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Office of Professional Development in Education

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College of Charleston
School of Education, Health, and Human Performance

Director’s Message

As we begin this new year let us give thanks for many things, but most importantly for those that work daily to educate, advocate, and foster the growth of our children. The OPDE looks with great anticipation to the coming year and our continued working relationships with both old and new partners. Each term we challenge ourselves to extend the reach of this office by facilitating more school districts and agencies with their PD offerings. In the Journal of Staff Development, Winter 2008 edition authors T. Lavine, J. Irizarry and G. Bunch talk about “Beyond open houses” and how schools must promote cross-cultural understanding among teachers and language-minority families. As Development Directors plan for the coming year we want you to think of creative ways professional development courses can be designed. Think of ways to link teacher learning to student needs and interest. We now facilitate a variety of PD and catalog courses and encourage you to visit our website, give us a call, or send an email to see how we can help you reach and accomplish the goals of your program. Have a great year, and think of CofC when you think Staff Development.

Advanced Placement Courses

The summer of 2008 brings the return of Advanced Placement Institute courses to the College of Charleston. The OPDE has been granted approval by the State Department of Education to offer two AP courses during the summer of 2008. One of the courses is English Language and Literature with special emphasis on analytic reading and writing. The second course is U.S. History. Participants taking this course will expand their knowledge of teaching U.S. history and the development of critical thinking skills, syllabus writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography. The dates of both courses are July 7-10 and July 11-14; 8:00-4:00. The courses will be offered at the College of Charleston’s north area campus. Be on the lookout for brochures and information from the State Department of Education about these and other AP offerings that will be occurring around the state during the summer of 2008. If you would like to get additional information, please contact Dr. Andrew Lewis at (843) 953-8250 or via email at lewisa@cofc.edu.
“Good teachers make a difference in the lives of students, today and tomorrow.”

Professional Development Initiator Highlight

Sharon Snyder has been an educator with the Berkeley County School District for 22 years. For the past two years, she has worked in the Office of Professional Development as the Coordinator of Professional Development. In this role, Mrs. Snyder assumes many responsibilities with the district and State Department of Education. Planning and organizing staff development opportunities for certified and classified staff members in the district is a top priority of Mrs. Snyder’s job. Graduate courses are coordinated by Mrs. Snyder through several local universities, the SC Department of Education, and other online institutions. The District Strategic Planning initiative, SACS, and School Renewal Planning processes are also coordinated by Mrs. Snyder and updated annually.

Mrs. Snyder is a member of several professional organizations and is a newly elected member of the SC Staff Development Council’s Board of Directors. A passion of Mrs. Snyder’s is to work collaboratively with the administrators and teachers in her district to enhance the learning needs of all Berkeley County students.

Instructor Highlight

Kristin Brittingham works as a Technology Specialist for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for Charleston County School District. Her primary responsibility is to facilitate the integration of technology into the curriculum. She also develops and teaches technology graduate and recertification courses, facilitates professional development for principals and teachers while promoting the use of best practices in teaching.

Kristin serves on the Cooper River Learning Community Associate Superintendent’s Leadership Team and assists with supporting schools to increase student achievement. Additionally, she teaches in the Educational Leaders program for The Citadel, and is an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston.

Kristin holds a Bachelors of Science in Education, a Masters of Teaching in Educational Leadership, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. During her spare time, she enjoys competing in Ironman Triathlons and running marathons.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How do I request an official transcript?
Answer: You may go to: http://www.cofc.edu/~registrar/TranscriptRequest.pdf or contact the Registrar’s Office by phone at 843.953.5668

Question: What is the validation period for a PD course?
Answer: Typically, the validation period last for seven years. However, if the content continues to be relevant this period may be extended.

Question: Does CofC offer online PD courses?
Answer: Yes, but currently the number of courses offered using this approach is minimal.
Course Highlight

EDPD 808-B: Facilitating Global Career Development

This course is designed to help train K-14 educators and other professionals who offer career assistance and guidance services in Global Career Development Facilitation (GCDF) to have a better understanding of career development resources and assessment for students and lead to an awareness of one’s professional strengths and needed improvements in the areas of career guidance.

