



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CAAL
5/2/2013
Agenda Item 7

May 2, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
From: Renea Eshleman, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Awards for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2013-14 (New and Continuing)

Background

The purpose of the Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) grant program is to enable eligible institutions, or consortia of such institutions, to serve as resource centers for South Carolina in a specific area related to the improvement of teacher education. Teacher education encompasses both in-service and pre-service training. These resource centers develop and model state-of-the-art teaching practices, conduct research, disseminate information, and provide training for K-12 and higher education personnel in the center's specific area of expertise.

In FY 2012-13, the S.C. General Assembly approved the Commission's request for an appropriation of \$536,853. With two Centers in the third and fourth years of funding and a commitment to fund The Citadel from the FY 2012-13 review (**Attachment 3**), additional funding is available for only one new Center for FY 2013-14. Funding for the new Center will be contingent upon availability of funds from the General Assembly.

Two Centers, one at Claflin University and the other at Newberry College, have been previously approved for funding from the Commission. Each of these Centers is eligible to receive a fourth year of funding for FY 2013-14. A center at The Citadel was recommended for its first year of funding in FY 2012-13; funds were not available then but are available to fund the first year at the center at The Citadel for FY 2013-14.

In September 2012 Requests for Proposals for Centers of Excellence for the FY 2013-14 project year were issued to all eligible public and private four-year institutions with teacher education programs. At the direction of the Education Oversight Committee, proposals were requested that focus on teacher effectiveness. Two proposals were received for consideration:

- Anderson University
Center of Excellence for Mobile Learning
- Lander University
Center of Excellence in Infusing Arts Across Academic Areas (IA5)

The Review Panel (**Attachment 1**) included one representative from the Middle Level Teacher Education Initiative, one representative from the Education Oversight Committee, four representatives from current Centers of Excellence, and one staff member from the Commission on Higher Education.

The Review Panel met on March 15, 2013, for presentations by the representatives from both institutions and to discuss the merits of each proposed center. The panel members deliberated the merits of each proposal and selected the proposed center from Anderson University. The staff will coordinate with the director of the Center to revise the budget based on funding and develop a detailed evaluation plan to assess student and teacher outcomes.

The purpose for the Center of Excellence for Mobile Learning from Anderson University is to serve as a statewide and regional leader in examining and preparing educators to integrate mobile learning and technologies into teaching and learning experiences in K-12 and high education. Anderson University will work with teachers at George Washington Carver Middle School (Spartanburg District 7) to provide professional development activities that focus on the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) framework, reform-based teaching strategies, college readiness strategies, and formative assessment practices. The expected outcomes at Carver Middle School are for teachers to design and deliver effective, learner-centered lessons and activities that fully integrate mobile technologies.

The proposal states that mobile learning is not clearly defined in the literature, but can generally be described as “ubiquitous access to data, tools, and people. Integrating mobile technologies into teaching and learning has become a common phenomenon in K-12 and higher education.” Professional development for teachers will involve designing lessons and activities that fully integrate mobile technologies (i.e., computers and tablets). Specifically, teachers will be asked to integrate tools and resources that will be supported by the mobile devices. They will also be encouraged to design learner-centered activities that require the college readiness skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

Recommendations

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing accept the Review Panel's recommendation and approve a new Center of Excellence (Teacher Education) award to Anderson University to establish the Center of Excellence in Mobile Learning in the amount of \$140,000. The award is contingent upon allocation of funding from the General Assembly.

The staff further recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing accept approve the continued funding for the existing centers at Newberry College and Claflin University and new funding for The Citadel pending submission of formal budget requests for FY 2013-14 and final reports for FY 2012-13.

Attachment 1: Review Panel Members
Attachment 2: Continuing Centers of Excellence

**Centers of Excellence
FY 2013-14
Review Panel
March 15, 2013
10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

<p>Dr. John K. Luedeman</p> <p>Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences and Teacher Education Clemson University 110 Shorecrest Drive Seneca, SC 29672 864 882-6735 (H) 864 650-4599 (C) luedem_j@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Dr. Cindy Johnson</p> <p>Assistant Dean for Transformative Initiatives Director, RETAIN Center of Excellence Newberry College 2100 College Street Newberry, SC 29108 803.321.5206 FAX: 888.263.6678 CELL: 803.984.5986 cindy.johnson@newberry.edu</p>	<p>Melanie Barton</p> <p>Executive Director Education Oversight Committee PO Box 11867 Room 227 Blatt Bldg. Columbia, SC 29211 803-734-6148 mbarton@eoc.sc.gov</p>
<p>Dr. Fred Splittgerber</p> <p>Grant Coordinator Middle Level Teacher Education Initiative 124 Buckhead Drive Irmo, SC 29063 H: 803-234-6649 C: 803-447-7749 fredusc@sc.rr.com</p>	<p>Dr. Gary Senn</p> <p>Director Ruth Patrick Science Education Center University of South Carolina Aiken 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801 803-641-3558 Fax: 803-641-3615 garys@usca.edu</p>	<p>Glenda LaRue</p> <p>Director The STEM Center of Excellence 171 Moultrie Street Charleston, SC 29409 843-953-7121 glarue@citadel.edu</p>
<p>Trena Houp</p> <p>Program Manager SC Commission on Higher Education 1122 Lady Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SC 29201 803-737-4853 thoup@che.sc.gov</p>		<p><u>Staff Support:</u></p> <p>Dr. Paula Gregg Program Manager Academic Affairs and Licensing Commission on Higher Education 1333 Main Street, Suite 200 Columbia, SC 803-737-2246 pgregg@che.sc.gov</p>

Attachment 2

Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)
New and Continuing Projects
FY 2013-14

Center	Institution	Project Director	FY 2010-11 Award	Award Year
Center of Excellence to Retain and Empower Teachers through Action, Innovation, and Networking	Newberry	Lisa Waller	\$106,250.00	Year 4 of 5
Center of Excellence in English Language Learners Professional Development	Clafin University	Nan Li	\$106,250.00	Year 3 of 5
STEM Center of Excellence	The Citadel	Glenda LaRue	\$ 140,000.00	Year 1 of 5
Center of Excellence for Mobile Learning	Anderson University	Ben Deaton	\$140,000.00	Year 1 of 5