OUR MISSION

CERRA’s vision is that teaching is a respected, influential profession, and every student in South Carolina is served by effective educators. As a result, CERRA’s mission is recruiting, retaining and advancing South Carolina educators.

OUR SERVICES & PROGRAMS

CERRA offers an array of services and programs that impact the recruitment, retention, and advancement of teachers from middle school through their professional careers. Our services are designed to support our mission and help public schools locate high quality educators to lead classrooms. In addition to these services, CERRA provides a number of programs that serve as a national model for teacher recruitment and teacher leadership initiatives. CERRA segments its program and service offerings into three areas: Pre-Collegiate, Collegiate, and Service.

Online Educator Employment System

The South Carolina Online Educator Employment System, hosted by CERRA, allows individuals to locate job vacancies in South Carolina public school districts and special schools and complete a standard employment application that can be submitted to any or all of these districts and schools. It also provides a streamlined process for public school districts and special schools to post vacancies and search the database of applicants to recruit individuals for vacant positions.

Teacher Expo

The South Carolina Teacher Expo is a statewide teacher recruitment fair designed to facilitate connections between in-state and out-of-state jobseekers and the South Carolina public school districts and special schools who choose to send recruiters to the Expo. While at the Expo, recruiters have the opportunity to provide information to prospective employees, conduct interviews, and in some cases, offer employment contracts.

Research

CERRA performs consistent evaluation and modification of its programs and services. Reports related to program effectiveness and relevant education research are disseminated at various times throughout the year. Since 2001, CERRA has conducted an annual Supply and Demand Survey that collects data from each public school district in South Carolina on rates of teachers and administrators being hired, teachers leaving their classrooms, and the number of vacant teacher/administrator positions. CERRA also shares up-to-date data on its website and by request.
Pre-Collegiate Programs

The ProTeam Program seeks to attract academically talented, minority middle school students to the teaching profession before they become “turned off” to the possibility of a career in education. Positive learning experiences and role models are essential to the Program’s success. Students take part in a semester or year-long, hands-on course with student-driven activities that create opportunities for students to grow as learners.

Teacher Cadet College Partners are post-secondary institutions with teacher education programs that commit to nurturing the next generation of exemplary teachers. This network of collegiate faculty, along with their institutions, provides enrichment experiences for high school students as they explore the field of education. College Partners work in a collaborative relationship with Teacher Cadet instructors and provide the opportunity for Cadets to earn transferable college credit in their dual credit accrual, AP weighted course.

Collegiate Programs

Winner of the 2015 Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence in Education, the nationally-recognized Teacher Cadet Program is an innovative, curriculum-based college level course designed to attract talented young people to the education profession through a challenging introduction to teaching. The Teacher Cadet Program seeks to provide high school students insights into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling, and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America’s schools.

Teaching Fellows Program is designed to recruit high-achieving high school seniors into the education profession by providing up to $6,000 in annual funding for their participation in a Teaching Fellows program at one of the designated Teaching Fellows Institutions. Each of these institutions has a unique Teaching Fellows program that provides professional development opportunities above and beyond its regular teacher education program.

Service Programs

CERRA conducts mentor training for experienced teachers and administrators to become effective mentors to beginning teachers, believing that, with effective mentoring and support, beginning teachers can thrive in their development as quality teachers. CERRA’s work with mentoring spans several years of collaboration with other state and national agencies. CERRA partnered with the State Department of Education to develop and implement the State Mentoring and Induction Guidelines.

CERRA recognizes the state and district teachers of the year and works to develop their leadership skills, provide a voice in the education policy and decision-making process, encourage advocacy, and impact the professional development of these teachers. The State Teacher Forum provides a leadership model that is replicated on the local district level. The State Teacher of the Year serves as a Teacher-in-Residence while serving as the state’s ambassador for the teaching profession.

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