

Alternative Pathways for Educator Certification

(APEC) Center Newsletter

Volume 1 (November 15, 2018)



Columbia College

1301 Columbia College Drive

Columbia, SC 29203

A Letter from our Directors:

Dear Reader,

The Alternative Pathways for Educator Certification (APEC) Center at Columbia College is a new initiative at Columbia College and represents our continued commitment to serving our community and to preparing quality teachers and leaders in our schools. The APEC Center is funded through a five-year grant from the SC Commission on Higher Education. Our goals are to recruit quality teachers to critical needs districts, increase teacher retention by offering an alternative certification program that is grounded in best practices in teacher education, and provide ongoing professional development for our partner districts.

We began recruiting for our first cohort of APEC Fellows in June and are excited that we selected 16 Fellows who began their studies in July. Our Fellows are working in Richland One and Fairfield County Schools as teaching assistants, which provides them with valuable on-the-job training that complements the education they receive through the APEC Center. The APEC Center offers a unique curriculum involving integrated learning modules that focus on the foundational knowledge and skills of effective teachers. Our 16 Fellows are a diverse group of individuals who are committed to the teaching profession and developing into exceptional classroom teachers.

As a faculty member at Columbia College, I am excited that we are able to offer this program to give teaching assistants and other career changers the opportunity to achieve their goals of becoming professional educators. I am also excited about the outstanding work that our Fellows are doing in schools to educate and empower their students. In each newsletter, we will share upcoming events and activities of the Center and the accomplishments of our APEC Fellows. Enjoy!

Best Regards,

Dr. Marla Sanders and Dr. Tracy West

APEC Center Directors

Upcoming Events

November 5: APEC Center Advisory Board Meeting

November 12 & December 8: Information Sessions

February 9: APEC Center Professional Development Day

June 22 and 23: APEC Center Summit on Teaching and Mentoring

Welcome to our APEC Center Advisory Board:

Alice Colbert: Columbia College

Laura Covington: SC PACE

Christine Hait: Columbia College

Craig Jelks: Fairfield County Schools

Suzanne Koty: CERRA

Jim Lane: Columbia College

Christine LeBlanc: Columbia College

Jeff Long: Richland One Schools

Marlee Marsh: Columbia College

Tammy Pawloski: FMU Center of Excellence

James Ritter: State Department of Education

Kedra Hill-Rivers: Richland One Schools

Shamil Robison: Fairfield County Schools

Francis Schodowski: Columbia College

Denise Sowell: Fairfield County Schools

Cindy Van Buren: USC SC-TEACHER

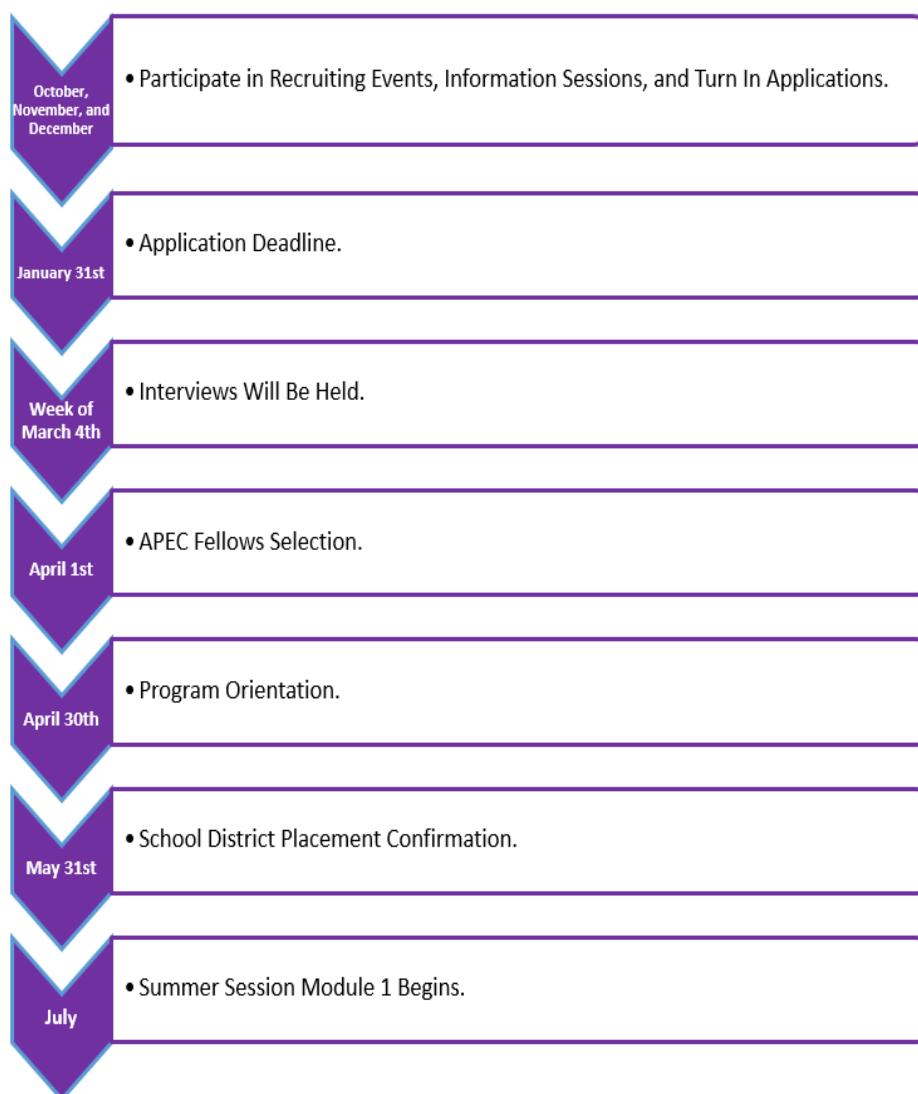
Jaclyn Walsh: State Department

Thanks to all for their time and commitment to the APEC Center!

About the APEC Center:

The purpose of the APEC Center at Columbia College is to provide an alternative pathway to certification for individuals that are interested in becoming classroom teachers. The APEC Program seeks to provide ongoing support and mentoring to help develop and retain quality teachers. The two-year program will also provide coursework and field requirements toward the bachelors or master's degree and SC teaching certification in the areas of Special Education, Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Middle Level Education, and Secondary Math/English.

APEC Center Application Process



Join Us for the First Annual APEC Summit:

We are excited to announce preparations for our first annual APEC Summit on Teaching and Mentoring on June 22nd and 23rd! Stay tuned for more information about the event in upcoming newsletters. Join us to expand your knowledge, or perhaps join as a presenter!

On my way to find something good to read...

Better the Life by Daniel Pennac

Move Your Bus: An Extraordinary New Approach to Accelerating Success in work and Life by Ron Clark

Teach Like a Pirate by Dave Burgess

The Book Whisperer by Donalyn Miller

The Courage to Teach by Parker J. Palmer

Who is Eligible to Apply to the APEC Program?

***Employees of Richland School District One and Fairfield County Schools**

***Career changers with an associate's and/or bachelor's degree**

We accept participants with associate's and/or bachelor's degrees.

What is the Course of Study?

The APEC Center offers a two-year program leading to either a bachelor's degree or a master's degree. During the first year, APEC Fellows take four integrated course modules designed in each of the following areas:

Module 1 Learning Theory and Behavior

Module 2 Planning and Assessment

Module 3 Instructional Methods and Literacy

Module 4 Diversity and Inclusion

Each semester, Fellows participate in Professional Learning Seminars designed to link theory with classroom practice.

APEC Fellows also work as instructional assistants in the classroom with a mentor teacher in their area of interest. The Fellows teach lessons and perform classroom duties under the mentor teacher's supervision. At the end of the first year, APEC Fellows who started the program with a bachelor's degree will complete certifying exams and may be eligible to begin the second year as a classroom teacher with alternative certification. Those Fellows who have not yet completed the bachelor's degree will continue working to complete degree requirements and will remain in the classroom as instructional assistants with their mentor teachers.

Commitment:

***APEC Fellows are required to sign a letter of agreement with the APEC Center at Columbia College and the school district.**

***APEC Fellows should commit to successfully completing the program and teaching in the district for a specified term.**

Want to Learn More? See page five for information on how to register for one of our Information Sessions!



