

EAST COOPER CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES SIC REPORT

Established in 2014, Launched in 2020

2022-2023



East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies
900 Warrior Way
Mt. Pleasant SC 29466
(843) 856-5800

The East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies (ECCAS) provides access to high school students from both Lucy Beckham and Wando High Schools. Our school is organized so students may explore future opportunities through 22 different Majors grouped into 17 Programs under 4 Academies. Nearly 1600 students attend class in the ECCAS each year with the focus of becoming college and career ready. Recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School in its first year of existence in 2021, the ECCAS was the only school in the nation to offer all 17 Biomedical Science, Computer Science, and Engineering PLTW courses in 2023. With access to nearly 100 different industry certification exams, students may graduate as licensed Automotive Technicians, Certified Nursing Assistants, Cosmetologists, or Real Estate Agents.

"We want every child to graduate from high school with a viable plan, a realistic plan for what to do next and have the education and skills to do it." Lucy G. Beckham

SIC ANNUAL GOALS

The purpose of the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies Improvement Council is to:

- (1) Assist in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the five-year School Improvement Plan (also known as the "School Renewal Plan" or "Strategic Plan").
- (2) Assist in the preparation of yearly plan updates.
- (3) Assist the school in the development and implementation of the School Reading Plan as required by the Read to Succeed Act.
- (4) Develop and prepare the annual *SIC Report to the Parents*, which is to be distributed no later than April 30 of each year.
- (5) Prepare, together with the Principal, the annual narrative for the *SC School Report Card*.
- (6) Provide advice on the use of school incentive award expenditures (if allocated by the legislature and awarded to the school).
- (7) Provide any additional assistance as requested by the Principal or local School Board.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The ECCAS works closely with a number of different businesses throughout the East Cooper community. So far, the ECCAS has established a working relationship with the following businesses:

- [Chick-fil-A North Mount Pleasant](#)
- [Booz|Allen|Hamilton](#)
- [Dockside Engraving](#)
- [Harris Teeter](#)
- [Kevin Sneed Well Drilling](#)
- [Lowcountry Roots Woodworking](#)
- [Loves Foods](#)
- [MUSC](#)
- [Publix](#)
- [Tropical Smoothie The Market at Oakland](#)

If you are interested in becoming a business or community partner please contact Assistant Principal, DeAna Sutler, at deana_sutler@charleston.k12.sc.us



ECCAS SIC PRIMARY CONTACTS

Co-Chair: Alethea Setser
alethea_setser@charleston.k12.sc.us

Co-Chair: Kevin Sneed
james_sneed@charleston.k12.sc.us

Secretary: Tim Wanninger
timothy_wanninger@charleston.k12.sc.us

Principal: Jeff Blankenship
jeffrey_blankenship@charleston.k12.sc.us

Assistant Principal: Sharon Randall
sharon_randall@charleston.k12.sc.us

Assistant Principal: DeAna Sutler
deana_sutler@charleston.k12.sc.us

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is issued by the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.



FOLLOW US AT:



[@eastcoopercas](https://www.instagram.com/eastcoopercas)
[#lightingtheway](https://twitter.com/eastcoopercas)

