**The SCEA 2025 Elections**

**CANDIDATES PROFILES**

**Candidate for The SCEA President ( 3-year term - 2025-2028)**

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**Dena Renee Crews**

**School:** North Vista Elementary School. **Number of years in** **the UEP**: Twenty-one consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Walden University-MS-Adminis-

tration; Walden University-MS Literacy; Francis Marion University-BS-Elementary Education; BS English and Mass Communication. **Work Experience:** North Vista Elementary-Literacy Coach; West Lee Elementary – Curriculum Coordinator; Darlington County School District -2-4 grades**. Professional Association** **Membership:** The South Carolina Education Association Vice President; Tenacious Grad, Board President; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Past State Coordinator. **Platform:** I am excited to announce my candidacy for the presidency of The South Carolina Education Association. I have had the honor of serving as Vice-President working with many of you to support our commitment to students and public education. The experience has reinforced my belief that the strength of The SCEA lies in the heart of our locals and the potential of each member to be a leader The vision for our organization is to empower our locals by providing them with the resource, training and support they need so we can build a strong foundation from within-one that will sustain us and bring the necessary changes we need in public education in our state. Together, we’ll work toward a future where leadership grows from within, where our organization continues to thrive because we are all invested in its success.

Collaborate Resourceful Encouraging Working together Sustaining Growth.

CREWS

**CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (3-year term - 2025-2028)**

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**Dr. Karen Greene**

**School:** Stratford High School. **Number of years in the UEP:** Seventeen plus years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Nova Southeastern University-Doctorate degree; Charleston Southern University-Masters degree; Charleston Southern University-Bachelor degree. **Work Experience:** Berkeley County School District; Springfield College-Charleston Campus; Southern Wesleyan University-Charleston Campus. **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA; The NEA. **Platform:** My name is Dr. Karen Greene, and it is an honor to be considered for the vice president’s position. I am passionate about public education and have been teaching for over 25 years. As a member worker, I will ensure that all initiatives align with our core values of promoting public education and supporting public school employees. I will identify and pursue new growth opportunities to grow the organization’s membership, reconnect with former members and activate their status, and work along with the elected leaders, members, executive director, and board of directors.

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**Peter Lauzon**

**School:** Center for Advanced Technical Studies. **Number of years in the UEP:** Twenty consecutive years in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** SUNY Plattsburg-Masters in Education (1995); SUNY Plattsburg-BS-Secondary Education and BS in Biology. **Work Experience:** Midlands Technical College Science Department Adjunct (1998-present); Center for Advanced Technical Studies (2021-pesent); Irmo High School (2001-2021). **Professional Association Memberships:** EEASC Board of Directors, Treasurer; LR5EA President, Vice-President; local delegate to The SCEA and NEA RA; The SCEA Board of Directors, Budget Committee Chair; NEA Resolutions Committee, NEA RA Delegate. **Platform:** As Vice-President of The SCEA, I will strive to serve our members to the best of my ability. Building on our recent growth, I will try to grow our organization to protect our public schools and profession. As a member of the Board of Directors, I am very familiar with the duties and roles of our officers, and I will work to represent all members of our organization. Recently, I have served on the Building Committee with our historical move to 2999, I have served on the Budget Committee to insure that we have the funds to keep the lights on and our staff employed. I worked on our Bargaining Committee to negotiate the most recent staff contract. As a lifelong educator active in my local, I have often worked with a variety of people with similar agendas. Most recently, I worked to help elect members of our Board of Trustees for LR5. I have worked with a variety of education groups like EEASC to help offer professional development opportunities for educators across the state.

**CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER ( 3-year term - 2025-2028)**

**Roselyn Green**

**School**: North Vista Elementary. **Number of years in the UEP:** Twentyplus years of consecutive membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Grand Canyon University-BS in Elementary and Special Education; Coastal Carolina University-MA in Instructional Technology: Arkansas State University-Ed.S Educational Leadership. **Work Experience:** North Vista Elementary School, Lester Elementary School, H & R. Block. **Professional Association Memberships:** Florence One Education Association-President, Treasurer; Pee Dee Federal Credit Union-Board of Directors-Secretary; the Association of Nutrition and Food Service Professionals**. Platform:** I am grateful for the opportunity to run for secretary-treasurer for The SCEA. As a tax preparer for federal and state income taxes, former school bookkeeper, bank and vault teller, I have experience in effectively presenting, reviewing, and suggesting financial ideas that can help grow our organization. I served as secretary on the Board of Directors for Pee Dee Federal Credit Union for over 10 years, providing me with experience in diversifying our investment portfolio and implementing cost-saving measures to grow and protect our revenue. I am dedicated to finding ways to grow our revenue and expand our programs to meet the needs of our members and maintain financial productivity. We must carefully plan our investments to address the challenges posed by our changing membership and the uncertainties of the upcoming president’s plans for education. I look forward to contributing my skills and insights to The SCEA’s growth and success.

**CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

**UniDistrict 1 (3-year term – 2025-2028)**

**(Abbeville, Anderson 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Cedar Springs, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg)**

A person in an orange shirt and hat in front of a cave

Description automatically generated**Dr. Clifford Joseph Lee, Jr.**

**School:** JL Mann High**. Number of years of membership in the UEP:** Nineteen consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** PhD, P-12 Educational Leadership, Clemson University;MA-Spanish Literature, The University of Akron; BA-Spanish an International, Wabash College. **Work Experience:** JL Mann High School, Greenville County Schools, ESOL/Spanish Teacher; Columbus Africentric Early College, Columbus City Schools (CCS), Spanish Teacher; The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University, CSS, Spanish Teacher. **Professional Association Memberships:**  The South Carolina Education Association, UniDistrict 1 Director (2019-2024); The Greenville County Education Association, Vice President (2021-current); Southern Conference on Language Teaching, Member. **Platform:** I am asking to return to service as a director for UniDistrict 1. Our association is strong and continues to grow, despite the many challenges facing public education advocates. If elected, I want to prioritize supporting and retaining our staff so that we can continue increasing membership and capitalize on our gains. I also want to continue to raise the visibility of our organization, particularly in regions of South Carolina unfamiliar with our work.

**UniDistrict 2 (2-year term: 2025-2027)**

**(Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Marlboro, Union, York)**

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**Dr. Chastity Griffin Baccus**

Mt. Gallant Elementary School**. Number of** **years in the UEP:** Seven consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background**: Ed.D of Education, Walden University; Master-Reading & Literacy, Walden University; Masters-Educational Leadership, Salem International University. **Work Experience:** Dean of Student Leadership; Campus Director; 5th Grade teacher. **Professional Association Memberships**: Local president of York County Education Association; Executive Board member of The SCEA: National Facilitator for Leaders of Just Schools via NEA. **Platform:**  I aim to continue The SCEA’s deep-rooted connection with local associations. I also strive to ensure that all stakeholders are treated fairly and allowed to grow and flourish in their fields. For students to receive the best quality of education, conditions should be fair, equitable and attainable for all stakeholders. My vision is to

support and provide opportunities to grow leaders in our union to make our education system the best it can be.

**UniDistrict 2 (3-year term: 2025-2028)**

**(Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Marlboro, Union, York)**

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**Joyce B. Argo**

**School:** Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School. **Number of years in the UEP:**  Twenty-four consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** M.Ed in Educational Leadership & Supervision-Winthrop University; M.Ed in Reading/Literacy-Winthrop University; BS in Elementary Education-Winthrop University.  **Work Experience:** Rock Hill School District-Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School; York School District One-Jefferson Elementary School; Lancaster County School District J.J. Clinton Elementary School.  **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA Human and Civil Rights Committee Member; Past District Director for UniDistrict 2, The SCEA Executive Board member; York County Education Association (YCEA) -Building Representative at Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School.; Rock Hill Alumane Chapter of Delta Sigma That Sorority, Incorporated (Immediate Past Chaplain, Chair of Rituals, Ceremonies Committee and Executive Board member). **Platform:** As a past local president, I have had many discussions about the happenings in the state legislature from members and potential members. During my years of teaching, I have had the pleasure of hearing woes of educators, concerning the lack of adequate resources, lost planning time, the need for pay increases and not being compensated for after contract hour activities. I would serve as an adequate voice as a member of The SCEA Board of Directors.

