

# The Zucker Report 2022



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## DIVISION UPDATES

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- Educational Leadership
- Literacy and ESOL Ed
- STEM Center
- Teacher Education

Senior cadets partnering with a non-profit organization to raise awareness and streamline its operations for leadership day



“

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- **Nelson Mandela**

# Stats of Pride

The Citadel's Zucker Family School of Education is a leader in teacher and administrator professional development. Join The Citadel family today!

**No. 1** U.S. News & World Report ranking  
Best Colleges for Veterans (Regional Universities) for 11  
years in a row

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**13%** More Diverse Students in Graduate Programs  
(from 2020 to 2021)

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**No. 1** Ranked Teacher Education and Educational Leadership  
Programs in SC

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**70%** Beaufort County Educational Leadership (EdS) cohort  
grads hired as Assistant Principals this year

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**No. 1** Most recipients of Teacher and Principal of the Year  
awards in the Lowcountry

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**18** SC school district partnerships (and growing)!

**Our graduates are principled leaders!**

# Dean's Message



Resiliency has been the overarching theme in recent months especially for our students and district partners throughout the Lowcountry.

The ZFSOE has redesigned its retention plan with a core focus that goes beyond academics, embracing the social, emotional, and financial hardships that students may experience. We believe that through ongoing communication and timely responses to emergent needs we can ensure that students complete their degrees on time but more importantly, understand that we are partners in education.

This concept of continuous improvement is foundational to student success. We recently created a sub-committee tasked with refining systems, enhancing curricular programs, and other services like our ZFSOE Mentor Program, Student Clubs, and the Alumni Network. In addition, we would like to celebrate our recent rankings in Teacher Education and Educational Leadership as #1 programs in the state of SC, as well as the tenure and promotion of Dr. Jennifer Albert, Director of the STEM Center! Our enrollment numbers continue to climb as more people become aware of the academic and economic impacts advantages of earning certifications and degrees, also known as something we call The Citadel Effect- that - where our graduates go on to earn more in their careers than graduates of any other university in South Carolina. Our graduates are positioned to lead and serve as agents of change in their communities. A select number of these become recognized as distinguished *Wall of Fame* inductees, such as this year's recipients: Dr. Glenda Levine, Geri Henderson, Kayla McCombs, and Todd Garrett.

Education is constantly in motion and faculty and staff in the ZFSOE have been resilient in our quest to support their students through any means necessary. We look forward to hearing from you with any feedback on improvements that can further enhance our operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Evan Ortlieb".

Evan Ortlieb  
Dean, Zucker Family School of Education

## Alumni Spotlight

**Deon Jackson**

Berkeley County School District Superintendent





Deon Jackson was 18 when he visited The Citadel for the first time. Behind the uniforms, structure and early morning runs, Jackson discovered leaders who made an impression and shaped his life. He was making plans for a career in sports management and administration when Col. John S. Carter, a professor of health and physical education, encouraged Jackson to pursue a teaching certificate.

At the age of 23, he was offered a job in Lancaster County to teach and coach. After two years, Jackson and his now-wife Adrienne decided to settle in Charleston so he could finish up his master's degree at The Citadel.

After securing a job at Goose Creek High School, Jackson completed his master's degree in secondary school administration. Four years later, Jackson moved on to Timberland High School, where he served as assistant principal. Four years after that, he was named principal at St. Stephen Middle School and then Cane Bay Middle School. And then it was on to the district office.

In May, Jackson was named superintendent of Berkeley County School District.

*- Article was originally published in The Citadel Magazine by Jennifer Wallace*

“I love The Citadel. There are things I have learned at The Citadel that I didn't realize I was learning until after I got out. I still walk at a pretty swift pace, not quite 120 (paces per minute), but I walk at a pretty swift pace.”