EAST COOPER CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES SIC REPORT



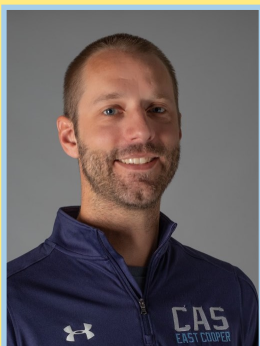
STUDENT/ORGANIZATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- Numerous classes and programs throughout the CAS have worked together to attend trainings, in-class field trips, and or online certification in which over 700 students have obtained industry credentials including: **HIPPA Awareness, OSHA for Healthcare Providers, Bloodborne Pathogens, and BLS & CPR Training, ASE Brakes maintenance and light repair** to name a few.
- Members of the **Pre-Medicine Academy** continued their second year as their own **HOSA** chapter. The organization attended the HOSA State Leadership Conference and had five students qualify for the **HOSA International Leadership Conference**. ECCAS HOSA also partnered with **Blood Connection** and successfully hosted four blood drives that had over 500 people sign up for blood donations.
- **FFA and Horticulture** were awarded \$1,500 **DHEC Recycling Education Grant** and composted over 300 gallons of food and plant waster from our program, school and local Costco. The annual **Greenhouse/Floriculture** sale was another success and raised over \$2,500 for the horticulture program.
- **Game Design and Development** was offered as a brand new course this year. Students ended the class by designing and building their own game engine.
- Members of the ECCAS **Lighthouse Keeper** program along with **Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy** read & donated 500 books to St. James Santee and Carolina Park Elementary. This group also donated 15 Christmas Baskets of essential items for families in the community, \$1000 Impact Grant, and over \$600 raised in scholarships.
- The **ECCAS Cosmetology Salon** preformed over \$22,000 in services this year while also building a large social media presence @eastcoopercassaloon. The salon also hosted classes from Dry Bar, Great Clips, Stella Nova, Strawberry Blonde, The Color Lab and Hanzo.
- The **Engineering Club Design Squad** built multiple projects to help our school and local community. They designed and built the following: Virtual Reality room, Bus Stop Bench, Trash Can Lift, Golf Shoe Toe 3D print, and a Cosmetology Cart addition.
- **Katie Johnston** and the **PLTW Engineering Design and Development Class** received a \$1,750 Bosch grant which provided funding to build nine capstone engineering student projects ranging from Crosswalk Photogate Light Bollards to a Monarch Butterfly Portable Habitat House.
- The **First Robotics Phoenix Team** captained the 6th ranked alliance and won the Imagery Award at Anderson District Event. They also won the Autonomous Award at Hartsville District Event and competed on the 2nd ranked alliance at the Peachtree District Championship.
- The **ECCAS Coding Team** placed 4th, 5th and 6th in the College of Charleston Regional Coding Competition (schools from NC, GA, and SC). They also placed 4th place nationally in the University of North Florida's CodeforAWhile Competition

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies is excited to announce Ian Banker as the 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Banker grew up just south of Detroit, Michigan and attended Michigan State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Education. He continued his schooling at Michigan State, earning a Master's Degree in Educational Technology. His teaching career started at Cane Bay High School, where he taught for two years, followed by 10 years at Wando High School. During those 12 years, he taught a multitude of science courses, coached a few sports, and most importantly, started teaching AP Computer Science Principles.

Mr. Banker started at the ECCAS in 2020 and helped implement the first two courses of the **PLTW Computer Science program**: PLTW CS Essentials and PLTW CS Principles. Throughout the last two years, he has helped grow the program from its infancy into the successful and thriving program it is today. If you walk into his classroom, you will see students developing apps that they could use on their phones or tablets, programming self-driving vehicles, coding art scenes, developing their own original programs, or learning about the intricacies of how the internet works. In the past year, Mr. Banker also wrote and piloted a new class at ECCAS: Game Design and Development. In this class, students learned computer science and programming through the lens of video games. They learned the history of video games, how the video game industry works, then spent the semester working towards creating their own game engine. By the end of class, students were using that game engine to create and market their own individual games!



SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Rookie Teacher of the Year

Paul Millar was selected as the 2022-2023 Rookie Teacher of the Year for the ECCAS. In his first year, Paul has done an incredible job in the STEM Academy and has helped to spearhead a number of different projects including the extremely successful Greenhouse/Floriculture sale and has nearly doubled the horticulture enrollment numbers for next year.

Grants

Ian Banker, Tara Byrum, Justin Fabiano, and Katie Johnston were all awarded Bosh BEST Teacher STEM grants which provided nearly \$8,000 to support the many programs at the CAS. Chris Sjolander also received \$10,000 from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation that help provide start up money for our developing Skills USA chapter.

Community Outreach

Over the holiday season the ECCAS held a number of different charity drives to benefit various local community organizations. The Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, ECCAS Horticulture, and HOSA worked closely together to organize and operate a food bank that provided meals and support to a number of different families within the East Cooper community.

2023 Entrepreneurship Teacher of the Year

Real Estate teacher, Mr. David Fralix, was named the YESCarolina 2023 Entrepreneurship Teacher of the Year. Mr. Fralix has done a wonderful job at the ECCAS and has established program where students could graduate with their realtor's license.

