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5/7/15
Agenda Item 6.02.G

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Interim Executive Director

May 7, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman John L. Finan and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education Members

From: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Awards for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2015-16 (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 2014-15, the S.C. General Assembly approved the Commission's request for an appropriation of \$537,536 for Centers currently receiving funding and additional \$250,000 to support a Center for College and Career Readiness located at Francis Marion University. Currently, there is a proviso that requires \$350,000 to be sent directly to Francis Marion University to support the Center of Excellence for Preparing Teachers of Children of Poverty. There are four Centers in the second through sixth years of funding (**Attachment 1**) for a total of \$437,500. The total funding request for the EIA Centers of Excellence, which includes funds for administration and evaluation of the program, is \$1,137,526.00. Funding for all continuing Centers will be contingent upon availability of funds from the General Assembly.

Four Centers have been previously approved for funding from the Commission: Newberry College, Claflin University, The Citadel, and Anderson University. Each of these Centers is eligible to receive an additional year of funding for FY 2015-16.

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approved the continued funding for the existing centers at Newberry College, Anderson University, The Citadel, Claflin University, and Francis Marion University pending submission of formal budget requests and continuation request for funding for FY 2015-16 and final reports for FY 2014-15 at its meeting on April 8, 2015.

This report is being submitted to the Commission for information only.

Attachment 1

**Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)
Continuing Projects
 FY 2015-16**

Center	Institution	Project Director	FY 2014-15 Proposed Award	Award Year
Center of Excellence to Retain and Empower Teachers through Action, Innovation, and Networking	Newberry	Lisa Waller	\$ 100,000.00	Year 6
Center of Excellence in English Language Learners Professional Development	Claflin University	Nan Li	\$ 112,500.00	Year 5
Center of Excellence for STEM Ambassadors	The Citadel	Kathy Richardson Jones	\$ 112,500.00	Year 3
Center of Excellence for Mobile Learning	Anderson University	Ben Deaton	\$ 112,500.00	Year 3
Center of Excellence in College and Career Readiness (Proviso)	Francis Marion University	Matt Nelson	\$ 250,000.00	Year 2
Center of Excellence in Teacher Children of Poverty (Proviso)	Francis Marion University	Tammy Pawloski	\$ 350,000.00	NA