

# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CHE  
5/26/11  
Agenda Item 8.02.E

May 26, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mr. Ken Wingate, Chair, and Members, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

**From:** <sup>BRH/ML</sup> Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Informational Report on Awards for**  
**Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-12**  
**And**  
**Awards for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)**  
**Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-12**  
**New and Continuing**

## **Background**

Since 2004, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing has had the authority to make awards on behalf of the Commission for two competitive grant programs related to teacher education: the federally funded Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) program and the Education Improvement Act (EIA)-funded Center of Excellence (Teacher Education) program. This authority was granted in order to streamline the grant award-making process and enable earlier advertising for summer start-up programs. In keeping with the procedure from previous years, the staff is granted authority to negotiate the final program activities and budgets with the project directors (as per the recommendations of external review panels for both programs). Funding is contingent upon the project directors' revision of the proposed project and project budget in accordance with the review panel's recommended changes.

## ***Improving Teacher Quality***

The Improving Teacher Quality program is a competitive grants program with the primary focus on professional development. Grants are available to eligible partnerships that are comprised of, at a minimum: (1) a private or public institution of higher education and the division of the institution that prepares teachers and principals; (2) a school of arts and sciences; and (3) a high-need local education agency. Nine core academic areas (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography) can be addressed in proposals. Professional development can focus on in-service and pre-service teachers as well as on principals and paraprofessionals (in the core academic areas that the teachers teach). The emphasis of the

proposed projects must be on low-performing districts and schools, and the Commission is charged with ensuring an equitable geographic distribution of grants.

The Commission is expected to receive approximately \$982,492 with which to make Federal FY 2011-12 awards. This year, given the amount of funding available, proposed new projects were able to request up to \$90,000 in funds per year. The Commission sought proposals that will have maximum impact and encouraged multi-year programs to assure positive results for the target audience. The number of grants awarded was determined primarily by the quality of the proposals submitted and the amount of the negotiated final budgets in comparison to the total funds available. Equitable geographic distribution of districts served was also considered in making awards, assuming proposals were deemed to be of high quality. No proposal was considered unless it met the minimum federal definition of a partnership (as stated in the *ITQ Guidelines* and in the *Federal Title II Non-Regulatory Guidance*).

An external review panel consisting of K-12 and higher education representatives met on January 21, 2011, to review and rate the three proposals submitted for consideration. One fundable project was identified by the FY 2011-12 review panel because of its excellence and geographic representation. The funding amount requested for the new award for FY 2011-12 is \$89,972.00, contingent upon availability of funds from the federal government.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Districts Served</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Proposed # of Teachers</b>
<i>PRIME TIME on Achievement: Projects for Rigorous Instruction in Mathematics Education with Technology Integration for Maximum Effect on Achievement</i>	USC-Aiken	Allendale, Bamberg 2, Aiken	Math	30

The new project will provide a partnership among the USC Aiken School of Education, USC Aiken Mathematics Department, Allendale County Schools, Bamberg School District Two, Aiken County Public Schools, and Aiken Performing Arts Academy (Charter School) to assist up to 30 mathematics teachers in expanding their mathematics content knowledge, pedagogical skills (including mathematics technology-integration), and classroom implementation/support of best instructional practices. The four-year PRIME TIME project will provide high quality professional development activities designed to 1) improve middle and high school teachers' content knowledge and conceptual understanding in mathematics; 2) increase the teaching skills and consistent use of best practices that engage students; 3) improve classroom support for teachers' implementation of best practices in mathematics instruction; and 4) increase student achievement in high school mathematics, particularly performance on the Algebra I End of Course Examination.

In addition to the one new project, nine continuing projects were submitted by institutions and approved by the CHE staff for funding requests for funding in FY 2011-12 (**Attachment 1**). These projects were reviewed by staff for their success in meeting the stated goals and objectives in their original proposals and for appropriate activities as identified by the federal guidelines. The total amount requested for continuing proposals in their second through

fourth years of funding for awards made under the FY 2008-2009 through 2011-12 grant competitions total \$802,394.98, contingent upon availability of funds from the federal government. The total funding amount requested for all approved projects is \$892,366.98.

A map (**Attachment 2**) is attached which shows the high-needs LEAs that are eligible to participate in the Improving Teacher Quality Grant programs and also identifies those that are current partners and those that will become partners with the FY 2011-12 projects.

The full report that was approved by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing can be found on the CHE website at [http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/CAA\\_Meeting/CAAMeeting\\_May05\\_2011/4.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/CAA_Meeting/CAAMeeting_May05_2011/4.pdf).

