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**Subject:** TransformSC December News | 2019 Conference Details

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# TransformSC News

*Announcements and updates from the TransformSC initiative*

Dear TransformSC network partners and friends,

I hope you have had a great first semester of school. We had an informative, fun visit and tour of GE. Several of the educator comments from that event included:

- I enjoyed seeing the real-world application of innovative ideas--the end goal that we are preparing students for.
- Almost everything we were exposed to will be beneficial in guiding students as they choose their career paths.
- We heard about the importance of resiliency! This is something that we as educators know, but it will have more weight when I can tell students that I heard it from an engineer at General Electric.
- I like the statement, "We fail quick and keep on going." I'm going to present this to my 6th-grade students as a work skill.

We will be having another business visit this spring so please make your plans to join us!

We also had a great bus tour in the Pee Dee. Our schools, the Early Childhood Center at Woods Road, Bates Middle School, and the Sumter County Career and Technology Center, did an amazing job hosting over 40 diverse individuals. One policymaker remarked, "The interaction with students is always my favorite part—their perspectives are always refreshing and relevant." What a wonderful opportunity for them to see your work "up close and personal!"

Principals, we have a Transformational Leaders Visit January 23 at Sandhills Middle School. Please plan to attend to discuss and find solutions to a shared concern. Stay

tuned for more information and preparatory readings about the issue.

Our spring conference is all about personalization through project-based learning. Block out March 11, 2019, on your calendars and hear from Tom Vander Ark, CEO of Getting Smart, Suzie Boss, New Tech staff, and teams from three of our own network schools: Monarch Elementary, Bates Middle School, and Carolina High School. Business leaders will also be on hand at lunch for a panel discussion.

Please let us hear from you about what's happening in your worlds and we hope to see ALL of you at upcoming events!

Sincerely,  
Peggy

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## **TransformSC Takes Annual Bus Tour to the Pee Dee**

*[Click here to see our Facebook photo gallery](#)*

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TransformSC, an initiative of the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, took a group of 40 policymakers, business leaders, educators, and education advocates on a tour of schools in Florence and Sumter for a first-hand look at the innovation in education that is happening in South Carolina's Pee Dee region.

The group visited the Child Development Center at Woods Road in Florence before traveling to Sumter to tour Bates Middle School and, later, the Sumter Career and Technology Center where students from the culinary arts program served the group lunch and students in the aerospace program shared their engineering projects.

At each stop, the group had candid conversations with principals, teachers, and students, and observed students actively engaged in learning. Dr. Peggy Torrey, Director of TransformSC, said that the annual bus tour has become a valuable program that highlights how forward-thinking schools, particularly those in the TransformSC network, are changing the whole paradigm of instruction and seeing success.

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## **Early Bird Registration Ends December 31st!**

*[Take a look at our photo gallery from last year](#)*

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# News and Resources

Education News and Highlights From Our Network Schools

## **Congratulations to Dr. Lucas Clamp, 2019 National Principal of the Year**

Each year, the NASSP Principal of the Year program recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals who have made amazing contributions to their profession and to students' learning. [Read more>>](#)

## **Bates Middle School teachers win Voya Unsung Heroes grant**

Bates Middle School teachers Cindy Seckel, Jermaine White, James Crawley, Iasha Lee and Donald Amis were recently named winners of a \$2,000 grant as part of the Voya Unsung Heroes awards competition. [Read More>>](#)

## **Design Thinking, City as Classroom, Museum as Homebase**

Imagine going to school in a museum, studying real artifacts, engaging in project-based learning and designing solutions to new problems. [Read more>>](#)

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TransformSC, an education initiative of the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, is a collaboration of business leaders, educators, students, parents and policy makers transforming the public education system so that every student graduates prepared for careers, college and citizenship. Currently, there are 66 schools from 25 districts, as well as 6 districts in the TransformSC network. For more information, visit [sccompetes.org](http://sccompetes.org).

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