Student Programs

2011-2012 Impact Data
RPSEC Student Programs for K-12 students had 33,483 program visits during the 2011-2012 school year. Of that total, 27,843 were K-12 students from 83 schools encompassing 12 districts in South Carolina and Georgia. In addition, 696 teachers and 4,944 adult chaperones accompanied the students during this year’s programs. This year’s most popular programs included Animals with Backbones (1,638 student visits), Circuit City (1,524 student visits), and Owls: Wise Guise (1,247 student visits).

K-12 Student Programs 2012-2013
The deadline has passed for reservation requests for the 2012-2013 school year. Once again, we received many more requests than we will be able to serve, and our schedule is now full. We are unable to schedule additional programs at this time, but will be happy to place your request on a waiting list in the event of a cancellation. To download a reservation request form, please go to: http://rpsec.usca.edu/student/.

The RPSEC currently offers 52 hands-on, inquiry-based programs for K-12 students. New programs for 2012-2013 include Solar System Adventure Tour, Animal Adaptations, Vertebrate Taxonomy, Meet the Elements, and Journey to the Center of an Atom: An Investigation of Protons, Neutrons, Electrons, Elements, and Isotopes. All of our programs are aligned with South Carolina and Georgia academic standards, and many of our programs are interdisciplinary.

Our Student Programs website includes program descriptions, standards correlations, and related Traveling Science and Mathematics Kits that support and extend each lesson. These kits contain excellent post-visit activities and are available, free of charge, for checkout. To reserve a kit, go to http://rpsec.usca.edu/travelingscience/ or call (803) 641-3683.
New Student Programs for 2012-2013

Animal Adaptations
(Grade 6 SC; Grade 4 GA • 60 minutes • Apr) We will compare and contrast structures, processes, and behavior responses that help endothermic and ectothermic animals survive. Students will observe and interact with live animals including salamanders, frogs, turtles, snakes, an alligator, and an owl.

Vertebrate Taxonomy
(Grade 4 SC; Grade 5 GA • 60 minutes • Jan, Apr) Students will classify animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) according to their physical characteristics. They will observe and interact with live animals including salamanders, frogs, turtles, snakes, an alligator, and an owl.

Meet the Elements
(Grade 7 SC; Grade 8 GA • 60 minutes • Sept, Nov) Students “Meet the Elements” in a fun music video and explore differences between elements, compounds and mixtures. Students learn the basics of element classification and collaborate to solve element riddles.

Journey to the Center of an Atom: An Investigation of Protons, Neutrons, Electrons, Elements, and Isotopes
(Grades 9-12 SC & GA • 60 minutes) Students explore atomic structure using a series of hands-on activities, concluding with the discovery of the uses of an atom they create using the Interactive Nucleus display and the Living Periodic Table. This program is sponsored by the American Nuclear Society- Savannah River Section.

Solar System Adventure Tour
(Grade 4 SC; Grade 4 GA • Planetarium • 60 minutes • Oct) Become a Planet Specialist, Math Expert or Flight Engineer while your planetarium “spaceship” takes you on an educational adventure past the Sun, Moon, and planets of our Solar System.

Home School Mondays

Last year, the RPSEC began offering a series of monthly programs for home school students. The programs were held on Monday afternoons from January through May. One Monday per month, each child attended (2) one-hour, back-to-back science or math programs. Over the course of the spring semester, each child attended a total of 10 programs. Home School Mondays 2012 had a total of 654 student visits with 61 adult chaperones- and a long waiting list!

This year, the RPSEC will again offer a series of monthly programs for home school students on Monday afternoons from January through May. Students in the First Mondays group will attend programs on January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. If needed, a second group will be scheduled to attend on January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13. Parents will have the option to request that their child be placed in the same group with a particular child or children.

The Home School Mondays 2013 programs will begin at 1:00 PM and end at 3:30 PM. The two programs for the younger students (Grades K-3) will held at the same time as the two programs for the older students (Grades 4-8). Different programs will be offered each year with a 3-year rotation cycle.

