Mission
To work collaboratively with higher education, PreK-12 public schools and the community to improve the lives of students.

Vision
To create effective collaborations involving PreK-12 schools, higher education and the community, that result in lasting positive effects for all partners.
The Center for Partnerships to Improve Education (CPIE) works collaboratively with schools, businesses, families and the greater community to improve student outcomes in South Carolina. CPIE is a part of the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance at the College of Charleston and was established to support the improvement of PreK-12 students and the communities in which they live.

CPIE addresses the following four focus areas:

**Teaching and learning.**
Student learning outcomes improve when academic concerns in school, home and community environments are addressed.

**Health and wellness.**
This important area fosters the physical and emotional well-being of students and families and promotes healthy environments for work and play.

**Community outreach.**
It is necessary to cultivate partnerships among stakeholders whose work relates to teaching and learning and health and wellness.

**Research.**
The development of creative and rigorous research adds to the existing bodies of knowledge, informs the work of the other three focus areas and provides opportunities to study current and emerging best practices.

**Benefits**
- Collaboration with faculty who have extensive professional expertise and research knowledge
- Engage with new ideas, approaches and techniques
- Network of partners with whom to collaborate while serving the community
- A chance to participate in grant-funded activities and initiatives that can increase resources and provide access to established and emerging best practices
- Satisfaction of having a lasting positive impact on schools and communities

**History**
The Center for Partnerships to Improve Education (CPIE) was established at the College of Charleston in 2005 to support the improvement of PreK-12 education through partnerships. Over the next five years, CPIE worked with several high-need public schools in Charleston County to provide professional development and graduate-level courses to teachers, offer enhancement curricula to students, and implement mentoring and leadership programs for youth. The initial partnerships involved selected schools with a multi-year commitment that focused on school reform.

Near the end of the 2010-2011 academic year, CPIE was re-envisioned. Recognizing that students are impacted by teachers, families and communities, and that the well-being of families and communities is vitally important to the well-being of its students, CPIE expanded its interests to include health and wellness. With the involvement of College of Charleston faculty and students, CPIE is poised to embrace and impact the region’s communities in positive and sustained ways.