



CULTURAL

[About Us](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Enjoy new content from the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, such as information on upcoming events in South Carolina and news affecting minority communities nationwide!

Our New Commercial!



At the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, we believe the true measure of our state's worth lies in the diverse cultures and people that call it home. No other state can match the beauty, cultural contributions, and historical significance of South Carolina.

Through research and relationships, we work to improve connections, bring about cultural awareness, and increase the quality of life opportunities, so that our state's ethnic minority communities can achieve economic prosperity.

Employee of the Month

[CMA's Employee of the Month program](#) recognizes employees who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the agency's mission and vision, as well as its constituent communities. These individuals consistently demonstrate a positive and supportive attitude

and contribute in ways that go above and beyond their scope of work. Check out what our team had to say about these why these staff members deserved this recognition:



"Robert not only has the knowledge it takes to perform his role effectively, but he is able to deliver that information in a way that anyone can understand. This skill is critical for our outreach efforts and his passion for providing our communities with relevant data serves as a catalyst for positive change in our state.

- Andrea Flores, Public Information Coordinator

Thank you for all you do, Robert!

Come Work with Us!

South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is hiring! We're looking for two Statistical and Research Analysts III and a Statistician III for our Research Division.

Click the buttons below to apply:

Position:

Statistical and Research Analyst III

» Click to Apply

Position:

Statistician II

» Click to Apply

Events and News



July 2022

Governor McMaster invested \$12 million in GEER Funds in the South Carolina Technical College System in early 2021 to train South Carolinians for the state's available, high-demand jobs. As a result of their success, Governor McMaster established Workforce Scholarships for the Future in November 2021. This \$25 million investment, combined with the General Assembly's \$39 million allocation in this year's state budget, is expected to train or retrain approximately 40,000 South Carolinians.

[READ MORE >](#)

July 2022

CMA's very own Ivan Segura was interviewed by Diversity Works magazine where he got the chance to discuss everything from his heritage to the philosophies he uses in his role as a community leader. To read the complete feature, be sure to click the link below!

[READ MORE >](#)



JULY 2022

Dr. Wenonah George Haire, Catawba Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Executive Director of the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project was honored on **July 13, 2022** at the South Carolina State House with the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. She is also most recently noted for her involvement in the [preservation of rivercane](#), which has been part of the Catawba Nation's culture since the beginning. Congratulations Dr. George Haire!

Photo Credit: The Catawba Nation

[READ MORE >](#)

AUGUST 2022

Trident College is offering free tuition to certain majors from **Fall 2022** until **Fall 2023**! Some of the majors covered under this program include:

- Business
- Culinary and Hospitality
- Education
- Engineering and Manufacturing + so much more

To see if you apply, be sure to click the link below!

[READ MORE >](#)

A flyer for a citizenship workshop. The background is red with a white American flag pattern on the sides. The text is white and red. It includes the title "CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP" and "TALLER DE CIUDADANÍA", the date "SATURDAY, AUGUST 27" and "SÁBADO, 27 DE AGOSTO", the phone number "864-256-0760", and logos for "ALIANZA HISPANA" and "MORNINGSIDE".

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP
TALLER DE CIUDADANÍA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27
SÁBADO, 27 DE AGOSTO

Free Assistance For Green Card Holders With Citizenship Application
Ayuda Gratuita Para Solicitar Ciudadanía De Residente Permanente

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Participants must call or text to verify eligibility and get an appointment.

864-256-0760

INSCRIPCIÓN ES REQUERIDA
Para confirmar requisitos y hacer una cita, debe de llamar o enviar un mensaje de texto.

ALIANZA HISPANA
MORNINGSIDE

This program is brought to you by the volunteers of the Legal Community Team of Hispanic Alliance. Este programa es presentado por los voluntarios del Comité Comunitario Legal de la Alianza Hispana.

AUGUST 2022

On **Saturday, August 27th**, the Hispanic Alliance will host a citizenship application workshop to assist legal permanent residents (Green Card holders) in preparing their applications. In this workshop, Hispanic Alliance will assist green card holders in completing the application, and participants will receive a **FREE** private consultation with an immigration attorney on-site. Each participant must complete an interview to verify eligibility and receive an appointment. To register, please call or text (864) 256-0760.

