Don’t Miss SETC’s Upcoming Events

FALL PROFESSIONAL UNIFIED AUDITIONS
Aug. 26-27, Charlotte Sheraton, Uptown Charlotte, NC
Registration: Open now
Online registration deadline: Noon ET, Aug. 15
Hotel group rate reservation deadline: Aug. 3
See Page 2 for sampling of companies casting.
For more info and to register:
www.setc.org/fall-professional

SCREENING AUDITIONS
October-November (date varies by state)
Registration: Opens Noon ET, Sept. 14
See Page 5 for a list of event dates and registration deadlines for each state. Don’t live in one of the SETC states? You can still participate. Visit www.setc.org/setc-screenings for details and for locations where out-of-state auditionees are screened.

OUTDOOR THEATRE CONFERENCE
Oct. 16-18, The Lost Colony, Manteo, NC
Online registration: Opens Noon ET, July 16
Online registration deadline: Noon ET, Sept. 28
Hotel reservations deadline: Sept. 16
See Page 13 for story on conference.
For more info and to register:
www.outdoor-theatre.org/conference

LiNK: GRADUATE SCHOOL AUDITIONS
Nov. 9-11, Atlanta, GA
Online registration: Opens Noon ET, Aug. 1
More info: www.setc.org/link
Companies will be casting for many types of shows, including dinner theatre, cruises, holiday shows, children’s theatre, regular season shows, outdoor shows, theme parks and more. Here are a few examples of theatres that have already registered, numbers of roles available and shows being cast:

**RWS Entertainment Group (1,200+ roles)**
Booking for: Holland America Cruise Line’s shows on 11 luxury ships with itineraries worldwide; Hersheypark’s 2018 holiday and summer shows; 10+ theme parks for Halloween, holiday and summer seasons; resorts; and year-round corporate events and brand experiences

**Norwegian Cruise Line (200 roles)**
Rock of Ages; Million Dollar Quartet; After Midnight; Swing! The Musical; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; Jersey Boys

**The National Theatre for Children (120 roles)**
Youth theatre tours of original works that better communities by teaching about important societal issues. Shows include: The Energized Guyz, Safety Detectives in Hot Pursuit, Once Upon a Flame and more

**Prather Productions (42 roles)**
Elf, Saturday Night Fever, Guys and Dolls, Winter Wonderettes, Stand By Your Man, Lucky Stiff, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 2018-19 Wizard of Oz National/ International Tour (possible tour replacements)

**Derby Dinner Playhouse (12+ roles)**
Irving Berlin’s Holiday Inn; The Robber Bridegroom; Newsies; Annie Myers

**The Lost Colony (8 roles)**
Ghosts of Lost Colony

More info: www.setc.org/fall-professional
Getting a Job through SETC: Laura Martin

Recent college graduate Laura Martin got financial help from her school, the University of Alabama at Huntsville, to attend SETC’s Theatre Job Fair at the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile – and the trip paid off big-time with her first professional job.

Where are you currently working?
I am working at Stagedoor Manor performing arts training center in Loch Sheldrake, NY, as an assistant stage manager and camp counselor. They have three 3-week sessions over the course of the summer, with different shows presented at each. For this session, I am the ASM for both Jekyll and Hyde and Mary Poppins.

How did you get the job?
I attended the 2018 SETC Convention in Mobile with a group from my college. The morning that the Theatre Job Fair interview room opened for pre-registered students, I was in the line, waiting to get started. Over the next three days, I interviewed with 22 companies, some more than once, and on the final day I made rounds to deliver thank-you cards and revisit favorite locations. I received several job offers (nine, I believe), but the best option was definitely Stagedoor Manor.

How long have you been involved with SETC?
This year was my second SETC and was definitely the most productive. I feel like I was able to come into the SETC Convention prepared for the Theatre Job Fair room and ready to put in the work to make connections with people in the professional world.

What type of shows do you like to do best?
I look for works that challenge both myself and the audience, works that speak to every generation and that provide perspective on new and relevant issues. I like working on musicals that challenge me as a stage manager and plays that challenge me as an actor.