# Counselor Education

## Celebrates The Citadel's Homecoming



The ZFSOE was a proud sponsor of the Beaufort County Counselor Cohort at this year's Homecoming game. Counselor Education faculty and Beaufort school counselors enjoyed a day together cheering on the Bulldogs.

## We Salute Our Student Veterans

The Zucker Family School of Education is fortunate to enroll student veterans who have dedicated their time and talents in service to our nation and who are now studying to continue their service in K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities.

Led by Dr. Guy Ilagan, students enjoyed a three-day Student Veterans Backpacking Trip this summer in Western North Carolina.



Left to right: Jesse Brooks, Clayton Pate, Nick Horton, Joshua Davidson, Kole Schultz, Mr. Gregory Cavaliere (Guide).



Student veterans from the backpacking trip also attended an outdoor adventure trip in October. They camped, kayaked, and explored remote waterfalls.



Lauren Roland, Cyra Valente,  
Nicole Singleton, Jen Roland.

## A Special Guest Call

At the start of their Tuesday night Group Counseling class, Dr. George William's phone just happened to ring. On the line was Dr. Gerald Corey, the author of their course textbook. The students had the wonderful opportunity to discuss their personal thoughts/comments concerning Dr. Corey's course texts.

Dr. Corey has served as a guest speaker for many of Dr. William's courses. Dr. Williams considers Dr. Corey as one of his top career mentors whom he continues working with professionally and collaboratively. He is so appreciative and grateful for knowing "Jerry" for 40+ years.





# Counselor Education

## Celebrates a New Licensed Professional Counselor Cohort



Standing: Aquanette Tracey, Awan Holmes, Julie Markle, Shereeka Johnson, Annette Ballard, Dr. Guy Ilagan, Geri Henderson, Laverne Lawton, Latoshia Middleton

Kneeling: Nicole Bossak, Laura Mason, Amanda Raniszewski, Joe Kwiatkowski, Laura Mason

The Division of Counselor Education launched a new LPC Cohort with Beaufort County School District (BCSD). BCSD school counselors completed a course on assessment, diagnostics, and treatment of psychological disorders in preparation for becoming licensed professional counselors. The Counselor Education program is excited to collaborate and provide on-site courses in Beaufort for a new cohort of aspiring school counselors within the Beaufort County School District.

## Preparing for Upcoming CACREP Accreditation Visit

The Counselor Education program completed its CACREP self-study report this year and has been approved for a virtual site visit in 2022. The current accreditation cycle was extended to October 31, 2022 due to the pandemic. We look forward to showcasing the strengths of our school counseling program to the site team in the coming year.



# Educational Leadership

## Meet Our New Faculty

Dr. Gail Gilmore brings 25 years of school leadership experience to The Citadel, having served as a Connecticut superintendent of schools, assistant superintendent of schools, principal, and interim division director for educator effectiveness and professional learning at the Connecticut State Department of Education. She is utilizing her superintendency experience to support the Ed.S. program, primarily.



**Mrs. Geraldine Henderson**

## 2021 Alumni Awards

Mrs. Geraldine Henderson was presented with The Outstanding Alumnae Award, a ZFSOE 2021 Citadel Wall of Fame Award, as she is instrumental in the partnership between Beaufort County Schools and The Citadel. Mrs. Henderson serves as the Director of School Counseling.

Mrs. Rene Harris, c/o 2001 of our Educational Leadership program, has been named 2022 South Carolina Elementary Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA).

Beech Hill Elementary School  
Dorchester School District Two



**Mrs. Rene Harris**

## Ranked #1 Program in the state of South Carolina!

# Educational Leadership

## Raymond “Tripp” Aldridge

2021 Outstanding Principal Award Raymond “Tripp” Aldridge. Tripp is a current Ed.S. student at the Citadel. He also serves as the Principal of Fort Dorchester High School in the Dorchester 2 School District.

