



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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CAMP CATCH YOUR BREATH OF THE MIDLANDS HONORED AT CHE MEETING

COLUMBIA, S.C. – On Thursday, May 11, 2017, the SC Commission on Higher Education honored *Camp Catch Your Breath of the Midlands* with this year's annual Service Learning Award.

Since 2001, this award has recognized exemplary service learning contributions made by the students of South Carolina's public and private colleges and universities. Service learning is a meaningful opportunity for students to apply acquired knowledge and skills while solving real-world problems in their communities. This year, thirteen nominees were evaluated on the following criteria: the ability to resolve community concerns or address community issues; the degree to which the project enhances students' learning; the impact of the project on campus; and the integration of the project's activities into academics. Commissioner Dianne Kuhl, who led this year's selection committee, expressed her gratitude for the service South Carolina students provide to their communities: "I'm so impressed by the creativity, commitment and compassion exhibited by these young people. They are representative of the best our state has to offer, and a positive example for us all."

Camp Catch Your Breath of the Midlands, a student driven, sustainable community outreach health promotion campaign, provides Midland's Technical College's Respiratory Care students with the opportunity for hands-on application of their acquired skills and knowledge. The Camp is an annual one-day event, free for children between five and 12 years old diagnosed with asthma. Because asthma is one of our state's most debilitating pediatric diseases, often due to limited education provided to the kids, the Respiratory Care students educate campers in a fun, interactive, and medically safe environment about how to better understand and manage their asthma. Campers learn about lung anatomy, avoidance of asthma triggers, and proper medication administration directly from the Respiratory Care students to better control asthma symptoms and flare-ups.

When congratulated for receiving the award, Ms. Hendrix stated that "I find most rewarding how service learning fosters creativity, accountability, and leadership opportunities for the students. Being a team member of innovative educators, staff and administrators of Midlands Technical College who support service learning is a privilege." She also explained how Camp Catch Your Breath "is an opportunity for respiratory care students to work through challenges and succeed" and that the students' accomplishments during the camp both "inspires me and makes my job most rewarding."

The Commission congratulates the outstanding educators at Midlands Technical College and their students for their excellent service learning project and thanks them for their invaluable contributions to the state.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) serves as the state's coordinating body for higher education. The CHE is committed to promoting quality, efficiency, and affordability in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy, and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly. Information about current activities of the CHE and higher education in South Carolina can be found on the agency's website: www.che.sc.gov.