**UniDistrict 3 (1-year term: 2025-2026)**

**(Aiken, Edgefield, Greater Lexington, Greenwood, Lexington/Richland 5, McCormick, Newberry, Palmetto Unified, Saluda)**

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**Bianca Woodard**

**School:** Midland Valley High School. **Number of years in the UEP:** Nine consecutive years of membership in the United Education

Profession.  **Educational Background:** Pursuing MA in History from Ashland in Ashland, Ohio; BA in History from Augusta University in 2014; Gifted and Talented Ed Certificate-College of Charleston 2018. **Work Experience:**  Electrolux Major Appliance Quality and Training Manager; Middle School Teacher-Allendale County 2015-2018; High School Teacher-Aiken County Public School System 2018 to present. **Professional Association Memberships:** Aiken County Education Association-President; SCEA Board member 2022-2024: Apple Distinguished Educators 2017-present: **Platform:** As an educator in Aiken County Public Schools, I am deeply committed to advancing the success of students and educators across South Carolina by: ▪Protecting public education - public dollars should remain in public schools as opposed to being diverted to states to fund private schools; ▪Literacy improvement - promoting improvements at every level; ▪Commitment to excellence; ▪Educational equity. Together, we can ensure that public education in South Carolina remains strong, equitable, and effective for generations to come.

**UniDistrict 5 (3-year term - 2025-2028)**

**(Calhoun, Richland)**

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Angela Colter-Haigler

**School:** St. Matthews K-8. **Number of Years in the UEP:** Twenty consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** South Carolina State University-Bachelor of Arts; South Carolina State University-Master of Education. **Work Experience:**  Calhoun County Public Schools(28 years). **Professional Association Membership:** CCEA-Secretary. **Platform:** I am native of St. Matthews, South Carolina. I have worked for Calhoun County Public Schools as a middle school language arts teacher for 28 years and have been a member of The SCEA for at least 20 years. I have worked with the Calhoun Education Association for 10 years and held the position of secretary.

**UniDistrict 5 (3-year term - 2025-2028)**

**(Calhoun, Richland)**

A person wearing a white dress and a necklace

Description automatically generated**Chanell Harris**

**School:** Birchwood School/SC DJJ**. Number of** **years in the UEP:** Six consecutive years of membership in the UEP. **Educational Background:** Northeastern University-Doctor of Education-Curriculum, Teaching Leading, and Learning; South Carolina State University-Bachelor of Arts-History/Social Studies Education. **Work Experience:** South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice; South Carolina Virtual Charter School, Bythewood High School. **Professional Association Memberships:** NEA Global Learning Fellowship-participant, mentor; South Carolina Council of Social Studies; South Carolina Council for African American Studies. **Platform:** As a student member of The SCEA, I was surrounded by passionate educators-active and retired. I watched rooms filled with educators voicing their concerns and truths, and fighting for our children and their colleagues. With these memories, I want to continue along the path that was modeled for me. My priority is the wellbeing of my colleagues. We have to take care of educators so they can take care of our students

**UniDistrict 6 (3-year term-2025-2028)** (Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Lee, Summerville, Sumter, Williamsburg)

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Description automatically generated**Angelia S. Jackson**

**School:** Hemingway Elementary. **Number of years in the UEP**: Ten consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Webster University-MBA; Limestone University-BA. **Work Experience:** Hemingway Elementary, Georgetown High, Rosemary Middle. **Professional Association Memberships:**  SCEA-State RA; NEA; SC Librarian Association. **Platform:** This is a lifelong process where you learn new strategies, new ideas, and new attitudes. Over time, my educational philosophy may change, and that’s okay. That just means I believe a classroom/library should be a safe, helpful community where students are free to speak their minds, blossom, and mature. I will use strategies to ensure our classroom/library environment will flourish, like the morning meeting, negative vs. positive discipline, classroom tasks, and problem-solving skills.

**UniDistrict 6 (1-year term-2025-2026)** (Berkeley, Charleston, Clarendon, Dorchester, Georgetown, Lee, Summerville, Sumter, Williamsburg



**Jacqueline W. Simmons**

**School:** Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy**. Number of years in the UEP:**  Twenty-five plus years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Grand Canyon University-Education Leadership; Cambridge College-Master of Education in Elementary Education; Francis Marion College, BS-Elementary Education. **Work Experience:** Kenneth GardnerLeadership Academy, Williamsburg County-present; Hemingway Elementary, Williamsburg County-classroom teacher; Battery Park Elementary School, Williamsburg County, classroom teacher. **Professional Association Memberships.** Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, President; Williamsburg County Education Association, President. **Platform:** Serving in the capacity as a local president, I have had many members and potential membersconcerned about the direction education is headed. As a president, I have had the pleasures of hearing the disgust of educators concerning the lack of adequate resources, lost planning time and the need for pay increases. Therefore, I would like to serve as that voice for future members and members of The SCEA.