Meet Laura Easley:

APEC Fellow

Laura graduated from the College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. She also has a law degree from the University of South Carolina. Laura has been a Richland County School District employee since 2015 and is currently working at AC Flora High School. Laura enrolled in the APEC Program in July 2018, as she hopes to become a high school math teacher.

"I discovered a true love for working with students, faculty, and staff, and decided to pursue a Master of Education degree to become a full time teacher by 2019-2020. That will also be the year that my children graduate from high school. As my children leave the nest, I look forward to being able to continue to enjoy the camaraderie of the younger generation through my work inside and outside of the classroom."



Meet Kathleen Hogue

Kathleen graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Minor in Education Counseling. She joined the APEC Program so that she could become a special education teacher in an elementary school.

"My minor is what led me to education. Originally, I was trying to find my place in the healthcare field. I realized that education was my calling after entering the classroom. I enjoy working with children. I want to have a positive impact. I want to help children develop socially, cognitively, and emotionally. There is a joy in watching children make progress knowing that you are a part of the progress!"

Meet Mr. Craig Jelks, APEC Center Mentor Teacher

Mr. Jelks has a BA in Political Science from Howard University and master's degree from Columbia University. Mr. Jelks is originally from Alabama but decided to pursue a career in education when he learned about the PACE Program in South Carolina. Mr. Jelks has been teaching for 12 years and has taught in Charleston, Lexington, Berkley, and Kershaw Counties and is currently teaching 8th grade Social Studies at Fairfield Middle School. This year, he is serving as the mentor teacher for Mr. Clevon Ross, an APEC Fellow pursuing a career as a middle level social studies teacher.

During a recent interview with Dr. Marla Sanders, Mr. Jelks shared the following insights about his experiences and career in education.

When asked why he decided to become a teacher, Mr. Jelks explained that he wants to change society for young people and make a difference in their lives. He recalled, "As a young person, myself and other young people often complained about society and all of the problems and social ills. Then I realized, 'Why not me?' Why shouldn't I try to do something about it?"

As a veteran teacher, Mr. Jelks enjoys teaching middle school. He loves teaching students but also enjoys learning from his students. He takes the time to learn from them. Mr. Jelks explains that he enjoys learning about society, music, and sports from his students.

Although he enjoys his work, Mr. Jelks acknowledges that working with reluctant learners can be the most difficult part of a teacher's job. He explains that reluctant learners can be the most challenging part of teaching because they may not have a strong desire to learn. Mr. Jelks says, "I really have to work hard with these students. They need a teacher who will help them see the value in education."

"The challenges of teaching are worth it! In every profession; there are challenges. There is no profession more rewarding than that of teaching. You get to impact the future. It doesn't get any better than that! Push past the fear because it is well worth it. It is a great journey! I love it when students come back to me and tell me that I have influenced their lives. In the moment you may not realize that you are making a difference because the results are not immediate. It takes a few years to go by to realize how important your impact is. Especially when a former student becomes a teacher! Encourage anyone to become a teacher and emphasize the fact that the job is fun! It's your opportunity to empower."

-Mr. Craig Jelks

from: Educators Share the Power of Stories by Cindy Long
<http://NEAToday.org/Authors/Cindy-Long>

Jake Miller: Speaks of the educators who "smothered him in high expectations and love," and of those who taught him to think critically, to become a math nerd, and walk in the fire. He credits his senior year English teacher with inspiring him to "enter this noble profession of bringing light."

Sonia Galaviz: "Public Education is still the gateway to all those who have hopes and dreams and the ganas (Spanish word for something stronger than desire) for something more."

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:

"It's important to listen to children. They can teach you how to teach them if you listen."

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING TEACHERS:

NOVEMBER 12TH FROM 4:30-5:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 8TH FROM 9:30-10:30 A.M. AND

11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE CAMPUS: BREED LEADERSHIP CENTER,
ROOM 103**

Registration Link for Information Sessions: <https://goo.gl/forms/sLz1Dw6o8flh3qA2>

Join Us! We are excited about our upcoming Professional Development Seminar on Saturday, February 9, 2018. Watch for further news coming soon.

For further information about the APEC Center contact:

Dr. Marla Sanders at 803.786.3067 or Christine Bishop at 803.786.3607 or email at apeccenter@columbiasc.edu