[READ MORE >](#)

SEPTEMBER 2022

On Saturday, September 17, 2022, the Santee Indian Tribe will host their 9th Annual Pow Wow! This free event is open for all to join and will feature various aspects of Native American culture such as traditional dancing, drumming, and food.

- Gate entry \$8
- Children (5 and under) FREE
- Adults (65+) FREE

[READ MORE >](#)



The 9th Annual POW WOW will be held on September 17th, 2022. Gates open at 9am, Grand Entry at Noon.

Santee Indian Organization
432 Bayview st Holly Hill Sc 29059

DANCERS, DRUMMERS, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

NO ALCOHOL
NO DRUGS
NO COOLERS
NO FIRE ARMS
NO FOOD VENDORS/ARTS & CRAFTS ONLY
NO PETS/SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY

Host Drum- Edisto River Singers
Guest Drum- Bad Boyz
\$Cash Prizes for Dancers\$

Vendor spots are \$50 & \$70 with power.

Contact: Eric Pratt 803-759-0020
Dana Weatherford 843-277-7678
Vendors Contact: Bill Muckelvaney 803-971-0862

Gate Entry Fee-\$8 Kids 5 & under- Free Adults over 65- Free

PUBLIC EVENT ALL ARE WELCOME!!
SANTEE TRIBE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY OR THEFT/ DAMAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY DURING THE POW WOW.

PAIA LOWER EASTERN CHEROKEE NATION SC



15th Annual Pow-Wow

Celebrating 7 years as a State Recognized Tribe
Saturday, September 24, 2022

❖ Open to the Public

Luck of the Draw Dance Contest
(Must Be in Regalia)
Drumming * Flute Music
Dancing * Story Telling
Hand Made Crafts * Fry Bread * Raffles

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: DAVID SPIRIT WALKER
HOST DRUM: RED OAK DRUM TEAM
HEAD MAN DANCER: DOUG CARTER
HEAD LADY DANCER: KAREN SWEARINGEN
ARENA DIRECTOR: FREDDY FELDER
ENTERTAINERS: DALE WOODRUFF
SOCIAL DANCES: RAIN CROW MOORE
STORYTELLER: NANCY BASKET



LOWER EASTERN CHEROKEE NATION TRIBAL GROUNDS
3688 WARRIOR CREEK CHURCH RD.

GRAY COURT, SC 29645

I-385 EXIT 10, FOLLOW THE SIGNS

I-26 E. EXIT 41 TOWARDS ENOREE

U.S. 221, TURN ONTO METRIC ROAD, FOLLOW SIGNS

15 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN LAURENS

Schedule of Events

Gates open 9:00 A.M. / Pow-Wow ends at 7 P.M.

Grand Entries: 12:00 Noon & 5:00 P.M.

Admission: Adults \$7.00 / Children (3-17) \$3.00

Children (2 and under) & Veterans Free

(Children must be always supervised)

Designated Smoking Area

Bring your own Chairs

Public Welcome/No Alcoholic Beverages/No Pets Allowed

For more information contact Scott Gephart phone# (423-494-4255)

Email: scottgephart16@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER 2022

The PAIA Lower Eastern Cherokee Nation of SC is hosting their 15th Annual Pow-Wow celebration on **September 24, 2022!** This event is open to the public and will showcase Native American drumming, dances, crafts, and foods for anyone to enjoy. The event will run from 9 AM to 7 PM and admissions are as follow:

- Adults \$7.00 / Children (3-17) \$3.00
- Children (2 and under) & Veterans FREE

[READ MORE >](#)

NOVEMBER 2022

SChack's Hack A hackathon is a Capture-the-Flag event where you can test your security skills while also having fun! Hack Warz® is a cyber-range testing and training environment that includes a virtual environment for testing and training in cyber defense and offense. It provides a secure environment for projects to test new tools and applications, as well as trains cyber professionals in the tools required to help strengthen and develop their cybersecurity skills!