What’s next for you?
I will be applying to companies across the U.S. and preparing for the next SETC. I plan to use every resource available to me to continue advancing myself in this career.

More info: www.setc.org/theatre-jobs
Apply Now for Grants for Professional Staffing and 2019 SETC Convention

SETC offers two grants for non-academic professional theatre companies:

- **Staffing Development Matching Grants**
  These grants provide SETC member professional theatres with money to assist with the hiring of staff to support existing programs or develop new ones.

- **Convention Grants**
  These grants provide non-member organizations with monetary support to attend the 2019 SETC Convention in Knoxville, TN.

Apply through Aug. 3, 2018, at [www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants](http://www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants)

COMMENTS FROM 2017-18 INAUGURAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

**CONVENTION GRANTS**

- Childsplay, Tempe, AZ
  “This is an experience that is bigger than just networking for Childsplay. We are looking to build long-term relationships with talented young professionals.”

- Jefferson (LA) Performing Arts Society
  “We are truly grateful for the many opportunities attending SETC will provide both our organization and our staff.”

- Virginia Stage Company, Norfolk, VA
  “We are very excited!” VSC sought the grant to hire workers and build stronger connections to other theatres through convention attendance.

**STAFFING GRANTS**

- Williamstown (MA) Theatre Festival
  “We are so appreciative … and are so grateful for your support!” The festival sought the grant to help fund an assistant for a program that brings together local residents and professional artists.

- The Stephen Foster Story, Bardstown, KY
  “We appreciate the support for our Intern Professional Training Program.”

- Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK
  “Thank you so much.” Lyric sought the grant to assist with hiring of technical interns to help allay a TD shortage.

- The Lost Colony, Manteo, NC
  “We have had an education coordinator position on our wish list for many years! The funding offered by SETC gave us the opportunity to finally hire someone! The timing could not have been more perfect as we are preparing to launch Mystery of the Lost Colony, a touring educational performance, this fall, and the educator coordinator will be helping us work towards this goal. Your grant for $2,000 will make a difference.”

More info: [www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants](http://www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants)
As a former performer and current producer and stage director, I understand the thrill of creating a memorable moment on stage. It’s so incredible to channel your emotion into a piece and to find that you are able to impact the lives of the viewing audience, sometimes even in a profound way. It’s the love of creating those magic moments that inspired you to pursue this manic, challenging and wonderful profession.

When auditioning for a role, you must make sure that you have selected pieces to which you truly are connected. However, it may be beneficial to evaluate your material as you mature and develop other skill sets as a performer. You may find it necessary to evaluate the keys of your musical pieces or possibly add modulations. Maybe you should change the tone, canter or setting for your monologue. It could possibly be more inspiring and productive to completely overhaul your portfolio to make sure your performances stay connected and fresh.

Whatever it takes, it’s imperative to keep the passion in your performance. On stage, it can be difficult at times to deliver the same role over and over and, if you aren’t fully engaged, a role can become mundane or stale, which translates to disconnected. Passion is the fuel that drives your performance. If only a little is applied, you can manage to get from Point A to Point B. But if you are fully charged, you can soar to places you’ve never been before and take others along on the journey with you.

Never forget the reason and inspiration that brought you here. That same passion will also get you there and to places beyond.
Get Involved in Your State Festival and Plan to Join Us in Knoxville

I’m sure I speak for all when I say we are excited to be returning to Knoxville for SETC 2019! What? You’ve never been to an SETC Convention and festival there? Well, you are in great company, because neither have I.

This is SETC’s first time in Knoxville, an exciting city with a metropolitan population of over 1 million people that is home to the flagship campus of the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Valley Authority. It’s also a repository of Appalachian culture, offering lots of opportunity for work and play.

A Fabulous Festival Setting
Our home for the Community Theatre Festival will be Austin-East Magnet School, which has an emphasis on the arts, including dance, debate, theatre arts and audio production. Details regarding stage and tech information will be released soon, but the space will serve our needs well and we are excited to work with the school’s educators and staff.

It’s an AACTFest Year!
Speaking of festivals, 2019 is a national AACTFest year, which means that two shows will advance from SETC to the national American Association for Community Theatre festival in Gettysburg, PA, in June. SETC is the only AACT region guaranteed two spots at nationals.

