

eConnections NEWSLETTER

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**SPECIAL AWARDS EDITION
2025**



Midlands Students Honored for Excellence in Career Readiness

The Midlands region of South Carolina is home to some of the state's brightest students. Those in the nine school districts partnered with MEBA consistently demonstrate strong aptitude in career readiness and work-based learning. Each year, MEBA honors exceptional students with the Midlands Technology Champion and Work-Based Learning Student of the Year awards.

The 2025 recipients are Avery Smith and Shaniah Arrington, both seniors at the Center for Advanced Technical Studies (CATS) in Lexington-Richland Five.

Smith, named Midlands Technology Champion, is pursuing Law Enforcement Services under Mr. Joe Chapman and plans to study Forensic Psychology at Western Carolina University. She completed an internship with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, coordinated by Sgt. Daniel Rusinyak.

Arrington, the Work-Based Learning Student of the Year, is enrolled in the Fire and Rescue Program with Captain Michael Greer. She aims to become a firefighter after earning a Business degree from Clemson University. Her internship with the Irmo Fire Department earned her two Firefighter Certifications.

Smith and Arrington received their awards from MEBA's Mrs. Lisa Call, Superintendent Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sgt. Rusinyak, Assistant Director Mr. Roy Frick, and Mr. Chapman. Congratulations to these outstanding students!



MEBA Director Wins SC Regional Career Specialist of the Year



The South Carolina Education and Business Summit (SCEBS) hosts numerous career and technical education (CTE) specialists and teachers each summer at their annual conference. During the week of professional development, the organization also awards leaders in College and Career Readiness for their dedication, innovation, initiative, and success in the field.

MEBA's own, Lisa Call, was recognized by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), Office of Career Readiness as the 2025 SC Regional Career Specialist of the Year! Call is one of eleven regional career specialists in the state and has worked within MEBA to coordinate, evaluate and grow career exploration programs in the Midlands. For more than 25 years, Call has prioritized building partnerships to connect schools and businesses for relevant work-based learning, and job-awareness opportunities for students.

MEBA partners were thrilled to hear the news about the newest award recipient. "Having had the privilege of working with Lisa for over 20 years, I can confidently say her efforts and dedication to prepare students for the workforce are unparalleled. Lisa makes it easy to say 'yes' to her requests because you know her initiatives are driving change," expressed longtime MEBA partner, Anthony White of The Ritedose Corporation. These sentiments were echoed by Sherry R. Williams, National Career Development Association (NCDA) and Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) instructor. "This prestigious honor is a testament to her exceptional dedication and outstanding contributions in her region and as a trendsetter for the state. Her leadership in developing innovative programs has not only set a benchmark for excellence but has also inspired countless individuals and organizations across the state."

MEBA joyfully congratulates Lisa Call for her diligence and commitment to excellence as a regional career specialist!



Pictures courtesy of SC Education + Business Summit

NEW WEBSITE! Vocations on Vacation

Summer vacation is a perfect time for students to get an up close look at careers they encounter during the break. Before the school year begins, we encourage business leaders and professionals to take a few minutes to complete an online written interview about your job to be posted on the new "Vocations on Vacations" website as a blog. The goal is to help students learn while lounging, and further explore previously overlooked or unknown career opportunities.



Click on the image above to complete the interview form.



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To partner with MEBA in career exploration opportunities, contact mebacomunication@mebasc.com