[READ MORE >](#)

The Cultural Connect



The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs launched its first podcast, “The Culture Connect” in July to highlight South Carolina’s minority communities, opportunities, and resources.

From the Blue Ridge mountains to the foothills, the Piedmont to the Sandhills, the swamps of the Pee Dee to the coastal shores of the Lowcountry “The Culture Connect” brings forward

the voices of the forgotten, stories of the unheard, and the realities of the often-marginalized residents of the Palmetto State.

Check out the first two episodes featuring [Executive Director Dr. Delores Dacosta](#) and [Mr. Tim Waters, Owner/Operator of Save-a-Lot](#) in Florence, SC.

The Culture Connect is available on the agency's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

The Cultural Connect

**CMA Sessions:
A JOURNEY
TO AMERICA**

*August 17, 2022
@ 12:00 PM*

*Moderated by:
JACELYN
ARRADAZA*


**DR. JAKE
BOLOTANO**

A new season of CMA Sessions begins **Wednesday, August 17th** with Filipino-American Friendship Ministry of Christ Pastor Dr. Jake Bolotano. Tune in to our [Facebook page](#) to view our discussion.

For this episode, Jacelyn Arradaza of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Affairs Division has a conversation with Jake Bolotano, pastor of the Filipino-American Friendship Ministry of Christ, about his journey to America from the Philippines, as well as his experience as an AAPI immigrant in South Carolina.

CMA Sessions are a series of educational conversations, webinars, and workshops to present information, resources, and development opportunities. Presenters at the CMA

Sessions include community activists, educators, social workers, and experts on different areas of interest for minority communities in South Carolina.

CMA in the Community



The Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia

This year, the FAAGC celebrated 30 years during AAPI Heritage Month! Members of the CMA team were present, including Executive Dr. Delores Dacosta, who delivered the

keynote speech. The gala featured traditional music and dancing, delectable food, and an overall display of Filipino pride.

Photographed (left to right): Cynthia Haddad (Director of Community Outreach) and Dr. Delores Dacosta (Executive Director, CMA)



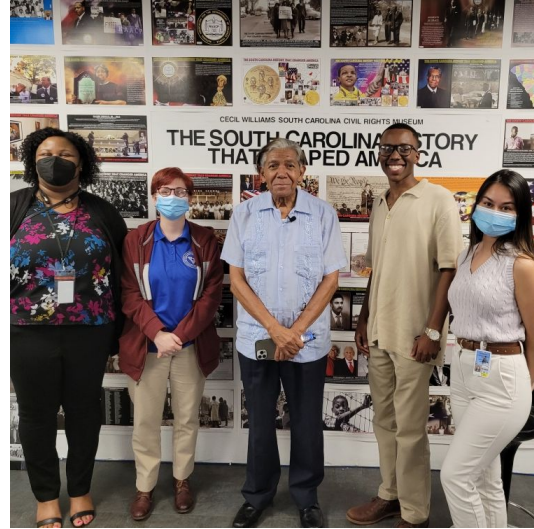
Walhalla comes to Columbia

Councilwoman Sarai Melendez visited the Hispanic/Latino Affairs team to discuss ways of expanding outreach and how we can continue to support each other's efforts.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Sarai on several projects before, but meeting her in person meant so much to me. Seeing a young Latina woman be successful and wear her heritage with pride was inspirational. At CMA, we strive to build meaningful connections with all of our community leaders because it's they who truly do the work in our communities each day."

- Andrea Flores, CMA

Photograph (left to right): Andrea Flores (CMA, Public Information Coordinator), Sarai Melendez (Councilwoman, City of Walhalla), and Ivan Segura (CMA, Director of Multicultural Affairs)



Meeting American Photographer, Cecil Williams

Daniel, Shireese, Patricia and Jacelyn visited the Cecil Williams South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg, SC on Monday, August 1 to interview Civil Rights photographer Cecil J. Williams for an episode of The Culture Connect. Williams, an author, and inventor opened the museum to commemorate the Civil Rights Movement and highlight South Carolinians who played a significant role in the movement. The museum features hundreds of photographs Williams captured in South Carolina.