I encourage you and your local theatre to participate at the state level for an opportunity to advance to SETC. The educational experience of participating and watching quality performances will change your theatre, and you, for the better – and who knows? You might end up advancing from SETC to the national festival.

Last year, I assisted our SETC festival chair Lyle Tate in Mobile and, boy, did I learn a lot! Although I have participated in dozens of festivals, I had never worked on that side of the operations. You can be assured, with Lyle in charge, that everyone will be treated fairly. Lyle and the staff will work tirelessly to keep you calm and help you do your best while “touring” your show to the festival. I hope to see you at SETC 2019 in Knoxville!
Theatre for Youth: Meet the Respondents for the 2019 Festival

The Theatre for Youth Division is now accepting applications for our annual Theatre for Youth Invitational Festival at the 2019 SETC Convention. Apply at www.setc.org/theatre-for-youth. We’ll have two outstanding respondents for the festival:

Sir Tim Webb
Co-founder of the Oily Cart Theatre in the United Kingdom, he has traveled the globe sharing the Oily Cart’s unique way of making theatre for youth.

Rhonda Wilson
Artistic director of Star Center Theatre in Gainesville, FL, she was honored in 2018 with SETC’s Sara Spencer Award for her work with theatre for youth.

Sir Tim Webb Is Also the Presenter for this Annual Event

This year we are lucky to have Tim Webb not only for the Theatre for Youth Festival, but also for the annual Teachers Institute on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, in Knoxville, TN. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about the theatre Webb co-founded, Oily Cart, which makes “All Sorts of Theatre for All Sorts of Kids.”

Since 1981, Oily Cart Theatre has created original, interactive, multi-sensory theatre that has captivated audiences around the globe. This is theatre for the very young, and for young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, young people on the autism spectrum, and young people who are deaf/blind.

In an interview with the Lincoln Center, Webb said, “What we tapped into was a tremendous, unsatisfied thirst for cultural activity for young people with complex needs – a group that had been integrated into the education system since the mid-1970s, but was still neglected by the arts.”
Five Reasons YOUR STUDENTS Should Come to the SETC Convention if They Aren’t Selected for the Festival

You can reward all of their hard work, effort and energy by taking them to the nation’s largest regional theatre festival. SETC offers your students so much more than just a chance to perform in the annual High School Theatre Festival.

Here are 5 great opportunities:

1. **Undergrad Auditions and Design-Tech Interviews**
   Your students can audition for entrance and scholarships at more than 137 excellent colleges, universities and training programs.

2. **Ed Expo**
   Your students can visit with representatives and recruiters from over 153 colleges and universities to find out about the programs offered at schools of all types.

3. **Workshops**
   Your students can attend numerous workshops to develop new theatre skills and reinforce their current skills. These workshops offer something for all of your students: actors, technicians, singers, and dancers.

4. **Social Events for High School Students**
   Your students can enjoy food and fun. The High School Pizza Party offers time to eat, chat and make new friends. The Saturday Night Gala is an awards dinner banquet, followed by a celebration dance.

5. **Festival Performances by Other High Schools**
   Your students can learn by watching other high school students perform. It’s a great opportunity for them to view the 10 shows selected for the festival, encourage their peers, and support high school theatre. Below are two examples of shows they would have seen at last year’s festival.

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**One Big Reason YOU Should Come to the SETC Convention if Your Students Aren’t Selected for the Festival**

The Teachers Institute! It’s a day just for you, where you have an opportunity to learn and earn CEUs. This daylong workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, offers professional development in a creative and collaborative manner.

For more info, see Page 7 or visit [www.setc.org/teachers-institute](http://www.setc.org/teachers-institute)

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2018 Best Production, SETC High School Theatre Festival: *Collected Stories*, Boone High School, FL.

2018 Runner-Up Production, SETC High School Theatre Festival: *Failure: A Love Story*, Lakeside High School, GA.

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More info: [www.setc.org/high-school-theatre](http://www.setc.org/high-school-theatre)
Why Is SETC Important to You?