Reservation request forms and program descriptions will be sent to home school parents on our mailing list and posted online on September 7, 2012. Reservation request forms for Home School Mondays 2013 must be received with pre-payment ($30 per student for the series) by Monday, December 3, 2012 at 5:00 PM. A final schedule with dates and participant lists will be e-mailed to parents by December 17, 2012. Late requests will be placed on a waiting list.
CE-MIST Student Programs

The students from each of our three CE-MIST partner schools (A. L. Corbett Middle School, JET Middle School, and Leavelle McCampbell Middle School) visited the RPSEC for a series of hands-on, inquiry-based programs aligned with South Carolina academic standards. Students in Grade 6 attended Blown Away: The Wild World of Weather, Circuit City, and May the Force Be With You in the fall, as well as Ancient Sky Lore, Hiker, and Polygon Puzzle in the spring. Students in Grade 7 attended To the Moon and Beyond, Probing the Periodic Table, and Chemicals Matter. Students in Grade 8 attended Follow the Drinking Gourd, Rockin’ and Rollin’ and Are You Dense?

The lessons included standards correlations for multiple content areas, pre- and post-visit activities, related Traveling Science kits, and children’s literature connections. These activities were sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST).

CE-MIST and Aiken Writing Project Traveling Trunks

A partnership between CE-MIST and the Aiken Writing Project resulted in the development of Traveling Interdisciplinary Literacy Trunks (TILTs). Teachers representing each grade level at the three CE-MIST partner schools worked on Traveling Trunk teams and were given a budget of $800 per trunk for instructional materials. Requirements included an emphasis on writing across the curriculum and participation in the Aiken Writing Project Summer Institute.

New trunk titles developed this year include Roman Around: A Study of Ancient Rome; The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire & the Industrial Revolution, Mission Impossible! The Vietnam War, and Palmetto Patriots: The American Revolution in South Carolina. More information about the Traveling Trunks project, including a list of sample unit plans and trunks available for checkout, can be found at http://rpsec.usca.edu/CE-MIST/CE-MISTteacher.html/.

This project was sponsored by the Aiken Writing Project and the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST).

CE-MIST Presentations at State Conference

Professional development activities for teachers at the three CE-MIST partner schools included opportunities to attend statewide conferences such as the South Carolina Middle School Association (SCMSA) conference in March.

This year, four groups of teachers from A.L. Corbett Middle School presented several sessions at the SCMSA conference. The sessions included “Shake, rattle, & roll: A CE-MIST interdisciplinary unit exploring the Great Charleston Earthquake of 1886” (Kanelia Cannon and Sandra Watts); “RAFTing with raptors: Using informational text to connect science and ELA Common Core standards” (Deborah McMurtrie, Gary Senn, and Jennifer Craig); “Medieval times: A CE-MIST interdisciplinary unit” (Danielle Washington, Sarah Burckhalter, Jessica Cagle, Debbie Black, and Rose Marshall); and “Technical writing in mathematics: A CE-MIST interdisciplinary unit” (Jeni Lambert and Jennifer Craig). These activities were sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST). CE-MIST is funded by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.
AEDP 334 Service Learning for Pre-Service Teachers

Undergraduate students enrolled in Deborah McMurtrie’s AEDP A334 Adolescent Growth and Development classes were asked to complete a 10 - 20 hour service learning project at a CE-MIST school: Leavelle McCampbell Middle School, A. L. Corbett Middle School, or JET Middle School. During the fall and spring semesters, each pre-service teacher was matched with a classroom teacher in their content area. They were asked to mentor a young adolescent and write reflections about the experience.

Over the course of the 2011-2012 school year, the pre-service teachers logged a total of 581 service learning hours. This project was sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST).

CE-MIST Professional Development for Teachers

Professional development sessions were presented on Early Release Days throughout the 2011-2012 year at each of the three CE-MIST partner schools: A. L. Corbett Middle School, JET Middle School, and Leavelle McCampbell Middle School.

