



A DOG'S LIFE

THE ZUCKER FAMILY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION MAGAZINE
VOLUME ONE SPRING 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Storm the Citadel!"
Area Students Test
Their STEM Skills

2025 Zucker Family School of
Education Wall of Fame Recipients

High "A.L.E.R.T." for Richland
County Gifted and Talented
Students at the STEM Center

A Prestigious Grant For
the STEM Center

**BEST
COLLEGES**

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING
2025



citadel.edu/education

Dr. Leonard Annetta
A Changing Educational Landscape



COVER STORY

DR. LEN ANNETTA: A CHANGING EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Dr. Len Annetta is the Dean of the Zucker Family School of Education. Sally Selden, Ph.D., The Citadel Provost and Dean of the College, said this when she announced the selection of Dr. Annetta for the position of Zucker Chair in Entrepreneurial Education Leadership, "Over the last few years, we've seen how significantly education can change in a short amount of time. With his long-running research into different methods of instruction, Dr. Annetta is uniquely positioned to lead the Zucker Family School of Education through these recent changes as well as those that are still to come."

As Chair, Annetta will be responsible for leading the effort to build and align programs at The Citadel with Tri-County Cradle to Career initiatives.

Len Annetta's educational journey to The Citadel began with a B.S. in Physical Science (Chemistry and Physics) from Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD, followed by an M.A.T in Secondary Science Education from Salisbury Univ. Dr. Annetta was awarded a Ph.D in Science Education from the University of Missouri. Before joining The Citadel, he was the Taft Distinguished Professor of Science Education at East Carolina University, a full professor at George Mason University, and an assistant and associate professor of Science Education at North Carolina State University.

As a scholar, his research has focused on distance learning and the effect instructional technology can have on learning in rural and underserved areas. He has been awarded more than \$19 million for his research to date and has won multiple awards and honors for his work. In 2022, Annetta was presented the Association of Science Teacher Education National Mentor of the Year award.

"THE EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING. CURRENT AND FUTURE TEACHERS, COUNSELORS AND ADMINISTRATORS NEED TO CHANGE WITH THE LANDSCAPE ACCORDINGLY."

-DEAN LEN ANNETTA

Earlier in his career, Annetta built off his doctoral research and programming experience to build a virtual, educational environment and create a new research genre in Serious Educational Games for which he published the seminal book in 2008. Through multiple grants, he worked with K-12 teachers, counselors and administrators to integrate game-based technology and, most recently, extended reality-based Serious Educational games that aligned with content standards in North Carolina and Virginia



STEM A.L.E.R.T.

The STEM Center hosts 4th and 5th graders from Richland County School District Two's gifted and talented program, A.L.E.R.T., for a day of STEM experiences. A.L.E.R.T. has been a biannual tradition for over 10 years. This year the STEM Center has 8 days scheduled with approximately 80 students visiting each day for a total of over 600 students. Throughout the day, students rotate among four different experiences that are hosted by students and faculty from the Zucker Family School of Education, School of Engineering, Swain Family School of Mathematics and Science, and the School of Humanities and Social Science. This cross-campus collaboration provides students with an interdisciplinary hands-on understanding of STEM while introducing them to college life.



STEM STORM

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCBD) – Students from dozens of schools across the tri-county gathered at The Citadel to participate in an annual STEM event focused on bringing awareness to exploration and learning scientific studies.

The Citadel has hosted one of the area's largest STEM events, "Storm the Citadel," for over 10 years to promote critical thinking, innovations, and creativity skills through a hands-on approach. "People think of engineering as, you know, boring guys wearing ties underground somewhere, but it's really not. There's a lot of fun things we can do, and we want students to get out here, be engineers, have fun, and then hopefully when they grow up, that's what they'll decide they want to be," said Kevin Skenes, head of The Citadel's Mechanical Engineering Department.

Academic EXCELLENCE



Dr. Christopher Dague was recognized with his promotion with tenure. Pictured with General Walters



Outstanding Educator (Pee Dee Region): Dona Jo Brown



Outstanding Friend to the ZFSOE: Emily Reynolds



Outstanding Educator (Midlands Region): Matthew Ferguson



Counselor Education students volunteers for the South Carolina Counseling Association (SCCA) 61st Annual Conference. The volunteer coordinator, Ms. Regina Shelton said this year's group of volunteers was the best yet!