I have made and cultivated some of my strongest friendships through this amazing organization, and the week in Mobile, Lexington or Chattanooga (wherever it is being held that particular year) gives me time in my harried schedule to reconnect with like-minded folks, to remember why it is that I do what I do – to share a laugh or a “war” story and to remember that I am not alone, but connected to a strong network of educators and professionals who make and shape culture through the art of theatre.

In this issue of SETC News, we are taking some time to consider why SETC is important to those in the College and University Theatre Division. As I read through the 2018 convention survey responses, it became clear that many of you value SETC for the same reasons I do, but there were other responses as well. Here is what some of you said:

For Recruiting: “The SETC Convention is a highlight of my year. I juggle working professionally with running a university program, and SETC takes care of each aspect of my professional life from networking with other professionals to connecting my students into the professional world of theatre to finding incoming students for my university program. Thanks, SETC!!!”

For Networking: “Networking with all the incredible people. Connecting the incoming generation to the current theatre people across the country.”

“I chair a scholarship committee and enjoy participating in a leadership role. I enjoy the networking with other professionals and renewing previous associations while at the conference. I enjoy the professional development workshops that are offered and have enjoyed leading several workshops in the past.”

For Presenting: “This was my second year offering the “Creative Teaching” workshop. I am incredibly grateful [for the opportunity] to offer this workshop once again. I look forward to further diversifying this workshop for next year’s SETC.”

Are There Additional Ways SETC Can Serve You?

Even as we acknowledge the ways SETC is important to us, we want to ask how we can make the convention even stronger and more relevant. I am curious to know if you would be interested in a more intentional professional development program geared toward college/university educators. Would such a program contained within the time frame of the SETC Convention encourage your institution to provide funding so you could attend? What would you like to see in a program? Masterclasses geared to faculty? Opportunities to share effective pedagogical techniques? A roundtable to discuss current “hot” topics, such as the effect of “Me too” on educational theatre? Please let me know your thoughts.
Marshall [SETC’s professional services manager] came down to train me herself, and I haven’t looked back since. From there, I went to the convention and was amazed at all of the opportunities there were for students.” She began attending every convention, bringing students with her, and went on to serve as an adjudicator and on SETC committees, as well as auditioning for roles herself. “Serving on different committees led me to sharing my voice – that voice being heard and respected – and ultimately recommended further for other responsibilities within SETC.”

Marci Duncan first learned about SETC as a professor at Florida A&M University in 2007, when she was tapped to coordinate SETC screening auditions for Florida. “April Marshall [SETC’s professional services manager] came down to train me herself, and I haven’t looked back since. From there, I went to the convention and was amazed at all of the opportunities there were for students.” She began attending every convention, bringing students with her, and went on to serve as an adjudicator and on SETC committees, as well as auditioning for roles herself. “Serving on different committees led me to sharing my voice – that voice being heard and respected – and ultimately recommended further for other responsibilities within SETC.”

Roles in SETC:
- 2007: Screening Auditions Coordinator, Florida
- 2010: Adjudicator, Community Theatre Festival
- 2015: Auditionee, Fall Professional Auditions
- 2016: Auditionee, Fall/Spring Professional Auditions; Adjudicator, Alabama Screening Auditions; Adjudicator, Mississippi Screening Auditions
- 2017: Respondent, Alabama Screening Auditions; Adjudicator, Mississippi Screening Auditions
- 2018: Chair, Auditions Committee; Member, Acting Committee; Member, Audition Task Force; Member, Executive Director Search Committee; Member, Strategic Planning Committee

What has made you keep coming back and taking on new roles in the organization?

I believe in the mission.

I am an actor. I know what SETC says it provides it actually provides. SETC has personally connected me to a theatre company that I would have never worked with because of my small realm of reach. When I can see measurables, I am all in.

I am a professor. SETC has helped me to give my students real work that is professional and serves as an opportunity for them to exercise what they have been taught. I see my students benefiting immensely.

I am a theatre person. When I am talking to other theatre people – collaborating, networking and the like – I am more connected. I am learning about myself, learning new skills and passions. SETC has given me that. SETC gives me the opportunity to do what I love.
Did You Know that SETC Publishes a Variety of Items, from Newsletters to Books to Magazines to Directories?