The workshops focused on interdisciplinary curriculum development and implementation, and were presented by Dr. Bridget Coleman (Rethinking assessment using Bloom’s Taxonomy), Dr. Tim Lintner (Student engagement and rigor: A history mystery), and Dr. David Vawter (Differentiating instruction: Multiple intelligences and tiering). These activities were sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST). CE-MIST is funded by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

CE-MIST and Aiken Writing Project Summer Institute

Based on the National Writing Project’s “Teachers Teaching Teachers” philosophy, the Aiken Writing Project offered an intensive Summer Institute for prospective Teacher-Consultants. Teachers who attended studied the latest research and effective classroom practices, particularly the use of digital tools for writing. Six hours of graduate credit for AETE 760: Issues in Writing was awarded upon successful completion of the Summer Institute. In addition, funding for each Traveling Interdisciplinary Literacy Trunk (TILT) was contingent on at least one TILT team member completing this course.

This project was sponsored by the Aiken Writing Project and the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST).

CE-MIST Summer Institute for Teachers - June 2012

Incorporating hands-on, inquiry-based activities that are rooted in real-world applications allows students to connect what they learn in school to life outside the school walls. However, assessing this type of instruction, while also producing standards-based evidence of student learning, is challenging. Well constructed assessments enrich the instructional process for both students and teachers, while providing evidence of instructional effectiveness and student progress.

This workshop, entitled “Bridging the gap between standards-based assessment and inquiry-based instruction,” presented creative ways to integrate alternative, standards-based assessments that support inquiry-based instruction. These activities were sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Middle-level, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST) in partnership with Dr. Jennifer Richards, Research Assistant Professor and Project Director of Hands On: Real World Lessons for Middle School Classrooms at the University of Tennessee.
Kelly Gooden, Brittany Shaw, and Deborah McMurtrie presented programs at several rural public libraries during the summer. The children who attended observed and interacted with live animals, including salamanders, frogs, turtles, snakes, a small alligator, a barred owl, and an eastern screech owl. Sites included public libraries in Blackville, Bamberg, Williston, Denmark, Edgefield, Johnston, Wagener, and Trenton, SC as well as Columbia County, GA.

In addition to the library programs, the RPSEC offered a limited number of outreach programs featuring our resident raptors. Participants got an up-close look at two very different birds of prey found in South Carolina. Live birds, including a Red-Tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, and two Eastern Screech Owls, were used as part of this presentation. This program emphasized the physical characteristics and adaptations that enable these predators to survive at the top of the food chain. Larry Eldridge, Carol Eldridge, and Kelly Gooden presented a limited number of off-site programs for Birds and Butterflies, the Sierra Club, the Hitchcock Woods Festival of the Woods, the Outdoor Expo at the Convocation Center, and DOE Kids’ Day at the Savannah River Site.

In June, there was a call to the RPSEC from the USCA Police. There was a report of an owl tangled in a soccer net. That call launched FACT... The Fast Action Collection Team that specializes in helping unfortunate animals and collecting remains for educational purposes, depending on how the situation presents itself. On this morning, the call was fortunately one of rescue.

The owl had evidently tried to catch a midnight snack and did not notice the soccer net. While attempting to escape, the owl became entangled and by the time the grounds crew came to mow the soccer field, the owl was held firmly by the net cords. The goal for FACT was to release the owl without damage to owl, net or persons. After about 20 minutes of effort, the owl was released and flew with magnificent grace to the nearest group of trees. When it landed, the owl looked back at the source of its night of captivity and its rescuers. The FACT noticed a slight nod of appreciation just before the owl launched from its perch to find a safe place to rest through the day.
Thank You to Our 2011 Adopt an Animal Sponsors!