"The CWSCCRM is a tranquil place rich in the history of struggle and transformation; a place to reflect on the civil rights movement, to honor those injured and killed during the struggle; to appreciate how far our state and country has come in its quest for equality, and to consider how far it has to go."

- Cecil Williams

Photograph 1 (left to right): Daniel James II (CMA, Intern) and Mr. Cecil Williams

Photograph 2 (left to right): Shireese M. Bell (CMA, Director of Public Information), Patricia Gaillard (CMA, Native American Affairs Program Coordinator), Williams, James and Jacelyn Arradaza (CMA, Intern)



Apprenticeship Carolina 2022 Job Fair

The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs team participated in Apprenticeship Carolina's Apprenticeship Job Fair on Thursday, July 14 at the SC State Museum. Employers in attendance were recruiting for open opportunities in registered apprenticeships across all industries. Registered apprenticeship programs ensure that South Carolina's workforce has the skills needed to match today's in-demand jobs and jobs of the future. Apprenticeships also provide a promising career pathway for participating apprentices who gain experience and the skills needed for the well-paying jobs that grow the state's economy.

“As an MOU partner, we’re happy to support Apprenticeship Carolina’s first Apprenticeship Job Fair and their efforts to connect ethnic minority communities to opportunities where they can gain valuable work experience and thrive in their chosen career.”

- Shireese Bell, CMA

Photograph 1 (left to right): Dr. Robert P. Fenton (CMA, Director of Research), Shireese M. Bell (CMA, Director of Public Information) and Margaret Tillman (CMA, Procurement Administrator)

Photograph 2 (left to right): Bell, Daniel James II and Tillman



Aiken Center for Arts

Ivan Segura, Director of Multicultural Affairs, recently met with Latina painter Kanae Goji, professional dancer Hector Perez, and Carolina Gwinn, Executive Director of the Aiken Center for the Arts, to plan activities to promote Latino arts and culture in the Aiken area. This collaborative effort will encourage more minority artists to participate at the Aiken Center for the Arts and keep all minority communities in the area informed about art exhibits and classes.

Upcoming Events (Come Say Hi!)

- August 23-24: [Children's Trust Building Hope for Children Conference 2022](#)
- September 1: [2022 BMW Supplier Diversity Conference](#)
- October 12-14: [SCACED's Opportunity SC Annual Community Economic Development Conference](#)

Our Board of Commissioners

GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE

Chief Bill Harris

FOURTH DISTRICT

Vacant

CMA BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Juwan Ayers, Sixth District

FIFTH DISTRICT

Vacant

FIRST DISTRICT

Mr. Calvin Whitfield

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Rev. Michelle Law-Gordon

SECOND DISTRICT

Vacant

AT-LARGE

Ms. Tammie Hall-Wilson

THIRD DISTRICT

Vacant

AT-LARGE

Vacant

Upcoming Meetings

Don't miss out on these important dates!

Our Board of Commissioners and Advisory Committee meetings are hosted each quarter and can be live-streamed via CMA's official [Youtube page](#). The schedule is as follows:

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting / **TBD**
- African American Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting / **Wednesday, October 19, 2022 / VIRTUAL**
- Hispanic/Latino Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting / **TBD**
- Small & Minority Business Advisory Committee Meeting / **Wednesday, October 26, 2022 / VIRTUAL**

- Native American Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting / **Wednesday, October 5, 2022**
- Board of Commissioners Committee Meeting / **Thursday, October 6, 2022**

**Dates are subject to change

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the meeting(s) will be streamed online via the agency's YouTube page. Those who wish to participate in the public input portion of the meeting should email comments to info@cma.sc.gov. **Comments must be received no later than noon on the day prior to the scheduled meeting.** The following information must be included when submitting a public comment:

- Your Full Name
- Phone Number
- Date of Meeting
- Meeting Name
- Agenda Item
- Comment (500 words or less)

For more information, contact the SC Commission for Minority Affairs at (803) 333-9621 or info@cma.sc.gov.