Southern Theatre Magazine
The premier magazine covering theatre in the Southeastern U.S. and beyond, Southern Theatre is published quarterly and sent to all individual and organizational members. Non-member subscriptions are available. Southern Theatre offers full-color advertising opportunities, as well as black-and-white ads in its annual College, University & Training Programs Directory. See the latest issue.

SETC News
Looking for the latest news about SETC events? Our in-depth newsletter is published bi-monthly online and sent to SETC’s membership via email. See the latest issue.

Theatre Symposium
This annual scholarly publication features papers presented about a particular topic at the SETC Theatre Symposium event, a conference held each spring. Learn more.

Outdoor Theatre Facilities
From the initial concept to opening night, this book covers all aspects of planning, equipping, designing and constructing outdoor performance facilities. Buy the book.

Theatre Job Board
Seeking a new job? SETC Theatre Job Board is an online listing of theatre job openings and audition notices. All SETC members have access to the job board and receive email alerts on new postings. Member organizations receive discounts on postings. View here.

Membership Directory
Need to contact a member? One of your benefits as a member is access to the SETC Membership Directory, which is published online. New this year: The Membership Directory will update in real time as members join and provide their information. Plus, you can search the directory and filter results. Log in at setc.matchingneeds.com.

Convention News
The convention newspaper is your first glance at the keynotes, masterclasses, special events and schedule of over 300 workshops that are offered at the SETC Convention. This publication is mailed to all SETC members. Read the 2018 newspaper.

Convention Program
The convention program, containing more than 60 pages of information and programming, is distributed to the 4,000+ attendees at the annual SETC Convention. Advertising is available. View the 2018 program.

More info on SETC Publications or Advertising? Email Clay at clay@setc.org.
2018-2019 SETC Calendar

FALL EVENTS

FALL BOARD/ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Aug. 24-25, 2018, Uptown Charlotte, NC
RSVP: Open Now - Aug. 10
Hotel Reservations: Open Now - Aug. 3

FALL PROFESSIONAL THEATRE AUDITIONS
Aug. 26-27, 2018, Uptown Charlotte, NC
Professional Actor/Dancer Pre-Registration:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Professional Company Registration:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Professional Qualifiers:
Open Now - Aug. 15
Hotel Reservations:
Open Now - Aug. 3

OUTDOOR THEATRE CONFERENCE
Oct. 16-18, 2018, The Lost Colony, Manteo, NC
Registration: July 16 - Sept. 28
Hotel Reservations: July 16 - Sept. 16

SETC SCREENING AUDITIONS
October-November 2018, All SETC States
Registration: Opens Sept. 14; deadlines vary by state
Applications: Available online; for information, please visit www.setc.org/setc-screenings
* Note: Individuals who are passed from the SETC Screening Auditions will have specified deadlines to register for the SETC Convention and Spring Professional Auditions. Dates are also noted on the screening information.

LINK: YOUR CONNECTION TO ADVANCED THEATRE DEGREES
Nov. 9-11, 2018, Atlanta, GA
Recruiter and Student Registration: Opens Aug. 1
Early-bird Registration Deadline: Sept. 12
Registration Deadline: Oct. 24
Hotel Reservations: Open Now - Oct. 31 (link for reservations is at www.setc.org/auditions/link)

WINTER EVENTS

EXCOM MEETING
December 2018, Date and Location TBA

OUTDOOR AND SUMMER THEATRE AUDITIONS
Weekend of Jan. 19, 2019, Greensboro, NC
Registration: Dec. 5 - 19 at noon ET (or until all slots are filled)

SPRING EVENTS

70TH ANNUAL SETC CONVENTION
Feb. 27-March 3, 2019, Knoxville, TN
Workshop Proposal Submissions with AV Requests:
Open Now - Aug. 31
Workshop Proposal Submissions without AV Requests:
Open Now - Sept. 14
Fringe Festival Applications: July 18 - Oct. 15
Theatre for Youth Festival Applications: Open Now - Sept. 15
Convention Registration: Opens Oct. 15
Early-bird Convention Registration Deadline: Dec. 14 at noon ET
Professional Auditionee Registration Deadline: Jan. 15 at noon ET
Hiring Company Registration Deadline for Professional Auditions and Theatre Job Fair:
Jan. 15 at noon ET
Final Pre-Registration Deadline for all other individuals and events: Jan. 22 at noon ET
Convention Hotel Reservations: TBA