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center is grateful for the support of the following 2011 Adopt an Animal sponsors:

- Barred Owl - ADOPTED by Eugene and Anne Sawyer
- American Alligator - ADOPTED by Preston Tiffany
- Corn Snake - ADOPTED by the Bernard Family
- Albino Corn Snake - ADOPTED by Tristan Davis
- Box Turtle - ADOPTED by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Perrine
- Snapping Turtle - ADOPTED by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Ferrell
- Painted Turtle - ADOPTED by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Perrine
- Red-Eared Slider Turtle - ADOPTED by Anna Flaherty
- Barking Tree Frog - ADOPTED by Drs. Carol and Bob Botsch
- Tiger Salamander - ADOPTED by Robert Flaherty

ADOPT an Animal Program 2012

The RPSEC is looking for sponsors to help support the cost of feeding and caring for the animals used in our K-12 educational programs for one year beginning in January 2012. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, please contact Deborah McMurtrie at DeborahMc@USCA.edu or (803) 641-2834.

BIRDS
Barred Owl (Strix varia) Non-releasable male, Raleigh ............................... $500

REPTILES: CROCODILIANS
American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) female, hatched 2009, Caroline .. $250
American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) male, hatched 2009, Tex .......... $250

REPTILES: SNAKES
Eastern Kingsnake (Lampropeltis getula getula) ........................................ $100
Grey Rat Snake (Elaphe obsoleta spiloides) .............................................. $100
Corn Snake (Elaphe guttata) ................................................................. $100
Albino Corn Snake (Elaphe guttata) ....................................................... $100

REPTILES: TURTLES
Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina carolina) .................................................. $75
Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina) ..................................................... $75
Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta picta) ....................................................... $75
Chicken Turtle (Deirochelys reticularia) .................................................... $75
Red-Eared Slider Turtle (Trachemys scripta elegans) ................................ $75
Yellow-Bellied Slider Turtle (Trachemys scripta scripta) .......................... $75

AMPHIBIANS
Barking Tree Frog (Hyla gratiosa) .......................................................... $50
Green Tree Frog (Hyla cinerea) ............................................................... $50
Gray Tree Frog (Hyla versicolora) .......................................................... $50
Southern Toad (Bufo terrestris) ............................................................... $50
Spotted Salamander (Ambystoma maculatum) ......................................... $50
Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma tigrinum) ................................................ $50
The nationally acclaimed Camp Invention program returned to the RPSEC this summer. Created for children entering grades one through six, the exciting Camp Invention program is a weeklong adventure in creativity that immerses its participants in engaging, hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as well as history and the arts.

Each day, children rotated through five integrated modules that employed creative thinking to solve real-world challenges. Children learned vital 21st century life skills such as problem solving and teamwork through imaginative play.

In this summer’s Envision program, children experienced different modules including Inventeureka™, Action and Adventure Games™, Magnetropolis™, and I Can Invent: Balloon Burst™. Children spent their week visiting a faux island to study magnetism, taking a fantasy adventure on the Ci6000 Space Modulator Time Machine, inventing a balloon-bursting machine, and much more!

“We are focused on infusing the love of STEM subject areas with hopes of helping to address a critical shortage of scientists and engineers in the workforce of the 21st century,” explains John Hutchens, Director of Special Programs at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. “Camp Invention nurtures creative thinking in children, providing them with open-ended opportunities to explore ideas, make mistakes, and reinvent solutions.”

Since Camp Invention’s inception, the program has grown to include over 1,200 school partnerships in 49 states. In 2011, more than 76,000 children participated nationwide. Camp Invention was created in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which continues to support Invent Now’s mission to inspire creativity and inventive thinking in children of all ages.

The Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP) is a cooperative effort between Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Silver Bluff Audubon Center, and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. Two field trip locations for STEP include the Savannah River Site and the Silver Bluff Audubon Center. At each location, STEP students utilize classroom and outdoor laboratories to conduct scientific investigations on topics such as water and soil ecology, wildlife, forestry, archaeology, navigation and more. For program information please visit the STEP website at: http://rpsec.usca.edu/step/

NOTE: To visit the Savannah River Site, there are specific procedures that must be followed two weeks prior to your visit for badging purposes.
The Future City Competition is a national, project-based learning experience where students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Students work as a team with an educator and engineer mentor to plan cities using SimCity™ 4 Deluxe software; research and write solutions to an engineering problem; build tabletop scale models with recycled materials; and present their ideas before judges at Regional Competitions in January. Regional winners represent their region at the National Finals in Washington, DC in February.