Other Helpful Links

[Native American Studies Center- Sept. & Oct. Lunch and Learns](#)

[Contracting with the Federal Government by the Hispanic Business Association](#)

[SCCB Prevention of Blindness](#)

[SC Humanities "Resilience & Revolution" traveling exhibit](#)

[Ben & Jerry's Grassroots Organizing Grants](#)

[Jim Thorpe's Olympic record reinstated](#)

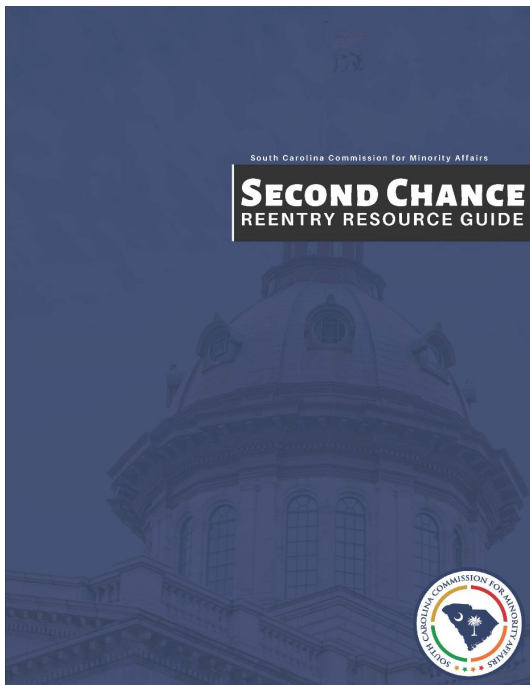
[New Hispanic Business Consultant at South Carolina Small Business Development Centers](#)

[SCORE SC Lowcountry Minority Small Business Program 2022](#)

[Columbia Animal Shelter Providing Free Adoptions](#)

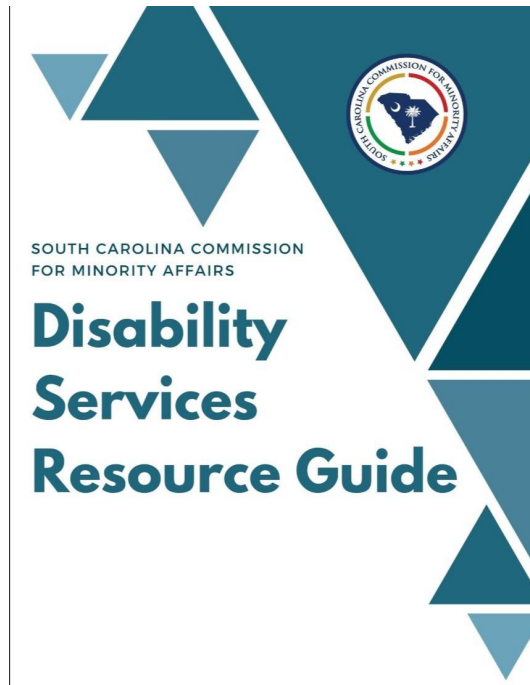
[USC Lancaster's Brent Burgin Fund](#)

[United Community Bank and CommunityWorks to Support Affordable Housing Developments](#)



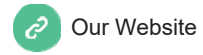
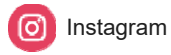
The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs released its initial [Second Chance Reentry Resource Guide](#), which is comprised of local, state, and national resources. The guide is designed to assist the formerly incarcerated as they transition back to their communities.

For more information about the resource guide, contact Cynthia Haddad at 803-333-9621 or chaddad@cma.sc.gov.



The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs released a [Disability Services Resource Guide](#) designed to connect minorities with disabilities to the services they need in order to achieve their employment and independent living goals.

For more information about the guide, contact Jerry Francis, Native American Affairs Program Manager, at (803) 832-8162 or jfrancis@cma.sc.gov.



Our mailing address is:

293 Greystone Blvd., Suite 3

Columbia, SC 29210

(803) 333-9621 | cma.sc.gov

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).