THEATRE SYMPOSIUM
April 12-14, 2019, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
“Theatre and Citizenship”
Abstract Submission Deadline: Jan. 4
Registration Opens: Feb. 1

EXCOM MEETING
May 2019, Date and Location TBA

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

SETC is proud to provide financial support to students, professionals and producing theatre companies through theatre grants, scholarships and awards. Submission acceptance dates and deadlines vary. For more information, please visit www.setc.org/scholarships-awards.

More info: www.setc.org
Nominations Sought for SETC Leaders

Nominations are being accepted for SETC officers and the Nominations Committee for 2019-20.

Visit www.setc.org/leadership/board-of-directors to meet current leaders of the organization.

To nominate a leader, complete the form online here by Aug. 6.

ExCom Report

by Jeff Gibson

The Executive Committee met in Greensboro, NC, on May 6, 2018. Actions taken include:

• Approved 2018-2019 contract and compensation for the Executive Director.
• Added a budget line for a Membership Manager position.
• Adopted the position description for the Executive Director search as proposed by the Search Committee.
• Approved the following manuals: Playwriting, Theatre for Youth, and Voice & Speech.
• Accepted a three-year plan to bring uniformity to state screening fees.

The following actions were approved for presentation to the Board in August:

• Revision to Rule 6. Meeting Dates to provide additional flexibility in scheduling.
• Addition of the word “Nationwide” to SETC’s mission statement.

More info: outdoor-theatre.org/conference

Don’t Miss the 2018 Outdoor Theatre Conference

All are invited to join us Oct. 16-18, 2018, for “Networking at the Beach,” the annual outdoor theatre conference, hosted this year by The Lost Colony in Manteo, NC.

There will be workshops, networking events, exhibitions and opportunities to explore the area. Here are a few of the highlights:

Tuesday night: Enjoy a welcome dinner at our beachfront hotel.

Wednesday: Events include presentations on a wide range of topics, an educational pyrotechnics demonstration and a tour of The Lost Colony Theatre complex.

Thursday: We’ll explore the Art & Science of Marketing, covering topics from innovative partnerships to GPS targeting and effective advertising.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON

Special rates from $79 to $109 are available for conference participants on rooms at the Ramada Plaza Nags Head. Hotel reservation deadline is Sept. 16, 2018.

MORE INFORMATION

Look for a detailed schedule and registration information for the conference in mid-July at outdoor-theatre.org/conference.
“Student success” has garnered increased focus on many campuses, as numerous states have moved from a higher education funding formula based on enrollment to one based on outcomes. Success under this new formula is measured by retention, progression and graduation rates. However, it can be challenging to find effective ways to address the specific success of theatre students, as we are often one of the smallest programs on campus and command less attention than those yielding more positive results for the bottom line.

So, how can we impact theatre students’ success?
Vincent Tinto (Syracuse University) and his “Conditions for Student Success” offer a great framework for creating a plan targeting theatre students. Following are his six “conditions,” plus my brief interpretations and some strategies that have proven effective.

**COMMITMENT:** Ensure program-level willingness to provide long-term investment
- Include student success performance in institutional effectiveness assessments, so they are measured, reviewed and adjusted routinely.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Set the bar high and clearly communicate expectations
- First-year seminar or experience – focus on professional study readiness.
- Mid-program review – Evaluate what students have done and what they may need to do.
- Capstone experience – Focus on career readiness and transition to the profession.

**SUPPORT:** Provide resources to assist students in reaching their potential
- Assign advisors who target performance (coursework) and progress (to graduation).
- Assign mentors who coach students on experiences and tools for the profession.

**FEEDBACK:** Provide early and continuing feedback, a foundational condition of learning
- Encourage (or require) early course assignments that provide formative feedback.
- Develop early warning systems for reporting course attendance and performance problems, and assign someone (advisor) to follow up with students.