*Future City Engages Kids in Engineering and So Much More...*
This flexible, cross-curricular educational program gives students an opportunity to do the things that engineers do—identify problems; brainstorm ideas; design solutions; test, retest and build; and share their results. This process is called the engineering design process. With this at its center, Future City is an engaging way to build students’ 21st century skills. Students participating in Future City:

- Apply math and science concepts to real-world issues
- Develop writing, public speaking, problem solving, and time management skills
- Research and propose solutions to engineering challenges
- Discover different types of engineering and explore career options
- Learn how their communities work and become better citizens
- Develop strong teamwork skills

Visit HTTP://WWW.FUTURECITY.ORG to register your school to participate.

**Want more information?**

Plan to attend one of our
**TEACHER / MENTOR INFORMATION WORKSHOPS**
August 23rd and September 13th
4:00-6:30PM - RPSEC

Call John Hutchens 803.641.3474 to register for the workshop.

2012 Regional Winners - Kennedy Middle School
## Public Shows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>SHOW NAMES</th>
<th>SHOW TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2012 August 4, 11, 18, 25 | Follow the Drinking Gourd  
                        | Digistar Virtual Journey     | 8:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 9:00 pm                     |
| 2012 September 1, 8, 15, 29 | Mission to Mars                      | 7:00 pm                     |
| 2012 September 22, Observe the Moon Night | Larry Cat in Space  
                        | To the Moon and Beyond        | 7:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 8:00 pm                     |
| 2012 October 6, 20, 27 | **Solar System Adventure Tour** | 7:00 and 8:00 pm             |
| 2012 October 13 SEED | TBA (30 min. show)                      | 10:00 am, 11:00, 12:00 pm, 1:00, 2:00  
                        | TBA (30 min. show)                      | 10:30 am, 11:30, 12:30 pm, 1:30, 2:30  |
| 2012 November 3, 10, 17, 24 | In My Backyard  
                        | More than Meets the Eye       | 7:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 8:00 pm                     |
| 2012 December 1, 8, 10, 17 | 'Tis the Season                        | 7:00 and 8:00 pm             |
| 2011 December 15, 22, 29 | 'Tis the Season                        | 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 pm         |
| 2013 January 5, 12, 19, 26 | Ancient Sky Lore  
                        | Digistar “Laser” Fantasy      | 7:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 8:00 pm                     |
| 2013 February 2, 9, 16, 23 | Follow the Drinking Gourd                      | 7:00 and 8:00 pm             |
| 2013 March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Larry Cat in Space  
                        | To the Moon and Beyond        | 7:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 8:00 pm                     |
| 2013 April 6, 13, 20, 27 Earth & Sky Night 4/20 | Worlds in Motion                        | 7:00 and 8:00 pm             |
| 2013 May 4, 11, 18, 25 | In My Backyard  
                        | More than Meets the Eye       | 8:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 9:00 pm                     |
| 2013 June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | **Solar System Adventure Tour**  
                        | Blown Away: Wild World of Weather | 8:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 9:00 pm                     |
| 2013 July 6, 13, 20, 27 | Explorers of Mauna Kea  
                        | Digistar “Laser” Fantasy      | 8:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 9:00 pm                     |
| 2013 August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Mission to Mars  
                        | Digistar Virtual Journey      | 8:00 pm                     |
|                     |                                                 |                            | 9:00 pm                     |

All shows last one hour unless otherwise noted. Each show includes a live “sky tonight” portion.

*New Show!

## Special Events

- International Observe the Moon Night: September 22, 2012
- SEED: Science Education Enrichment Day: October 13, 2012
- Spring Earth & Sky Night and National Astronomy Day: April 20, 2013

For Planetarium information call: 803-641-3654  
From Augusta: 803-278-1967 ext. 3654

More information is available on our website: [http://rpsec.usca.edu/Planetarium/](http://rpsec.usca.edu/Planetarium/)

## Become a Galactic Guardian for 2013

How would you like to adopt a celestial object and be its Galactic Guardian for a year? There are a number of celestial objects that need a caring person, family or group to look out for their best interests over the next year. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to support programming at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center with your tax-deductible donation. For more information, please call the main office at 803-641-3313 or email RPSEC@usca.edu.
Infusing the Love of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics!