**The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approved the recommendation of the external review panel at its meeting on May 5, 2011.**

### ***Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)***

The purpose of the Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) grant program is to enable eligible institutions, or groupings of such institutions, to serve as "state-of-the-art" 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. Through guidance from the Education Oversight Committee and Education Deans, proposals for FY 2010-11 were focused on teacher effectiveness.

An external review panel consisting of K-12 and higher education representatives met on February 16, 2011, to review and rate the five proposals submitted for consideration. One fundable project was identified by the FY 2011-12 review panel for funding because of its excellence. The funding amount requested for the new award for FY 2011-12 is \$132,555, contingent upon availability of funds from the General Assembly of South Carolina.

The proposed center from Claflin University selected for funding by the review panel. The purpose of the Center of Excellence for English Language Learners Professional Development (The ELL Center) is to provide professional development and training for both inservice and preservice teachers in target school districts for teaching diversity and working effectively with the English Language Learners (ELL). Claflin University received a grant from the National Professional Development (NPD) program funded by the U.S. Department of Education that provided professional development to preservice teachers working with ELL students. The curriculum for inservice training presented in the Centers of Excellence proposal will expand beyond that used in the NPD program and will consist of a six-part to assist teacher in working with ELL. The proposal provided a well-articulated plan for expanding the program beyond Orangeburg County School Districts beginning in year three of the project. The ELL Center will target teachers in three Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts (OCSD 3, 4, and 5) that meet the requirements for teacher turnover, EEA rating, and poverty indexes, as well as teacher education majors at Claflin University

In addition to the new Center, three centers currently receiving funding submitted continuation requests were approved by the CHE staff for funding in FY 2011-12 (**Attachment 3**). These projects were reviewed by staff for their success in meeting the stated goals and objectives in their original proposals and for appropriate activities as identified by the state

guidelines. The total amount requested for continuing proposals in their second through fifth years of funding total \$357,000, contingent upon availability of funds from the federal government. The total funding amount requested for all approved projects is \$489,555.

The full report that was approved by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing can be found on the CHE website at

[http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/CAA\\_Meeting/CAAMeeting\\_May05\\_2011/5.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/CAA_Meeting/CAAMeeting_May05_2011/5.pdf).

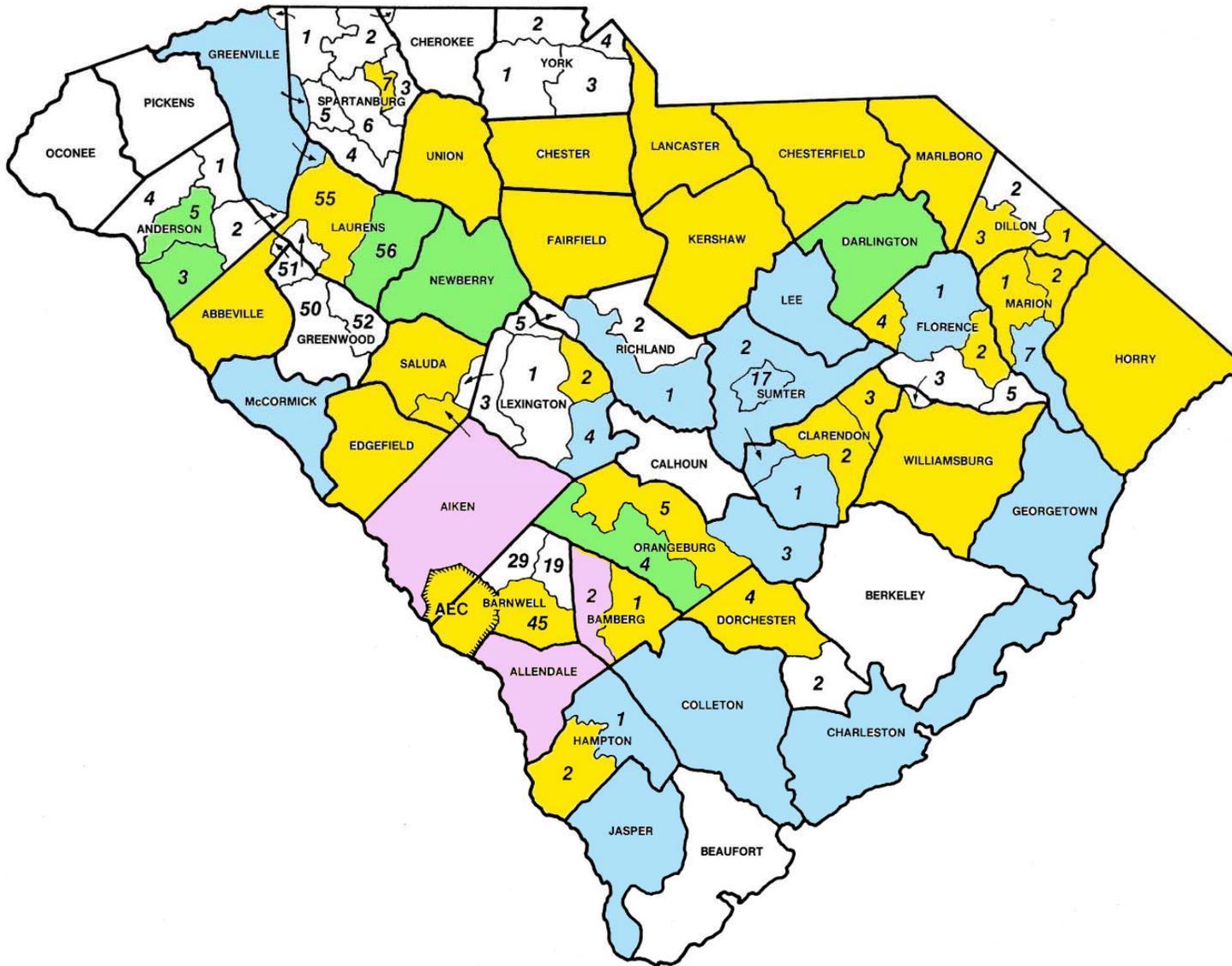
**The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approved the recommendation of the external review panel at its meeting on May 5, 2011.**

