

1301 Columbia College Drive

Columbia, SC 29203

apeccenter@columbiasc.edu

(APEC) Center Newsletter

Volume 3 (Fall 2109)

Upcoming Events:

Interested in applying to the APEC Program?

Contact the APEC Center at 803-786-3607

APEC Center Professional Development Day, February 22 from 8:30-3:30

Second Annual APEC Summit, June 17, 2020.

A Letter from our Directors:

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 received a \$24,000 scholarship from Colonial Life to expand the APEC Center! We have recently added new partner districts, Richland School District Two and Lexington School District Four. We are looking to expand to other Midlands districts, so stay tuned!

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. In July 2019, we admitted our second cohort of APEC Fellows. 23 women and men who were all previously employed in school districts are pursuing certification in early childhood, elementary, and special education.

We are excited that members of our first cohort began their careers as classroom teachers in the fall of 2019. These Fellows are well-prepared to be effective classroom teachers who will make a difference in their schools. We are proud of the work they will do in South Carolina's schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marla Sanders and Dr. Tracy West

APEC Center Advisory Board:

Alice Colbert: Educational Consultant

Bill Dieckmann: Executive Coach

Christine Hait: Columbia College

Craig Jelks: Fairfield County Schools

Suzanne Koty: CERRA

Jim Lane: Columbia College

Christine LeBlanc: Columbia College

Patrick Kelly: Richland 2 Schools

Reggie Wicker: Richland One Schools

Marlee Marsh: Columbia College

Marie McGehee: Colonial Life

Tammy Pawloski: Francis Marion University

James Ritter: SC SDE

Francis Schodowski: Columbia College

Denise Sowell: Fairfield County Schools

Cindy Van Buren: USC SC-TEACHER

"Education is the primary focus of our outreach efforts, and we are committed to supporting organizations that grow strong individuals and school leaders, more successful communities and a prepared future workforce."

Marie McGehee, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Colonial Life

News

The APEC Center Welcomes Cohort 2!!!!



***The APEC Center welcomes** the second cohort of APEC Fellows from Richland School District One, Richland School District Two, Fairfield County Schools, and Lexington School District Four.

A generous support grant from Colonial Life allowed our program to expand to Richland 2 and Lexington 4 for the 2019-2020 school year.

APEC would also like to Welcome Carol Przybyla and John Mills to our APEC Staff. Carol and John come to us with extensive experience in education. Both have served as classroom teachers and administrators. We are excited to have their support as we develop successful classroom teachers!

The APEC Center is excited to announce that Dr. Akil Ross, author of *Empowering the Heart: Reviving and Renewing Today's Education*, will deliver the Keynote Address at our 2nd Annual APEC Summit on Teaching and Mentoring on June 17, 2020!

We hope to see you there!

Meet Kathy Maness

Keynote Speaker: APEC was proud to introduce Kathy Maness as our keynote speaker for the June 12th, 2019 APEC Summit on Teaching and Mentoring. Mrs. Maness is the Executive Director of Palmetto State Teachers Association. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a BA in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education. She attended Winthrop University where she completed coursework for certification in Education Administration. Mrs. Maness is also very active in her community.



APEC Summit, Summer 2019

- *was attended by 71 participants and presenters.
- *25 participants attended the Praxis workshops
- *Sessions addressed topics such as:
 - Child Abuse: Recognizing the Effects on Students;
 - Positive Teacher-Student Relationships with Children of Poverty;
 - Teacher Health and Mental Wellness;
 - New Teacher Success Strategies;
 - Mastery of Math Content;
 - Using Technology to Empower Your Teaching;
 - Teaching students with Dyslexia



"I am teaching in a self-contained Pre-K Developmental Delay classroom. My class contains a mixture of three and four year old children. I love my job! I enjoy being able to impact students and build the relationships." Kathleen Hogue