Masters Degree in Educational Technology

Earn Your USCA Degree Online

Do you enjoy using your computer? Do others ask you how to do something on their computers? Do you enjoy showing others something new on your computer? Have you considered getting a masters degree? Then maybe it is time for you to consider the Masters of Education in Educational Technology (MEd Tech). The MEd Tech program at University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) and the University of South Carolina (USC) Columbia is accepting applications for enrollment. For more information visit http://edtech.usca.edu/.

The focus of the program is to develop capabilities essential to the effective design, evaluation, and delivery of technology-based instruction and training (e.g., software development, multimedia development, assistive technology modifications, web-based development, and distance learning) in order to (1) prepare educators to assume leadership roles in the integration of educational technology into the school curriculum, and (2) to provide graduate-level instructional opportunities for several populations (e.g., classroom teachers, corporate trainers, educational software developers) that need to acquire both technological competencies and understanding of sound instructional design principles and techniques.

Anyone interested in enrolling in this program should contact Karen Morris at 803-641-3489.
OCTOBER 13, 2012
10AM - 3PM @ USC AIKEN

Follow Us On:

http://rpsec.usca.edu/seed/

27th Annual
SCIENCE EDUCATION ENRICHMENT DAY
RUTH PATRICK SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTER/USC AIKEN

Thank you sponsors

FREE!
Each fun-filled CCSS Professional Development Support Session is designed to assist school teams in preparing to transition to the CCSS; gain a greater understanding of the six instructional shifts (focus, coherence, fluency, deep understanding, application, and dual intensity - conceptual and procedural) necessary for full implementation of CCSS; and, learn instructional strategies that will essentially “change the face of today’s classroom.” Participants will learn strategies for the integration of the mathematical practices, modeling and multiple representations, and instructional technology (e.g. SMART technology, TI NSpire graphing calculator applications, online applets, etc.). Participants will experience the levels of cognitive demand (DOK and Revised Blooms) implied by the CCSS and will examine web-based resources to supplement textbook material as necessary. Using SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Item Specifications as guides, participants will be able to design formative and summative assessment activities that provide evidence of learning and reveal student misconceptions about the mathematics. The expected outcome of full implementation of the Common Core State Standards is more career- and college-ready graduates with a deeper understanding of rigorous content and abilities to apply knowledge in-line with a technology-driven world of work.

### The Specifics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade Band</th>
<th>Area of Emphasis</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 21, 2012</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Counting and Cardinality Number and Operations in Base Ten</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 28, 2012</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Number and Operations - Fractions</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 5, 2012</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Ratios and Proportional Relationships The Number System</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 19, 2012</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Number and Quantity, Algebra</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, October 26, 2012</td>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Operations and Algebraic Thinking</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 9, 2012</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Operations and Algebraic Thinking</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
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<td>Friday, November 30, 2012</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>Expressions and Equations Functions</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
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<td>Friday, December 7, 2012</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Functions</td>
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<td>Friday, January 25, 2013</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<td>6-8</td>
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<td>Friday, February 22, 2013</td>
<td>9-12</td>
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<td>Friday, April 26, 2013</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>RPSEC USC Aiken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What People Are Saying About These Workshops

“Feel so much better about the implementation of the CCSS.”

“Opened my eyes to how in depth the [CCSS] standards really are! I feel better that they have added the missing parts from our S.C. State Standards.”