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

**Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education**  
**Continuing Projects**  
**FY 2011-12**

<b>Project Director Name</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>High Need LEA(s)</b>	<b>Funding Year</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Megan Che (formerly Elaine Wiegert)	<i>Meeting the Need for High Qualified Mathematics Teachers</i>	Clemson	Anderson 3, Anderson 5	Year 4 (of 4)	\$ 83,137.32
Tom Reid	<i>Distance Education for Developing Highly Qualified Middle School Mathematics Teachers</i>	USC-Aiken	Colleton, Hampton 1, Hampton 2, Jasper, McCormick, Orangeburg	Year 4 (of 4)	\$ 99,286.00
Bert Ely (formerly Mary Earick)	<i>Nature-Based Inquiry</i>	USC-Columbia	Georgetown	Year 4 (of 4)	\$ 84,881.84
Cindy Johnson-Taylor	<i>Inquire to Engage in Chemistry (ITEC)</i>	Newberry College	Laurens 56, Lexington 4, McCormick, Newberry	Year 3 (of 4)	\$ 90,000.00
Denise Forrest Austin Hitt	<i>Concept-Focused Inquiry (CFI): A program for mathematics and science teachers in grades 6-8</i>	Coastal Carolina	Marion 7, Florence 4	Year 2 (of 4)	\$ 90,000.00
Lynne Noble Kirt Moody	<i>Toward Excellence in Math and Science (TEMS)</i>	Columbia College	Lee County	Year 2 (of 4)	\$ 91,489.97
Tony Johnson Barbara Habegger	<i>Developing Highly Qualified Science and Mathematics Teachers through Project-Based Learning</i>	The Citadel	Charleston, Colleton, Hampton1	Year 2 (of 4)	\$ 89,998.10
Marilyn Izzard Judy Newman	<i>Unveiling Mathematics Standards</i>	USC-Upstate	Sumter 2, Sumter 17	YR2 (of 4)	\$ 89,993.00
Michelle Cook	<i>Project RES: Reform-based Environmental Science</i>	Clemson University	Orangeburg 3, Orangeburg 5	Year 3 (of 4)	\$ 83,608.75
<b>TOTAL Continued Awards Requested</b>					<b>\$ 802,394.98</b>

## Funded High Needs LEAs (Districts) 2011-12



LEAs NOT eligible for partnerships

LEAs currently funded, but NOT eligible for new partnerships based on new Federal Census Data

LEAs currently funded FY 2010-11 AND eligible for new partnerships

**Eligible** LEAs currently not receiving funding  
**PRIORITY POINTS GIVEN TO PROJECTS WITH THESE DISTRICTS**

New LEAs funded for FY 2011-12

**Appendix 3****Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education)  
New and Continuing Projects  
FY 2011-12**

<b>Center</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project Director</b>	<b>FY 2010-11 Award</b>	<b>Award Year</b>
Center of Excellence in Middle-level Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching	USC-Aiken	Gary Senn	\$ 112,500.00	Year 4 of 5
Center of Excellence for Inquiry for Mathematics and Science	Clemson University	Bob Horton	\$ 112,500.00	Year 4 of 5
Center of Excellence to Retain and Empower Teachers through Action, Innovation, and Networking	Newberry	Cindy Johnson-Taylor	\$ 132,000.00	Year 2 of 5
Center of Excellence in English Language Learners Professional Development	Clafin University	Nan Li	\$ 132,555.00	Year 1 of 5