



1301 Columbia College Drive

Columbia, SC 29203

[apeccenter@columbiasc.edu](mailto:apeccenter@columbiasc.edu)

## (APEC) Center Newsletter

Volume 2 (April 1, 2019)

### Upcoming Events:

**April 25:** 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Columbia College

**June 3:** Cohort 1 classes start

**June 11:** APEC Cohort 2 Orientation

**June 12:** APEC Summit

**June 13 and 14:** CERRA Mentor

Training; SCTS 4.0 Training

**July 8:** Cohort 2 classes start

### APEC Center Advisory Board:

**Alice Colbert:** Columbia College

**Laura Covington:** SC PACE

**Christine Hait:** Columbia College

**Suzanne Kofy:** CERRA

**Craig Jelks:** Fairfield County Schools

**Jim Lane:** Columbia College

**Christine LeBlanc:** Columbia College

**Jeff Long:** Richland One Schools

**Marlee Marsh:** Columbia College

**Tammy Pawloski:** Francis Marion University

**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 of Education

### *A Letter from our Directors:*

Dear Reader,

What a great year for the APEC Center! We have been working very hard to establish the Center as the state leader in the research and development of quality alternative certification programs. We are currently partnering with Richland School District One and Fairfield County Schools and are excited to announce that we have received a \$24,000 scholarship from Colonial Life to expand the APEC Center! We have recently added a new partner district, Richland School District Two.

We began this journey in the summer of 2018 when we started recruiting for APEC Cohort One. In May, we held information sessions in Richland One and Fairfield to share the APEC Program with their classified employees. We had over 60 participants attend these information sessions, which taught us that there is a large pool of district employees who are interested in teaching but need the opportunity to get certified. Through the application process, we accepted 16 participants into our first cohort. They started classes in July and are now preparing to take their certification exams. We are excited that members of our first cohort will be taking on their own classrooms in the fall of 2019. These Fellows are well-prepared to be effective classroom teachers who can make a difference in their schools. We are very excited about the work they will do in South Carolina's schools.

Our first Professional Development Day was also a huge success! We had over 50 participants attend on February 9<sup>th</sup> to learn how to improve instruction for their students. We hope to build upon the program's success with the Summit on Mentoring and Teaching which will be held in June. Our summit will offer administrators and teachers workshops on mentoring beginning and alternatively certified teachers. We hope to see you at our Summit in June!

Sincerely,

Dr. Marla Sanders and Dr. Tracy West

*"I am pleased to communicate that after careful review and consideration, Colonial Life pledges \$24,000 for the 2019/2020 academic year in support of APEC. We are grateful to you and your team for tackling a high-priority need in our state through this creative approach to increasing the number of highly-qualified teachers in critical needs school districts in SC. We look forward to this new partnership with you and engaging our employees as volunteers in APEC's work." - Marie McGehee, Colonial Life Director of Corporate Social Responsibility*

## Recent News

### Professional Development Day

APEC Professional Development Day took place on February 9, 2019. Many guest speakers, along with the APEC Fellows, presented and spoke on various topics including using sign language to promote literacy and technology for today's classroom. The keynote speakers for the event included Mr. Craig Jelks, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher in the Fairfield County School District, and Suzanne Koty from CERRA. Each of the presentations inspired the audience to think about their purpose, how they teach, and to consider their "why".



**Clevon Ross**  
APEC Fellow  
Discussing experiences in the APEC Program  
Professional Development Day 2019



**APEC Fellows**  
Attending a session on Praxis  
preparation



**Taneisha Greene, Laura Easley**  
APEC Fellows  
Discussing experiences in the APEC Program  
Professional Development Day 2019



**Craig Jelks**  
Keynote Speaker  
Professional Development Day 2019

### Meet Suzanne Koty:

A resident of Sumter, SC, Suzanne graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1988. Suzanne earned a B.A. in English Literature from Francis Marion College in 1992 and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction in 2009; She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. with a specialization in Education Policy, Leadership, and Management through Walden University.

Suzanne earned her certification through PACE, the Program for Alternative Certification. She has been in education for 15 years and earned her National Board Certification in English Language Arts in 2011. Suzanne taught English and Theory of Knowledge at Sumter High School for most of her teaching career. While in the Sumter School District, Suzanne served as a mentor, worked on curriculum writing teams, and led professional development workshops for the district. She served as the co-director for the Santee-Wateree Writing Project and an adjunct professor for the University of South Carolina.

Suzanne was recognized as the 2016 SC Teacher of the Year. She currently serves as the Service Program Facilitator supporting the services CERRA offers in the areas of teacher leadership, national board support, and mentoring.

# APEC Summit on Mentoring & Teaching.....

We are very excited to announce our first annual **APEC Summit on Mentoring and Teaching**.

When: June 12<sup>th</sup>

Where: Columbia College, Spears Performing Arts Center

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Registration Deadline: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sign-up link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/7Q7Br8CMqjY52F7a1>

\*Continental breakfast will be served  
Please join us!

## New Logo and Website

Check the top of our newsletter for our new logo!

We also have a new website!  
(bottom of page)  
Check us out!

### **New Cohort:**

**We would like to announce that we are in the process of completing interviews for our next cohort of APEC Fellows. We will introduce our new APEC Fellows in the next newsletter.**

[On my way to find something good to read...](#)

**Educated** by Tara Westover

**Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World** by Max Lucado

**No One Ever Asked** by Katie Ganshert



### **Meet Renee Clarke:**

#### **APEC Fellow**

My name is Renee Clarke, and I have worked with Richland County School District One's Special Education program since 2007. I aspire to continue working with our amazing students in special education, now in the capacity of a classroom teacher. My philosophy is with encouragement, every student can and will learn.

“Education is what survives when what has been taught has been forgotten.”  
BF Skinner

### **Meet Celeste Smith:**

#### **APEC Fellow**

Kimberly has a BA in Business Administration from Columbia College. She has been employed by Richland County School District One for many years. Kimberly has been working at Dreher High School for the last five years.

Kimberly is passionate about reaching each individual student. She feels that she has gained the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of her students. Kimberly feels that Columbia College offers the best preparation for teaching and that the APEC program has allowed her to become a teacher because it is designed for working adults.