

South Carolina
**PARTNERS in
POLICYMAKING**
EXPANDING BOUNDARIES

Featured Graduates: Joey & Michelle Barefoot



Joey and Michelle Barefoot are a married couple who are both members of the SC Developmental Disabilities Council. Before joining the Council, they both completed the Partners in Policymaking® class in 2015, as well as completing the Community Leadership Academy. During their time at Partners in Policymaking® they enjoyed dressing up for meetings and participating in the group sessions. Some of the benefits they have received from being in the Partners in Policymaking classes are learning about their rights, discovering how to use their voice, and communicating effectively inside and outside of meetings, while meeting new friends along the way. They have represented and advocated on behalf of the disability community for years by helping those who do not feel they have a voice. They do this by encouraging them to speak out and discover their passion. When they are not advocating or helping others to advocate, they are taking trips with one another; and one of their favorite trips was to Disney World.

Participating in DD Council Meetings



Joey and Michelle take their roles in reviewing DD Council grants seriously. They want to ensure that the funds being spent benefit those in need, and that the agencies that the DD Council supports have the tools needed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Joey and Michelle shared that the need is greater than the amount of available funds, so Council has to be mindful of this to ensure funds are spent wisely.



August is national ABE to Save Month, an opportunity to encourage financial wellness for our citizens living with disabilities and their families. State Treasurer Curtis Loftis administers the [Palmetto ABE Savings Program](#), a 529-A savings tool.

This tax-advantaged 529-A program allows eligible individuals to save without losing eligibility for important needs-based benefits. Contributions are tax deductible on a South Carolina income tax return, and participants can use their funds for a variety of [qualified expenses](#) such as basic living costs, assistive technology, health and wellness, employment training, housing, and transportation.



South Carolina
**PARTNERS in
POLICYMAKING**
Get Ready for Partners!

Partners in Policymaking® outlines the foundation for making systemic change by utilizing a shared vision through education, training, and a unified voice. The positive peer interaction strengthens individuals as well as collaborations and partnerships.

PLEASE SHARE!

We are currently recruiting individuals with intellectual and development disabilities and parent of young children with intellectual and disabilities. Applications are accepted year around.

Applications for Partners are located here: <https://scddc.sc.gov/resources.html>

Sessions Include:



- GETTING THE FACTS
- USING THE BEST TOOLS
- EQUIPPING YOURSELF
- MAKING AN IMPACT AND INCREASING AWARENESS
- EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



[SC DD Council Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

<https://www.facebook.com>



[SC DD Council Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/scddcouncil)

<https://www.twitter.com/scddcouncil>





William "Will" Farris

A Note from the Program Coordinator

After a two-year hiatus of not having Partners in Policymaking. I'm super excited that we will be able to be back in person to share ideas, create long lasting memories and continue to push forward change in the disability community here in the lovely state of South Carolina. A month ago, I had the opportunity to participate in the AUCD Leadership Academy. I'm truly excited to incorporate the skills and knowledge I received from the academy into Partners in Policymaking®

"The best way to predict the future is to create it".

- Abraham Lincoln

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Ms. Harriet Abner
Ms. Margaret Alewine
Mrs. Carol Anderson
Mr. Joseph "Joey" Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Ms. Anna Bleasdale
Mrs. Trayci Brazell
Dr. Harley T. Davis
Ms. Jerri Davison

Ms. Beth Franco
Mr. Gerald Frazier
Mrs. Connie Gallman
Mr. John Green
Mr. Demetrius Henderson
Mrs. Amy Hibbs
Mrs. Melissa Hunt
Mr. Bernard Johnson
Ms. Megan Johnson

Mr. Roger Kuperman
Mr. Derrick Means
Ms. Kristi Moore
Dr. David Rotholz
Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin
Mrs. Elizabeth Smithson
Dr. Kim Watkins
Mrs. Suzanne Wingard

Staff

Valarie Bishop, Executive Director
Lori Rodgers, Program Manager
Cheryl English, Program Coordinator
William Farris, Program Assistant
Esther Williams, Administrative Specialist

For program funding details, please visit <https://www.scdde.state.sc.us/about.html>