aligned with the social studies standards, and increasing teachers' knowledge and their ability to use instructional materials.

