



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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CHE
10/5/2017
Agenda Item 7.02.C

October 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Tim Hofferth and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education
From: Chair Terrye Seckinger, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Continuing Awards for Centers of Excellence (Teacher Education) Competitive Grants Program, FY 2018

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 2018, the S.C. General Assembly approved the Commission's request for an appropriation of \$360,000 for Centers currently receiving funding and an additional \$225,000 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. Two Centers are in their fifth and final year of funding while one Center is entering its second year of funding. Additional funds were allotted for a new center (**Attachment 1**). 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.

The three Centers that had been previously approved for funding from the Commission are at Anderson University, Francis Marion University, and The Citadel. Each of these Centers is eligible to receive an additional year of funding for FY 2018.

In August 2016, Requests for Proposals for Centers of Excellence for the FY 2017-18 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 effective teaching of the knowledge, skills, and characteristics of the [Profile of the South Carolina Graduate](#). The CHE received two proposals for a new Center of Excellence from Coastal Carolina University and Lander University.

The FY 2018 Award

The Review Panel (**Attachment 2**) included one current classroom teacher, one representative from the South Carolina Department of Education, one representative from the Education Oversight Committee, one representative from an institute of higher education, two representatives from currently active Centers of Excellence, and one staff member from the Commission on Higher Education.

The Review Panel met on July 26, 2017, for presentations by the representatives from the two institutions and to discuss the merits of each proposed center. Each group of presenters answered questions for over 45 minutes and one group was asked to present additional information. The panel members deliberated the merits of each proposal and eventually decided that both proposals had specific strengths, yet left unanswered questions about sustainability, potential impact on student growth, and potential impact on teacher training and professional development.

As a result, at this time the Commission on Higher Education is in conversation with the Education Oversight Committee and the Review Panel on the best use of the funds not appropriated to a new Center for 2017-18.

Conclusion

At its August 31, 2017 meeting, the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approved the continued funding for the existing centers at Anderson University, Francis Marion University, The Citadel and the University of South Carolina pending submission of formal budget requests and continuation request for funding for FY 2014 to FY 2018 and final reports for FY 2017.

Attachment 1: Centers of Excellence Award Recommendations

Attachment 2: Review Panel Members

**EIA Centers of Excellence
New and Continuing Projects
FY 2018 Budget**

Center	Institution	Project Director	FY 2016-17 Awards	Award Year
Center of Excellence for STEM Ambassadors	The Citadel	Deepti Joshi	\$112,500.00	Year 5
Center of Excellence for Mobile Learning	Anderson University	Meg Walworth	\$112,500.00	Year 5
Center of Excellence in College and Career Readiness (Proviso)	Francis Marion University	Matt Nelson	\$225,000.00	Year 4
Center of Excellence in Teaching Children of Poverty (Proviso)	Francis Marion University	Tammy Pawloski	\$350,000.00	NA
Center of Excellence for the Advancement of the Workforce and Knowledge Economy in South Carolina	University of South Carolina	David Virtue	\$135,000.00	Year 2
Funding	TBD	TBD	\$150,000.00	NA
		Award Subtotal	\$1,080,000.00	
		Administration	\$52,526.00	
		TOTAL	\$1,137,526.00	

**Centers of Excellence
FY 2018
Review Panel
July 26, 2017**

<p>Dr. Gary Senn</p> <p>Director Ruth Patrick Science Education Center University of South Carolina Aiken</p>	<p>Ms. Shameka Stepheny</p> <p>Math Teacher Meadowfield Elementary Richland School District One</p>	<p>Ms. Melanie Barton</p> <p>Executive Director Education Oversight Committee</p>
<p>Dr. Damara Hightower</p> <p>Dean School of Education Benedict College</p>	<p>Mr. Jeff Burden</p> <p>Education Associate Elementary Science Standards and Learning South Carolina Department of Education</p>	<p>Dr. Deepti Joshi</p> <p>Director The STEM Center of Excellence The Citadel</p>
<p>Dr. Erica Von Nessen</p> <p>Researcher Commission on Higher Education</p>	<p><u>Staff Support:</u> Dr. Falicia Harvey</p> <p>Academic Affairs Commission on Higher Education</p>	