



**Disability Advocacy Day 2025
Speaking Roster & Agenda
March 5, 2025 | SC State House (North Grounds Steps)**

Opening & Proclamations (9:40 AM - 10:00 AM)

- **William Farrior, MC** – Master of Ceremonies & Welcome
- **Valarie Bishop** – Reading the Governor’s Proclamation
- **Padgett Mozingo** – Reading the Senate Resolution

Keynote & State Leadership (10:00 AM - 10:30 AM)

- **The Honorable Pamela Evette** – Lt. Governor’s Address
- **The Honorable Tom Davis** – Keynote Speaker
- **William Farrior, MC** – Presentation of SCPDO Advocate of the Year Award
- **The Honorable Curtis Loftis** – Palmetto Able Savings Program
- **Margaret Alewine** – SCDHHS Services and Supports
- **Michelle Woodhead** – SCDDSN Services and Supports

Self-Advocacy & Disability Services (10:30 AM - 11:00 AM)

- **McKenna Woodhead** – Self-Advocate; Clemson Adaptive Sports
- **Anna Maria Conner** – Disability Rights SC; EPSDT Services
- **Jennifer Bazer** – President, The Palmetto Council of the Blind; Self-Advocate
- **Ruth Bollinger** – CarolinaLIFE Program; Self-Advocate
- **Dr. Joseph Ryan** – Executive Director, ClemsonLIFE Program
- **Laura Kane** – Neurodiversity Inclusivity at the SC State Museum

Advocacy & Workplace Inclusion (11:00 AM - 11:30 AM)

- **Ashley Abbott & Employee** – Inclusivity in the Workplace
- **WC Hoecke & Karl Hoecke** – Advocacy March Leaders
- **William Farrior, MC** – Presentation of SCPDO Self-Advocate of the Year Award

Family Advocacy & Autism Support (11:30 AM - 12:00 PM)

- **Zoe Wingard** – Self-Advocate (Personal Journey)
- **Doug Vogel** – Parent Advocate & Special Care Planner (Personal Story)
- **Tosha Rollins** – Autism Services & Mental Health Advocacy
- **Rachel Nash** – Patient Advocacy in the SC Healthcare System
- **Michelle Singleton & Stokes Family** – Direct Care Workforce Crisis & Family Story

Education, Barriers & Open Mic (12:00 PM - 12:30 PM)

- **Cait Fenchel & Client/Family** – Pattison’s Academy; Respite & Funding Services
- **Anastasia Ford** – Akoma Cares; Parent Advocate; Education Advocacy
- **Michael Leaphart** – Overcoming Barriers

Open Mic – Attendees are invited to share their stories & advocacy experiences

Closing Remarks



Meet Our Speakers

- **William Farrior** – Program Assistant, Partners in Policymaking, SC Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Valarie Bishop** – Executive Director, SC Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Padgett Mozingo** – President, Limitless Purpose; Parent-Advocate
- **The Honorable Pamela Evette** – Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina
- **The Honorable Tom Davis** – State Senator, SC’s 46th District (Beaufort & Jasper Counties)
- **The Honorable Curtis Loftis** – South Carolina State Treasurer
- **Margaret Alewine** – Chief of Policy, SC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Michelle Woodhead** – Vice Chair, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) Commission
- **McKenna Woodhead** – Self-Advocate
- **Anna Maria Conner** – Senior Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina
- **Jennifer Bazer** – President, The Palmetto Council of the Blind
- **Ruth Bollinger** – Lead Coach, CarolinaLIFE Program
- **Dr. Joseph Ryan** – Executive Director, ClemsonLIFE Program
- **Laura Kane** – Manager of Education & Interpretive Planning, SC State Museum
- **Ashley Abbott & Employee** – Business Owner, (Columbia, SC)
- **WC Hoecke & Karl Hoecke** – Harmony Christian Community, Advocacy March Leaders
- **Zoe Wingard** – SCPDO Self-Advocate of the Year
- **Doug Vogel** – Parent Advocate & Special Care Planner, MassMutual
- **Tosha Rollins** – Advocate, Licensed Professional Counselor, Autism Spectrum Specialist
- **Rachel Nash** – Founder, Nash Patient Advocacy & Counseling
- **Michelle Singleton & Stokes Family** – Midlands Area Regional Marketing Specialist, Elite Home Care
- **Cait Fenchel** – Communications & Engagement Manager, Pattison’s Academy
- **Anastasia Ford** – Disability Advocacy Coordinator, Akoma Cares & Parent-Advocate
- **Michael Leaphart** – Self-Advocate

Additional Notes:

- **The Advocacy March** will take place around the SC State House grounds. Participants are encouraged to bring signs and banners to show support for disability rights & inclusion.
- **The Open Mic Session** welcomes all attendees to share personal experiences, barriers faced, or victories in disability advocacy.