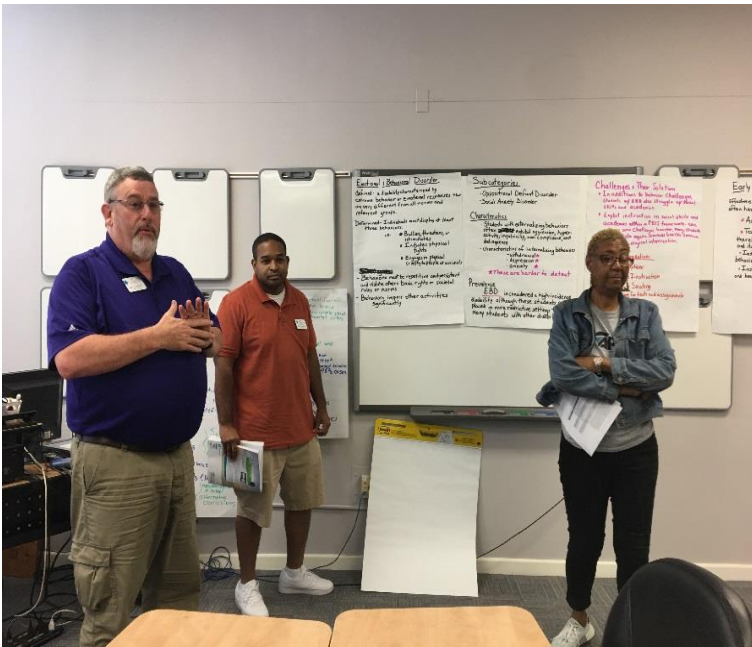
"I am a special education teacher at Dreher High School. I am enjoying having my own classroom. I am working hard; using personal time to reflect in order to offer better instruction to my students; and deeply appreciate the preparation and support from Columbia College. We are indeed Koolified Teachers that are prepared and professional!" Kimberly (Celeste) Smith

"I accepted a position at EL Wright Elementary. I have been fortunate to work with a fantastic faculty and some fun students. My current class load tops out at 107 students. My classroom population is rich and diverse. There have been some ups and downs these first nine weeks, but every day is an adventure, and this career is definitely not boring!" Laura Easley

Congratulations to: Renee Clarke, Laura Easley, Veronica Belton, Celeste Smith, and Kathleen Hogue from Cohort 1. We are proud of these first year teachers!

Professional Development:

Many of our APEC Fellows participated in the APEC Summit. Our APEC Fellows also participated in several content and pedagogy workshops this semester! These workshops, led by Mrs. Whitney Chick and Mrs. Jenny Johansson, were designed to prepare the Fellows for the Praxis 2 exam.



Saturday SPED/Praxis Workshops: George Burley, Julian Thompson, Linda Tucker Waters, presenting to the class. Thanks to Whitney Chick and Jenny Johansson for leading the seminars!

Renee Clark, APEC Fellow, assisting with an APEC Summit breakout session.



Fellows from Cohort 1 enjoying a dinner and fellowship in our beautiful, updated APEC Center Classroom. These renovations were made possible by the grant we received from the SC Commission on Higher Education.

Research and Publication

Congratulations to Dr. Sanders on her recent invitation to present her research, “Alternative Teacher Preparation In South Carolina: New Initiatives and Opportunities” at the **2019 Association of Teacher Educators Summer Conference in Burlington, Vermont.**

Dr. Sanders, Kimberly Smith, and Dr. Dana Richardson presented at the SCATE 2019 Conference at Limestone College in October. In November, Dr. Sanders and Christine Bishop presented at SRATE in St. Augustine, Florida.

On my way to finding something good to read:

Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School by Carla Shalaby

Children’s Letters to God by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall

Empower: What Happens When Students Own Their Learning by John Spencer and A.J. Juliani

Watch for upcoming news, dates and times for our **Second Annual Summit on Teaching and Mentoring, June 2020!**



“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.”