**UniDistrict 7 (3-year-term: 2025-2028)**

**(Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Blackville, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper. Orangeburg, Williston)**

A close-up of a person smiling

Description automatically generated**Kayla F. Carter**

**School:** Lady’s Island Elementary School. **Number of years in the UEP:** Eleven consecutive years of membership in the UEP. **Educational Background:** Liberty University-2020-2024-Phd in Education- Organizational Leadership; Masters of Arts in Speech Pathology and Audiology-SC State University, May 2019; Master of Education in Early Childhood Education-SC State University, December 2014; Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education (Magnum Cum Laude) SC State University, May 2013. **Work Experience:** Lady’s Island Elementary and Port Royal Elementary School 2024-Present-Speech Language Pathologist;Barnwell Primary and Barnwell High School-2020-2024-Speech Language Pathologist; Denmark-Olar Elementary School-2013-2020-Classroom Teacher. **Candidate’s Platform**: As District Director, I am committed to helping advocate for more qualified teachers in rural schools. By actively engaging with stakeholders and understanding educators' concerns, I aim to explore strategies that support teacher retention and professional growth in rural districts, providing unwavering support to all involved.

**CANDIDATES FOR NEA DELEGATES – CERTIFIED/NON-CERTIFIED**

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Description automatically generatedDr. Chastity Griffin Baccus**

(See information under UniDistrict 2)

**Shannon Rister**

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**School: W. A. Perry Middle. Number of years of membership in the UEP**. Twenty-six consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** South Carolina State University-BS in Elementary Education; Cambridge College-M.Ed in Integrated Studies: Lesley University, M.Ed in Technology Education. **Work Experience:** August 2012-present-Teacher/Technology Facilitator, W. A Perry Middle; August 2010-May 2012-Math Interventionist, W.A Perry Middle School: August 2007-May 2010-Teacher at Windsor Elementary School.

A person in a silver dress

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**Veronica Thomas**

**School:** Fairfield Central High School and Fairfield County Adult Education Center. **Number of years in the UEP:** Three consecutive

years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational**

**Background:** Francis Marion University (Bachelor of Arts (Major-

Mathematics. Minors-Physics/English); Western Governors University-

Masters in mathematics. **Work**  **Experience:** STEAM Early College

Academy/Dual Enrollment/FC2 Programs Director; Fairfield County

Adult Education Program Coordinator; Mathematics Educator/Adjunct

Professor. Professional Association Memberships: Fairfield County

Association President; SC Alliance of Black School Educators; South

Carolina Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges.

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**Kathleen Low**

**School:** Hanahan High School. **Number** **of years in the UEP**: Five consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** College of Charleston- B.S. in Physics; University of South Carolina MAT-Physics. **Work Experience:** Teacher-Hanahan High School; Lab Manager-College of Charleston; Teacher-Wando High School. **Professional Association Memberships:** BCEA President; Footlight Players Theater, President.

**A person wearing glasses and a yellow shirt

Description automatically generatedBianca Woodard**

(See information under UniDistrict 3)

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**Kenyatta Robertson**

**School:** Muller Road Middle**. Number of years in the UEP:**  Two

Consecutive years of membership in the United EducationProfession. **Educational Background:** Walden University-ED.S; University of Maryland Global Camus-B.S. **Work Experience:** Muller Road Middle School-Computer Science Teacher (Richland School District 2); Elloree Elementary School-Business Technology Teacher (Orangeburg); U.S. Army Child and Youth Services, Assistant Facility Director**. Professional Association Memberships:** Computer Science Teachers Association (member); Golden Key International Honor Society (member); National Honor Society of Leadership and Success (member).

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**Kimberly Gadson**

**School:** Hardeeville Elementary School. Number of years in the UEP. Twenty plus years of membership in The United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** The Citadel-M.A. in Educational Leadership; Webster University-M.A. in Counseling; University of Houston-B.A.in Psychology. **Work Experience:** Jasper County School-Counselor 5 years; Beaufort County Schools-Counselor 6 years; Florence County Schools-Counselor 2 years. **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA; American Counselor Association.

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**Adrian Goodman**

I am a 25th year special education teacher and a proud member of The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA). Fueled by the belief that educators, when supported, can offer their best to students, I advocate for a stronger voice within the profession. As Eric Thomas says, “When you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful.” I embody this dedication by striving to create a brighter future for students through education.

A person wearing glasses and a red shirt

Description automatically generated**Yolanda Smith**

**School**: Office of Federal and State Programs. **Educational Background:**

Benedict College.  **Work Experience:** Parent and Family Engagement

Specialist; Data Entry. **Professional Association Memberships:** Richland County Education Association-Secretary; The South Carolina Education Association-Member Organizer and Building Representative; South Carolina Junior League- Member.

