

10:10am SC Student Loan Outreach Initiatives

Our outreach team provides opportunities for colleges to partner with our office in various efforts across the state. From FAFSA completion to financial aid and mentoring, see how your office can join to get your information to families in SC.

Speaker: Jonathan Rhodes



Jonathan Rhodes is the Outreach Manager at South Carolina Student Loan Corp. He is a 2003 graduate of Morris College with a BS in Business Administration; he also earned his MBA in 2012. Jonathan is an advocate for educating the families across South Carolina and has worked in the education sector for over 15 years, his passion is what pushes him each day. My goal is to empower students to make informed decisions about their financial future and to support them in achieving their educational goals. He provides personalized guidance and support to each student, ensuring that they have the best possible chance of success in their college journey.

11am Keynote - The State of Student Aid: Supporting Today's Learners

College students today are more diverse than any previous generation by age, race, and income level. Most have competing priorities beyond the classroom, such as work and family responsibilities. With data supported from our Financial Wellness Survey, this session will help financial aid offices understand this generation of learners and how to best meet their higher education needs.

Speaker: Bryan Ashton, Trellis Strategies



Bryan Ashton serves as the Chief Strategy and Growth Officer at Trellis and the Head of Trellis Strategies. In this capacity, he is responsible for leading the organizations research, consulting, and talent pathways work in higher education. Bryan is the Co-Founder of the Higher Education Financial Wellness Alliance, is a frequent speaker at national conferences on issues of college access and affordability.

Bryan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting from Ohio State University and a Master's in Education, with a focus in Higher Education, from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Lunch

Professional Development: Unleashing the Power of Imagination

This fun filled presentation will explore the secrets of imagination. The power that the greatest minds throughout history have used to achieve astonishing results. More importantly we will delve into how you can harness this power to succeed at work and at home.

Speaker: Mike Fox



For over 40 years, Mike Fox was part of the SC Student Loan Team. Taking on roles from Loan Officer, Director of Outreach, and Vice-President of Guarantee Services, Mike's wealth of knowledge spans many different areas in the financial aid industry. In addition to presenting on topics of aid, Mike has served the state as a former SCASFAA president and has presented on professional development topics ranging from stress management to teamwork.

1pm SC Student Loan Product Review:

SC Student Loan has offered educational loans for over 50 years. Having processed over 2 million loans to over 500,000 students and parents, our products have helped many achieve the dream of higher education. We will overview our newest products and plans to make your loan processes more efficient.



Destra A. Capers is the Director of Marketing & Outreach at South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, a private non-profit educational lender. On a typical day she can be found building connections and supporting South Carolina employers through BOLD™ Career Pathways, reviewing marketing assets, or educating students and families on college financial literacy across the state! Ms. Capers resides in Lexington, SC with her 14 y/o son. She considers life an adventure and plans to zipline around the world in her free time.

2pm: How SCSLC's philanthropy can help you retain financially disadvantaged students and help them persist (Interactive Discussion)

Together we will explore SC Student Loan's existing grantmaking program, Power:Ed, as well as new proposed programs that could be an invaluable resource for you to help students in need persist and complete their education. Your guidance and feedback are vital to the successful launch and impact of our planned new initiatives.

Speaker: Claire Gibbons



Power:Ed, the philanthropy of SC Student Loan Corporation, gives grants to SC nonprofits, colleges, and organizations that help South Carolina students (middle school through post-secondary) succeed in school, their careers, and life. As Executive Director of Power:Ed, Claire oversees all outreach, grant, and partnership operations. Her goal is to build a statewide network of collaborative partners aligned in making a transformative impact on SC students' lives and career opportunities. She is passionate about reducing economic barriers/inequities and boosting educational and economic mobility for workforce across South Carolina, particularly those in rural and underserved communities. She says, *"Your zip code should not predetermine your outcome in life. I have a passion to make a difference and create opportunities for all."* Claire is a former

executive communications advisor for leading public relations agencies in Washington DC, Los Angeles, and Charleston SC. She holds a MA in political management from George Washington University and earned BAs in political science and psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2:30pm Financial Literacy Outreach: Challenges and Opportunities

As financial literacy continues to be a hot-button topic for state and federal initiatives, we will walk you through details to share with your staff and students to make them more financially responsible. Creating a budget and setting realistic goals is crucial to building financial awareness.

Speaker: Ray Jones



Ray Jones is the Vice President of Loan Programs at South Carolina Student Loan Corporation and oversees loan originations, repayment services, marketing, and default prevention areas for the Corporation. Ray attended Spartanburg Methodist College, as well as the University of South Carolina in Lancaster and Columbia. He also serves the state financial aid community as a member of the Executive Board of the SC Association of Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA), the Board of Directors for NCHER, and the SC Teacher Loan Advisory Board.