

April D. Garner, M.Ed., CDF

Founder, *The Network*, a Social Media Black Business Community on Facebook

Prior to beginning her career in higher education, April Garner worked for sixteen years in marketing and advertising along the Grand Strand. During her marketing and advertising career, she worked as an Advertising Executive for The Sun News, Myrtle Beach's only daily newspaper; a corporate media buyer for the third largest home goods chain in America, and a senior media buyer for one of the largest advertising agencies in the Myrtle Beach area; marketing director for a direct mail firm and two real estate companies in the area, and has worked independently to help market several businesses and agencies in our region. Her latest endeavor is the creation of a highly successful and engaging Facebook community known as *The Network* which she founded about a year ago. The Network has over 2,000 members who are black business owners or professionals and is supported by members of the African-American communities who wish to build business, education, and political connections by "buying or supporting black" in our communities.

Ms. April D. Garner currently works as the Director of Career Resources for Horry Georgetown Technical College in Conway, SC. She is responsible for developing career and professional development activities for the college's students and alumni, establishing business and collegiate partnerships throughout the community and the state, and for identifying employment opportunities for students and graduates. Most recently, Ms. Garner co-authored the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which received a rare "zero recommendation" approval from the Southern Association of College and Schools and the Commission of College, the accrediting body for colleges and universities all over country. Ms. Garner's has worked for the college for nine years.

Garner completed her undergraduate studies at the University of South Carolina and obtained her Master of Education degree with an emphasis on Higher Education Administration from Columbia College. She was honored by Columbia College as the Division of Education 2014 Graduate of the Year for leadership and academic excellence at the close of her studies.

Ms. Garner completed her Master's degree studies with a 4.0 cumulative GPA and co-authored a research paper on college alumni perceptions of academic and workforce readiness. Her professional endeavors also include:

- Served as President of the South Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers
- Chairperson for the South Carolina Technical College System Career Services Peer Group

Most recently, Garner was recognized by the South Carolina Technical Education Association as the Staff Member of the Year for their annual Educator awards.

April is also very active with several community service projects throughout Horry and Georgetown Counties and has been featured in local and national media for her expertise in career and professional development. She has been the co-host of the Whittemore Community Magazine's Hour of Power Live Talk Radio Show for 3 years.