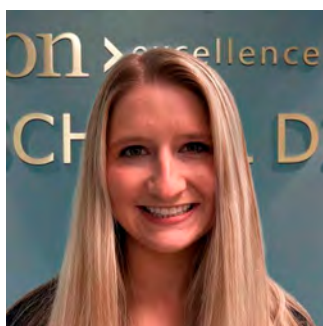


## Dr. Glenda Levine

Dr. Glenda Levine, a 2021 Ed.S. graduate, was presented with a ZFSOE 2021 Wall of Fame Award, Outstanding Educational Contributions to the Lowcountry. Dr. Levine has served as a school and district level administrator in the Berkeley County School District for over 20 years. Her most recent position was the first in the area, Chief Diversity Officer.

## Adam Barnes

CCSD 2021 Teacher of the Year – Adam Barnes. Adam is an M.Ed. student at The Citadel and a teacher at West Ashley High School.



## Abby Best

CCSD 2021 Teacher of the Year Runner Up – Abby Best. Abby is an M.Ed. graduate of The Citadel and is a team leader at James B. Edwards School of Global Leadership.

## Todd Garrett

### 2021 ZFSOE Wall of Fame Recipient

Todd P. Garrett graduated from the Citadel in 1998. In 2012, Todd was elected to the Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board where he served as Chairman of the Audit & Finance Committee for eight years and Chair of the Committee of the Whole for two years. He led the planning and management of a \$1 billion annual budget. Under his leadership, the district turned a deficit into a \$141 million surplus.





# New Student Perspective

## Did you know?

### A ZFSOE M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from The Citadel pays dividends!

In a recent **Beaufort Cohort**, 7 of 10 students were hired this year as Assistant Principals.

In the **Charleston County School District**, teacher leaders are financially supported in the M.Ed. program. These cohort members are interviewed first for administrative vacancies. There are too many to count!

In the **Dorchester 2 School District**, teacher leaders are also financially supported in the M.Ed. program in the hope of growing the leadership pipeline.

**Berkeley County School District** has begun a new M.Ed. cohort and hopes to be able to financially support future cohorts.

**Charleston and Berkeley Counties** have entered into 5 year agreements to offer new Ed. Leadership cohorts each year for five years.



**Alethea Setzer**  
**CCSD Cohort XI**

In just a few months, I have already grown so much as an educator and leader. After 27 years in education, I thought I had seen every side of education, but the principal must see all pieces of the educational puzzle and how they work together. Dr. Westberry constantly shares real-world experiences and ways to think creatively to solve problems without creating too many ripples in the rest of our school systems. I learned to surround myself with others who have different strengths and talents and to delegate because the principal's job is vast. Delegation doesn't mean handing it off and forgetting it. We must set timelines, goals, and train our teachers and other administrators on how to work together. These two classes have really opened my eyes, and I can't wait for the next piece of this administrative puzzle!

# Teacher Education

## Cadet Spotlight

### William 'Jay' Smith – Mike Company – Class of 2022

William 'Jay' Smith's journey at The Citadel began in the 'dawg days' of summer in 2018 with a short, nine-mile drive from his home in West Ashley. A graduate of West Ashley High School, Jay epitomized what it means to be a student athlete. His grade point average, upon graduation, was above a 4.0 and he was an all-state selection for both football and wrestling during his senior year.

Jay chose The Citadel because it was the place he felt would provide him the best chance to advance himself both academically and athletically. He believed that the small faculty-to-cadet ratio would help provide him the support he would need to adjust to athletics and academics as well as cadet life.

He was given preferred walk-on status with the football team, meaning that he was not guaranteed a scholarship. Even with other offers available, he bet on himself - a decision that has certainly paid off. Jay earned a full athletic scholarship after his freshman season.



While Jay planned on majoring in biology, his academic trajectory would change, in part due to his time in his EDUC 101 class - a class that is based on topics associated with education in the modern age. It was in these moments that Jay became more eyes wide open for the need to grow students' understandings related to health-related fitness. After that initial semester, Jay made the decision to change his major to secondary education with an emphasis in physical education.



