

South Carolina First Steps e-Spotlight

March 18, 2016



SC First Steps Executive Directors Attend South Carolina's Nonprofit Summit

Last week, 22 SC First Steps Executive Directors and 5 state office staff members attended South Carolina's three-day Nonprofit Summit hosted by the South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations (SCANPO). The annual Summit is the state's largest and most comprehensive conference designed specifically by and for leaders in the nonprofit sector. The theme of this year's Summit was CollaborACTION, explained as the combination of working together and putting ideas in motion. Attendees of the conference were given the opportunity to choose from over 60 different sessions organized in five tracks: CollaborACTION, Leadership, Fundraising, Marketing, and Finance & Operations.

The conference commenced on Wednesday, March 9th with an opening keynote address by National speaker and *New York Times* bestseller, Wes Moore, who shared his inspiring life story and perspective on the key factors for success in serving vulnerable populations. Over the next two and a half days, attendees could choose, based on professional interest, from a variety of sessions led by nationally acclaimed speakers and nonprofit leaders from across the state, falling into the categories listed above. Also included in the program were site visits to local nonprofits in the Spartanburg area, which gave attendees an opportunity to see up close how several Upstate nonprofits fulfill their mission. The Summit gave attendees the chance to think big, hear practical solutions to pressing challenges, find inspiration, and network with other members of the nonprofit community in South Carolina.



In reflection, First Steps Executive Directors identified some of their key takeaways from the Summit:

- **Betty Washington, Executive Director of Beaufort County First Steps**, stated that: "I attended a session entitled 'Coaching, the Managers Greatest Tool' which served as a reminder that it takes 'coaching' skills to help others solve problems without telling them what to do and how to do things." She learned that coaching is encouraging others by asking questions rather than giving answers, in other words, "A problem well stated is a problem ½ solved."
- **Adrienne Troy-Frazier, Executive Director of Berkeley County First Steps**, attended a session entitled, "Non-Profit Response to Race and Religion" with presenters Antonio Boyd and Kit Cummings. Adrienne's takeaway from the session was: "'Hate happens at a distance.' I will continue to seek common ground with my adversary, practice deliberate language and use my influence for peace. It was also affirming to have a room filled with other Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) leaders feeling weary but as determined to address religious bigotry and racism in our communities as I am."
- **Deborah Padgett, Executive Director of Saluda County First Steps**, participated a site visit to the Updated USC Child Protection Training Center. She learned about a new, state of the art, training center that had set up a mock house used to train first responders to recognize evidence that may result in placing a call to the appropriate authorities to protect a child from physical/sexual abuse.
- **Ruth Detrick, Executive Director of McCormick County First Steps**, attended a session called "Be the Change You Want to See in Board Meetings", where she, "learned about Bold Idea Ranking, which is a way to gather a large amount of input in a short amount of time and then to prioritize the ideas." Ruth said that she now plans to use this approach in board meetings as well as other meetings she conducts.
- **Amy Breault, Executive Director of Horry County First Steps**, attended the session "A Marriage of Mission and Money: Fostering Relationships Between Nonprofits and Financial Institutions". Her top takeaways were: "1. All Banks are required to have a community investment plan and many will list the focus areas of grant funding. Wells Fargo does support education as one of their focus areas. 2. Partnerships need to develop relationships with staff in the local branches as most decisions are made at the local level. Staff could make great board members so when ED's go to request grant funding there will be someone within the institution that can support the ask. 3. Develop relationships with banks well in advance of a large ask."

As demonstrated by their statements above, the Summit allowed Executive Directors to reflect on current systems and practices, explore new ideas, and translate lessons-learned into concrete action steps for their partnerships.

For more information on SCANPO's Nonprofit Summit, including a comprehensive list of presenters and session topics, please visit <http://summit.scanpo.org/>. Presentation materials from this year's Summit will also be available shortly.

News/Opportunities:

SCANPO is still offering free "Wednesday Webinars" to all interested parties on nonprofit leadership and governance! **The topic of next week's (Mar. 23rd) webinar is "How to Bring a Board Meeting from Dreadful to Successful"** To register and to view the webinar schedule, please [click here](#).