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Wall of Fame 2025

Congratulations to the 2025 Zucker Family School of Education

Wall of Fame Recipients:

Outstanding Educator (Pee Dee Region):

Dona Jo Brown

Outstanding Educator (Midlands Region):

Dr. Matthew Ferguson

Outstanding Educator (Low Country

Region): Heather Anderson

Outstanding Educator (Upstate Region):

Dr. Mary O'Grady-Jones

Outstanding Education Alumnus: Ingrid

Dukes [nominated by Dr. Dague]

Outstanding Education Alumnus: Maurice

Drayton

Outstanding Friend to the ZFSOE: Emily

Reynolds

Outstanding Career/Lifetime

Contribution to Education: Dr. Frank

Rodriguez



THE CITADEL

Leader FORUM

THE ZFSOE held their annual Leadership Innovation Forum at the Gaillard Auditorium. Keynote speaker, Washington Commanders Coach, Dan Quinn, along with panelists, Coach Maurice Drayton, Coach Roberto Pinilla, Dr. Sean Alford, Don Bridenbaugh, and Page Tisdale spoke to the pervasive nature of educational skills across all leadership positions in any field.



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Graduation DAY

M.Ed Degrees in Counselor Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership were conferred upon these graduates on May 3. Congratulations on their achievement!



THE CITADEL

Fall 2024 CAEPCon Session Spotlight



Judy Dix
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT & ACCREDITATION
The Citadel

Progression Confessions: Unraveling the Mystery of Progression Levels
Senior Vice President for Accreditation Malina Monaco will join Judy Dix of The Citadel to provide you with a better understanding of the INTASC progressions and how to implement them. This session delves into the intricacies of these progressions, offering guidance on utilizing a crosswalk to align program standards with INTASC criteria. By demystifying progression levels, the presenters will empower EPPs to enhance their curriculum, ensuring that future educators are well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. Join us as we explore practical strategies and share insights on effectively navigating the progression framework to foster continuous improvement and excellence in educator preparation.

Judy Dix presented at the Fall 2024 CAEPcon. The Citadel offers full CAEP Accreditation (ITP and ADV)



CAEPcon CITADEL



YZFSOE Launches College Admissions Counseling Micro-Credential for School Counselors

-This January, the Zucker Family School of Education launched an online College Admissions Counseling Micro-credential for school counselors supported by a generous grant from the Lowcountry Graduate Center. Led by ZFSOE professor Dr. Tara Hornor, the micro-credential provides professional development in college admissions counseling best practices, the use of big data and artificial intelligence in college admissions counseling, and strategic enrollment management. This state-wide micro-credential includes 28 school counselors from Charleston, Beaufort, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dorchester, Greenville, Laurens, Lexington, and Richland counties.

The Education Leadership Emerging Technologies toured the Fort Dorchester High School Esports lab and recording studio. Innovation in action and supporting the next generation workforce is the focus of the Zucker Family School of Education

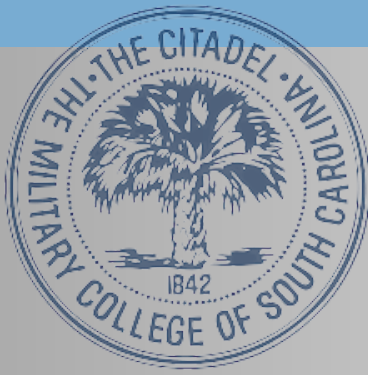


Design and DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Jen Albert of the STEM Center of Excellence was awarded a National Science Foundation Discovery Research in K12 Education grant with North Carolina State University entitled: Investigation of students' learning, interest, and career aspirations in an integrated Science and Artificial Intelligence learning environment (i-SAIL). The project has four major thrusts:

1. Develop four curriculum modules that integrate fundamental AI knowledge and K-12 science through project-based learning.
2. Develop a student-and teacher-friendly AI block-based programming environment to support science-focused real-world problem-solving
3. Provide professional learning opportunities to teachers and collaborate with them to implement the four curriculum modules in science classrooms.
4. Conduct educational research. This study, with data from over 3000 students learning AI in science, will help improve curriculum and learning environments to support learning, nurture interest, and inspire career aspirations in science and AI. The Citadel Subaward is \$279,310.



Rigor RELEVANCE

The ZFSOE's Higher Education Leadership Program's practicum experience highlights not only student learning outcomes, but also the students' service to higher education institutions through their practicum work.

- Dr. Sim Covington – practicum placement with Citadel Public Safety, created a training on best practices for institutional responses for student activism and protests on college campuses
- Paul Washington (veteran student) – practicum placement with The Citadel's Veteran Business Opportunity Center, providing services and training for veteran entrepreneurs
- Jamie Frishberg - practicum placement with Citadel Title IX Office, wrote a grant to support bystander intervention training
- Joseph Barnette - practicum placement with Citadel Career Center, provided career counseling services.
- Arissa McNeal - practicum placement with The Citadel's Academic Advising Office, providing academic advising support
- Ghadir Abuein - practicum placement with the College of Charleston's Academic Advising and Planning Center (AAPC) and Center for Academic Performance and Persistence (CAPP)
- Yoshiki Kitadai (international student athlete) - practicum placement with The Citadel's Athletic Advising Office, providing support services for student athletes.

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