A Message From the Director

Andrew Lewis, PhD

This past winter is one that will be long remembered for the cold weather across the nation and an increase in our course enrollments. As the economy rebounds and more jobs become available we have been very busy in OPDE. Our office pictures the next school year as one of promise and growth with students, programs, and funding sources. We are excited about the future of OPDE and hope your school district will join us in our enthusiasm for this journey.

At the same time, we understand the challenges that will be faced by many districts in their quest to meet the demands of Read to Succeed (R2S) and the new evaluation system that must be implemented. We also understand that budgets will continue to be strained, and many difficult decisions will need to be made.

As it relates to R2S, the OPDE has been working with individuals and vendors to develop courses that meet the South Carolina Department of Education competencies for R2S requirements of instructional personnel. The one course currently under review by the R2S Advisory Committee is: “Foundations in Reading (PreK-Grade 5 Teachers).” “The Content Area for Reading and Writing for Middle and High Schools Teachers.” This course has been approved and will be offered online during Fall 2015.

The feedback from our web postings have been positively received, and again this year we will post on our website (http://ehhp.cofc.edu/centers/opde/courses/syllabi.php) several professional development courses offered by our office around the state. We hope these postings will continue to allow more school districts to collaborate in their PD submissions.

Once again, we continue to facilitate a variety of Catalog courses (classes leading to an Advance Degree) and encourage you to give us a call, or send an email to see how we can help you accomplish the goals of your program. We currently have cohorts (catalog class offerings) in place with Sumter School District and Charleston County School District and look forward to engaging in conversations on how we might assist your district with a professional growth opportunity of this type.

While the OPDE cannot reach the nation as Learning Forward does, we can and will continue our efforts to assist local, regional, and state wide staff in their quest to offer the finest professional development opportunities available.

Have a great year, and we look forward to working with you, you, and you in the future. We cannot meet all your professional development needs, but those we can assist with will be dealt with professionally by a staff that desires to help improve the educational outcomes of the children of South Carolina.

Have a great summer!
Read To Succeed (R2S): This bill has recently come into effect for the state of South Carolina, with its mission to offer a comprehensive, systematic approach to reading which ensures that students will develop reading and writing to prepare them to be college- and career-ready. OPDE will be offering courses tailored to meet the qualifications set down by this bill in the following months.

Our office must bid adieu to Graduate Assistant Kelly Mielke, who worked with us in OPDE for two years. She graduated in May with a Master of Arts degree in History from the joint program between the University of Charleston, South Carolina and the Citadel. Kelly’s thesis is entitled *Vindicating the South: South Carolina’s Religious Print Culture and Confederate Nationalism*. In her spare time, Kelly enjoys running, riding her horse, cats, and spending time with her husband. Kelly is now working in the College of Charleston’s Registrar’s Office and continues to pursue her research interests. We will miss you Kelly!

Our office would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all who were involved in making this year’s AP Summer Institute a success! As always, the institute served to advance teachers’ range of skill sets, while fostering both new and old friendships in the educational community. We hope to see all of you next summer!

OPDE was also pleased to be a part of the fourth annual Early Childhood Summit, this June 18-19. This year the Summit was geared toward Play, Literacy, Math & Science, and Social & Emotional Development. Keynote speaker, Eric Litwin (author of *Pete the Cat*) as well as other notable presenters, instructed and delighted attendees with new ideas and methods for improving effective teaching in the classroom.
Director Highlight:
Susan Antontelli

Susan began her teaching career at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School, a nationally recognized model school in arts integration, crediting much of her success to the amazing veteran educators who took her under their wings and taught her how to teach.

Over the span of her 17 year educational career, she has served as a classroom teacher (3rd grade, preschool, and art/music), a grant director, an adjunct college professor, and a consultant/ professional development leader. Susan is also Nationally Board Certified as a Middle Childhood Generalist and was the Teacher of the Year at her former school in 2001. Over her career she has taught students of all ages- from 3 to 63!

Susan loves to teach because it is a fun and rewarding journey. Additionally, Susan created the blog wonderteacher.com as a means to keep in touch with her academic peers: “too often I connect with amazing educators at a conference or in a graduate class, only to lose touch after the course or workshop ends. For years I desired a way to keep in touch and keep our connection alive. Wonder Teacher was born out of that desire.” Check out her website to learn more about creative teaching ideas for classroom management, arts integration, literacy instruction, and more!