Dr. Dague and cadets visiting Simmons-Pinckney Middle School as a part of their field experiences for EDUC 101.

While trying to manage all of his responsibilities, Jay believes that much of his success has been a result of the structure of The Citadel, and the support of his coaches and the faculty in the ZFSOE. Jay is excited to graduate on-time after he completes his student-teaching experience in spring 2022. After graduation, Jay plans on teaching and coaching at a school here in the Lowcountry. For Jay, teaching became a calling- one that he believes is based on building meaningful relationships between himself and the young people he will have the good fortune to teach and coach.



supported SC teachers and schools in celebrating

## Cookies, Cocoa, and Coding



Cadet volunteers packed over 200 Binary Bead Bracelet Kits to go out to Lowcountry students. The STEM Center also sent out over 40 Cookies, Cocoa, and Coding Lessons to rural and Lowcountry teachers to help with CSEd Week activities.

This FREE annual event was open to students in grades K-12 and aims to provide students with hands-on computing opportunities. Students used Code.org's tutorials in order to practice computer science concepts and skills.

### M.Ed. in Interdisciplinary STEM Alumni Spotlight

Stephanie Klixbull is a seasoned educator who has spent the past nine years teaching. She graduated from The Citadel with a M.Ed. in Interdisciplinary STEM Education in Summer 2021. While completing her degree, she taught STEM/STEAM classes as the Lower-School Idea Lab and Theater Teacher at Pinewood Preparatory School. Stephanie also received a \$1,000 Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Rho Grant. Stephanie is currently serving as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow with the US Dept. of Energy in Washington, DC.



# Literacy Education



## **The Citadel Welcomes It's First-Ever Lowcountry Literacy Cohort: Teachers to Learn about Literacy and Teaching Multi-Language Learners**

This summer, 23 dedicated educators from around the Lowcountry began their coursework in the MEd in Literacy Education. The MEd in Literacy Education has been fully redesigned to offer teachers support and preparation in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction, since South Carolina has one of the fastest-growing populations of multi-language learners in the US. The cohort is pursuing their degree online with synchronous and asynchronous meetings. It's a great way for The Citadel to reach teachers in rural and urban areas and to accommodate the busy professional lives of teachers.

## **The Citadel Partners with Multiple Institutions of Higher Education across SC to Support Adolescent Literacy**

With literacy professors from Clemson, USC, CofC, and Winthrop, Dr. Britnie Delinger Kane is representing The Citadel as part of Literacy in the Disciplines, 6-12 (LiD 6-12), a professional organization aimed at supporting South Carolina educators' understanding of how to teach literacy in any content area. We boast many conference presentations and publications about the state of adolescent literacy in South Carolina and host a blog ([literacy6-12.org](http://literacy6-12.org)) with resources for teachers on the teaching of literacy, especially through difficulties associated with the pandemic. Over the past three years, we have received over \$75,000 in grant funding in support of these efforts.





# The Lowcountry Writing Project Convened at The Citadel for Its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Institute



The Summer Institute runs for three weeks. During the first two weeks, teachers earn graduate credit while improving their own writing abilities and their ability to support young writers in the classroom. During the third week, teachers work with promising writers from Title I schools to foster the next generation's love of writing. Students' writing is published in the LWP's annual compendium of student work, and we host an autograph party at the camp's end.

Director: Dr. Lauren Rule Maxwell  
Associate Director: Dr. Britnie Delinger Kane



# Literacy Education

## Award Winners and Professional Accomplishments

Recent graduate Elizabeth “Bette” Ceccoli won the prestigious 2021 Hirshey Award for the Literacy Program, which is offered by The Citadel to those who “exemplify excellence in education.”



*Congrats!*

Lauren Roche has been promoted to Master Reading Teacher at Pinehurst Elementary.





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