**INVOLVEMENT:** Transform students into engaged citizens of the institution/program
- Provide multiple opportunities for program participation and social engagement:
  - Course showcases.
  - Student-produced series of plays.
  - Outings to connect students to peers and faculty.

**LEARNING:** Help students learn through active involvement in relevant situations
- Include out-of-classroom experiences to support in-class learning.
- Provide guest artists, master classes and study abroad opportunities.
- Support participation in professional conferences such as SETC.

More info: https://tinyurl.com/ych3y5ve
Expanding Year-Round Services
Professional Theatres Benefit from New Initiatives

One of SETC’s 2010 Strategic Plan goals was to “expand our year-round services” to the theatre community. This broad and encompassing concept has allowed us to be flexible in our expansion. We have been paying attention to where we can be the most useful and effective. As needs have arisen, SETC has been poised to meet them and deliberate in our actions.

One of the areas where we have seen need is in the professional theatre area. In the past, professional and producing theatres have utilized SETC to find their onstage and offstage talent. But companies have other support needs. Funding, supporting talent and networking are three that we have addressed. From grants and Ready to Work Awards to mini-conferences and forums, the opportunities offered to our professional sector have grown.

- **GRANTS:** In 2017-18, we initiated Staffing Grants, awards of $2,000 each to three companies to offset some of the expense of hiring new staff. A Convention Grants program also was developed to introduce companies to the wide range of services they can find through SETC at the annual convention. Check out Page 4 of this newsletter for quotes from some of last year’s recipients, and visit www.setc.org/theatre-company-grants on our website for more info about these programs.

- **READY TO WORK SERIES:** These partnerships with professional and commercial companies match talent with work in a particular theatrical discipline. The latest, launched this year, is the Ready to Direct Award. It joins the Ready to Design Award, which provides talented grad school designers with opportunities to design productions for professional theatres’ seasons, and the Ready to Publish Award, which gives playwrights an opportunity to see their plays in print within a year. Read more at www.setc.org/awards.

- **INTIMATE CONFERENCES:** With the acquisition of the Institute of Outdoor Theatre (IOT), we have been able to continue the tradition of offering a small conference in which company managers and CEOs can explore topics, theories and trends important to running their businesses. All are welcome to join us for this year’s conference at The Lost Colony in Manteo, NC, Oct. 16-18. Visit Page 13 of this newsletter or www.setc.org/about/iot for more info.
SETC Central Office Staff Changes

Please join us in sending warm farewell wishes to **Claire Wisniewski**, longtime SETC educational services manager, who will be leaving SETC at the end of July to pursue a master’s degree at the University of Alabama. During her eight years with SETC, the number of schools recruiting through SETC has increased by more than 50 percent, the number of commercial exhibitors has grown by 30 percent and the number of students participating in Undergraduate Auditions & Interviews has increased by 25 percent. Claire also has been instrumental in a number of initiatives, including the development of LiNK graduate recruiting, a joint program with USITT.

“Many thanks to the SETC membership and my colleagues in the Central Office for a fantastic eight years,” she said. “My experience has been immensely rewarding as I have played some small role in the education and careers of so many individuals.”

Look for information in the next newsletter on **Cadie Burks**, Claire’s replacement. Starting July 25, 2018, she can be reached at cadie@setc.org.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**Paul B. Crook**, formerly a professor of theatre and director of recruiting for Louisiana Tech’s theatre department, is an associate professor and the new executive director of the Etheredge Center at the University of South Carolina Aiken. He replaces past **SETC President Jack Benjamin**, who retired from USC Aiken in June 2018. **Mary Fran Crook**, a member of SETC’s Nominations Committee and formerly an associate professor of theatre at Grambling State University, will be an adjunct professor at USC Aiken and a freelance stage manager and choreographer.

**Rick St. Peter**, chair of SETC’s Directing Committee and formerly an assistant professor of theatre at Clemson University, has accepted a teaching position at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA.

**Lynn Nelson**, a former chair of SETC’s Community Theatre Division, was honored with the American Association of Community Theatre’s 2018 David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award.