“I am thoroughly impressed with the training... Starting from the reading and organization of the CCSS and by the end of the week receiving a framework and multiple resources for taking apart each standard. I especially appreciated the example lessons. Watching the students gave me ideas and new approaches to use immediately in my classroom. Last and most importantly, I feel confident making the transition to CCSS.”
# USC Aiken ITQ and RPSEC Professional Learning Unit
## 2012-13 Mathematics Professional Development Schedule

The purpose of the schedule below is to communicate ITQ PRIME TIME on Achievement and RPSEC Professional Learning Unit mathematics professional development opportunities for Allendale County Schools, Bamberg Two School District and Barnwell 19 School District. The schedule pertains to 2012-13 (Year 2) Mathematics Professional Development for teachers in grades 6-12 in these districts. The dates were suggested and agreed upon by superintendents, directors of staff development, and principals of these districts during a partnership meeting on May 7, 2012, at Allendale-Fairfax High School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>*ALL PARTNERS at USC Aiken</th>
<th>Allendale</th>
<th>Bamberg 2</th>
<th>Barnwell 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August '12</td>
<td>17-Aug Friday 8:30-3:30 July 30-August 2</td>
<td>17-Aug Friday 8:30-3:30</td>
<td>17-Aug Friday 8:30-3:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>*September</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>12-Oct Friday, ER 1:30</td>
<td>9-Oct Tuesday, ER 2:00</td>
<td>10-Oct Wednesday 3:10</td>
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<td>*November</td>
<td>16-Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6-Dec Thursday 1:30</td>
<td>4-Dec Tuesday 3:30</td>
<td>12-Dec Wednesday 3:10</td>
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<td>*January '13</td>
<td>18-Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>14-Feb Thursday 3:10</td>
<td>12-Feb Tuesday, ER 2:00</td>
<td>13-Feb Wednesday 3:10</td>
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<td>*March</td>
<td>8-Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>29-Apr Monday 3:30</td>
<td>24-Apr Tuesday 3:30</td>
<td>10-Apr Wednesday 3:10</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>July</td>
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* All day PD's at USC Aiken with all partners, 8:30 - 3:30 PM
The Transit of Venus was on June 5, 2012, and we had over 270 people come to campus for the event. Before the transit, we presented a planetarium show about Venus and the transit. The skies were cloudy all day leading up to the event that was to begin at 6:04 p.m. At 6:05 p.m., there was a slight break in the clouds that provided a handful of visitors an opportunity to see Venus as it began to cross the disk of the Sun. That window lasted only about 90 seconds, however. Fortunately, another hole opened up about 20 minutes later and lasted for about an hour. Everyone was able to view the Transit via a variety of solar viewing instruments provided by the planetarium and the Astronomy Club of Augusta. Inside of our building, we had a couple of live feeds from other locations across our fair planet so that our visitors had a number of viewing options. Clouds obscured our viewing of the 2004 Transit, so no one at our site was able to see it first hand. There were a number of people who were at both the 2004 and 2012 events and commented about how excited they were to have a successful viewing this time. On a historical note, a team of German scientists came to Aiken, South Carolina, to view the 1882 transit. The frame of one of their observatories is at the nearby historical museum.

Please plan to join us for the next Transit of Venus on December 10, 2117. It is only 105 years from now.

Educator Reaches Hiking Milestone of 1,500 Miles

During the summer of 2012, a group of high school and college students from the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics joined Dr. Gary Senn on a field ecology trip as he reached the milestone of 1,500 miles hiked within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

As a graduate student at Florida Institute of Technology, Gary enrolled in a course entitled, “Ecology of the Southern Appalachians,” which culminated in a weeklong hiking trip in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. That first visit to the Smokies sparked an enduring love for this wonderful natural resource, and for his wife. He often mentions that the Smokies were responsible for his marriage to his wife Mandy. They were both students in that first trip to the Smokies when she broke her leg on the Gregory Bald Trail. Gary carried her three miles through the rain as they made their way back to the trailhead.

Gary Senn has been teaching field ecology classes in the Smokies since 1984 while at Florida Tech. Since earning his PhD in 1992, he has been taking students from the area near the University of South Carolina Aiken where he is currently a faculty member and Director of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. His ecology trips ranged from taking day hikes into the mountains to conquering week-long backpacking trips of up to 60 miles. The most common hikes for Gary’s classes included: Abrams Fall, Andrews Bald (via Clingman’s Dome), Ramsay’s Cascade and various trails to Mt. LeConte.

During his career, he has taken over 40 classes and introduced more than 500 students to the wonders of the Smokies.