

**Teaching Fellows Junior Conference**

**It’s YOUR Story: YOU belong!**

**Dr. Kimberly McCuiston, Dr. Lindsay Simmons**

**Session Descriptor:** In an on-going research study, the presenters have found that pre-service and induction teachers desire more strategies and professional development geared towards building self-advocacy. Even more prominent is that preservice and early career teachers can develop imposter syndrome without having a support system in place, which negatively impacts their confidence in being advocates for their own needs. The presenters want to offer ideas for overcoming imposter syndrome and to encourage self-advocacy among the participants. This is YOUR story and YOU belong!

**Presenter Bio:** Dr. Kimberly McCuiston is an Associate Professor of Education at Francis Marion University. She is the Director of Student Teaching as well as the Director of the Center of Excellence for Teacher Retention and Induction in the Pee Dee (COE-TRIP). Her research interests include teacher attrition and well being.

Dr. Lindsay Simmons is an Assistant Professor of Education at FMU. She is the Co-Director of Teaching Fellows at FMU, as well as the Co-Director of COE-TRIP. Her research interests include teacher reflection and self-efficacy and teacher resilience.