FAQ:

Why are completing course evaluations so important?

Course evaluations provide valuable feedback to the course instructor, course initiator, as well as our staff that allow us to continually refocus and refresh our Professional Development services and provide teachers across South Carolina with courses that will directly benefit their teaching strategies.

Can I use vouchers towards EDPD courses?

Vouchers cannot be used as a source of payment for Professional Development courses. The cost of PD courses have already been reduced and are offered to teachers at a discount. Therefore, it is the policy of the College to not allow vouchers to be used as a source of payment for PD courses.

Why send in verifications material?

Providing our office with a copy of your teaching certificate and driver’s license in a timely manner ultimately speeds up the process in students’ receiving credit for courses they are enrolled in. Without this information on file, a student CANNOT be granted graduate credit.
Read to Succeed (Act 284) is a recently implemented piece of legislature by the Office of School Transformation within the South Carolina government. This law affects every educator and student in the state, as it aims to prepare all students to graduate from high school with the reading and writing skills necessary for a successful college career. Lawmakers hope to redefine literacy education in South Carolina through this bill, setting specific guidelines any state certified teacher must follow in the classroom to monitor student progress more closely.

Course Description: This course will follow a reading-writing-applying model on a weekly basis. The first half of the course is dedicated to working through required coursework, such as pre-reading, active reading, and post-reading strategies. The second half will focus on student assessment of current lesson plans, working to transform them into literacy-rich lessons and incorporating their reading progress strategies into their daily classroom routine. Additionally, participants will collaborate with peers to create a literacy rich, thematic unit of study based on grade-level curriculum standards.

Dates for the course: This virtual class (100% online) will be offered between a six-to-seven week period in the Fall 2015 between September 14 – November 6, 2015. The tentative dates for Spring 2016 are for a six-to-seven week period falling between February 1 – March 31, 2016. For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Andrew Lewis at lewisa@cofc.edu or at 843-953-0784.
Sample of Courses Offered

- 812-E60: Facilitating Learning in an Online Environment
- 815-S60: Social Learning with Edmodo
- 817-R60: Getting Started– an iPad in Every Hand
- 819-K60: Spanish for Educators
- 820-J60: Meeting Student Needs Through Differentiated Instruction
- 820-K60: Problem Based Learning for the Content Areas

To view samples of course syllabi, please visit our webpage at www.ehhp.cofc.edu

Staff Highlight: Dr. Andrew Lewis

Dr. Andrew H. Lewis is an Associate Professor, Emeritus in the School of Education, Health and Human Performance’s (EHHP) Department of Health and Human Performance. During his tenure at the College he has served in the following administrative roles: Director of Professional Development in Education, Associate Dean of EHHP, Interim Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies, and as a Department Chair for eleven years. Dr. Lewis has been involved in various curriculum, and facility development projects. Dr. Lewis is married to Josephine McCloud Lewis of Winter Haven, Florida and they have three children; Andrew Jr., Adrian and Alexis and six grandchildren.

While serving as Department Chair, Dr. Lewis directed the renovations ($3.3 million) efforts of the Silcox Physical Education Center; Chaired the College of Charleston’s Educational Issues subcommittee for Long Range Planning, and served as a member of a committee looking at ways to increase campus diversity.

Dr. Lewis currently serves as Director of the Office of Professional Development in Education (OPDE) where he facilitates professional development course offerings throughout the state. The OPDE works collaboratively with K-12 School districts and agencies to help with professional growth of its personnel. The OPDE serves as a service component of the School of EHHP and works with over two thousand teachers and school administrators each year.

The OPDE works with the Center for Partnerships to Improve Education in its offering of courses to partner schools. The goal of the partnerships is to assist in-service teachers with development of additional teaching techniques. Dr. Lewis has been instrumental in acquiring funds ($50,000 plus) to support Advanced Placement Summer Institutes to help teachers from around the state develop AP teaching strategies. He has received several departmental scholarships and is active in the local community.

A primary goal of Dr. Lewis is to offer professional development courses to all counties on the coast of South Carolina. Another goal is to improve the performance of local public schools, the teachers and the students by offering a variety of focused professional development courses. Dr. Lewis serves on numerous local, state, and national professional committees and has authored articles in peer reviewed journals.
General Contact Information

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