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**Dr. Clifford Joseph Lee, Jr.**

(See information under UniDistrict 1)

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**Emily Thomas-Whitsett**

**School**: South Pointe High School. **Number of years in the UEP:**

Four consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Winthrop University-Master of Arts in Teaching for Secondary English; Winthrop University- Bachelor of Arts in English (Creative Writing Concentration). **Work Experience**: English Teacher at South Point High School (Rock Hill, SC); Live Operations Specialist at Convoy (Seattle, WA); Student Intern at U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (Washington ,D.C.) **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA-Secretary for York County Association; National Council of Teachers of English-

member.

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**Jean Read**

**School:** Horry County Sub. . **Number of Years in the UEP:**  Thirty-seven consecutive years of membership in the UEP.  **Educational** **Background:** BS Early Childhood Ed, Lock Haven College. **Work Experience:** Substitute Teacher-Horry County Schools 2017-present; Member Organizer/Recruiter, The SCEA 2018-present; elementary teacher-Evesham Twp, NJ 1987-2016. **Professional Association Memberships**: Horry County Education Association/The SCEA 2018-present; Evesham Twp Ed Assoc/NJEA. 1987-2016, bldg. rep 1992-2016**.**

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Description automatically generated**Dena Renee Crews**

(see information under Candidate for President)

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**Roselyn Green**

(see information under candidate for Secretary-Treasurer)

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Description automatically generatedErica Knox**

**School:** Rock Hill High School (1991-Diploma). **Number of years in UEP:** Eighteen consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** York Technical College-Customer Service Certification (2008); Rock Hill High School (1991) Diploma. **Work Experience:** Customer Service; Data Entry; Computer skills (word, excel, etc.) **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA Executive Board; ESP Chair; Membership and Membership Organizer; York County Education Association-Vice President.

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Description automatically generated]()**Patsy Baker**

**School:** Horry County Schools. **Number of years in the UEP:** Two

Consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession.

**Educational Background:** Coastal Carolina University; Georgetown Technical College-associate in Early childhood education. **Work Experience:** Horry County Schools-1999-2017; State Preschool Program-Lovell 2017-2019’ Horry County Schools 2010-present. Professional Association Memberships: SCEA Delegate.

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**Desiree P. Smith**

**School:** Olympia Learning Center.  **Number of years in the UEP:**  Ten consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession. **Educational Background:** Webster University-MA; Tougaloo College-BA.  **Work Experience:** Richland School District One (Olympia

(Learning Center, 2023-present) Career and Technology Education/Ed

Genuity Teacher; Richland School District One (Alcorn Middle School, 2000-2023 ) Career and Technology Education Business Education

Teacher; Midlands Area Health Education (Palmetto Richland Hospital,

1996-2000) Health Careers Coordinator.



**Jacqueline Simmons**

(See information under UniDistrict 6)

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**Angelia S. Jackson**

**(see information under UniDistrict 6)**

**A person wearing glasses and smiling

Description automatically generatedJoyce Argo**

(See information under UniDistrict 2)

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Description automatically generated**Urica M. Brown**

**School:** Andrews High School **Number of years in the UEP:** Twenty consecutive years of membership in the United Education Profession**. Educational Background:** B.S. in Chemistry-University of South Carolina; M.Ed in Educational Leadership-University of Phoenix. **Work Experience:** Instructional coach-Andrews High School; ADEPT Facilitator-Georgetown Co. School Dist.; Chemistry and Computer Science Teacher, Georgetown High School; Lead PACE Instructor- S.C. Dept. of Ed. **Professional Association Memberships:** The SCEA-District 6 Director; Georgetown Education Association-President; South Carolina Science Council-2019-President.

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Description automatically generatedPeter Lauzon**

(see information under candidate for Vice- President)

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Description automatically generatedKiyanna Mullins**

**School:** Alston Middle School. **Number of years in the UEP:** Two and one-half years of membership in the United Education Profession.

Educational Background: University of Phoenix-MS in Elementary Education; University of Phoenix-BS in Business Communication.

**Work Experience:** Certified teacher-14 years; Grade Level/Team Lead/Mentor-10 years; Communication Expert-7+ years. **Professional**

**Association Membership:** The SCEA State Lead Member Organizer; Summerville Education Association-Vice President; Summerville Education Association-Secretary/Treasurer.

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Description automatically generatedDr. Chanell Harris**

(See information under UniDistrict 5)

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**Dr. Karen Greene**

(See information under candidate for Vice President)