Instruction will focus on career development theory and model which includes student/client diversity, assessment, ethical and legal issues, employability and technology skills, and labor market information and resources.

Participants will work with fellow classmates to address challenging situations and explore community resources.

Teachers will use the Internet to access and interpret employment trends and labor market information and also identify career information resources to assist students with career-making decisions.

Through this course, participants will demonstrate a competence in understanding, administering, and interpreting career development theory by creating a professional student/client case study portfolio and career development planning in an organization.

Student Comments

* This class provided useful information that a person could use. It was very worthwhile in time and effort invested.

* I am excited to carry out the lessons and tools obtained in this course. My students are benefiting which is my ultimate goal.

* This course was very helpful. It was nice to get positive feedback and advice from other instructors. I would highly recommend this course to other teachers.

* I felt this course was extremely helpful. I have walked away with way more information than I ever anticipated. I am so excited to use my Smart Board and create student friendly lessons.

* Great class! Fantastic instructor!

* This course had a great environment and a variety of instructors and students that taught me about career development on different perspectives.

* I have learned so much! I am excited to share what I have learned. I get so excited, as well as my students, to see what activities I am going to create next.

* I learned an amazing amount of knowledge to use in my classroom.

* This was an extremely well-organized and informative class. I have learned so much and will take “home” with me many skills that I will use each day in my classroom. Thank you.

“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”

-Aristotle
Online Registration Pilot

The Office of Professional Development will be piloting an online registration process in January of 2008. If the pilot project proves to be successful, the ODPE plans to gradually move some spring 2008 courses to this process with full implementation scheduled to begin during the summer of 2008.

Abbreviated Course Directory-Spring 2008

799 G: Intel Technology of the Future: Powerful Teaching and Learning

The purpose of this course is to assist teachers in learning how to use various technology tools to create and implement a standards-based elementary unit that encourages all students to be active learners.

809 I: Reading, Writing, and Assessment Instruction

This course gives teachers the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the reading and writing process and assessment by providing them with the necessary tools to use in their classrooms.

Abbreviated Course Directory-Summer 2008

809 K: Engaging Young Writers

This course provides teachers with in-depth instructional strategies and skills to engage young students in effective writing workshops to enhance learning and help insure students will be lifelong learners.

807 S: The SMART Way to Integrate Technology Objectives:

* Demonstrate ability to orient the SMART Board
* Explore funding opportunities for acquiring a SMART Board and accompanying technology
* Demonstrate ability to collaboratively create an interactive SMART noteook activity

EDPD 809 G: AP English, Literature, and Composition Objectives:

* Discuss the scoring of AP exams
* Review past AP essay rubrics
* Generate a “generic” AP style rubric
* Discuss the role of creative writing in AP literature
* Discuss selection of texts in small groups and as a class

EDPD 809 H: AP U.S. History Objectives:

* To provide each participant content to develop an effective AP U.S. History exam preparation course
* To assist each participant in developing lessons plans for an AP U.S. History course
* To introduce each participant to variety of resources to support and enhance the instruction in AP U.S. History course
Professional Development Partnerships

Anderson County School District Two
Aiken County School District
Ashley Hall School
Beaufort County School District
Berkeley County School District
Calhoun County School District
Charleston County School District
Chesterfield County School District
Christ Our King-Stella Maris
Clarendon County Schools District Three
Darlington County School District
Dillon County School District One and Three
Dorchester School District Two
Edgefield County School District
Florence County School District One
First Baptist Church School
Georgetown County School District
Greenville County School District
Horry County School District
Lee County School District
Lexington County School District One, Two, and Three
Marion County School District
Marlboro County School District
School District of Newberry County
Orangeburg County Consolidated School District Three and Four
Pickens County School District
Porter Gaud School
Richland County School District Two
Sumter County School District Seventeen
York County School District Two and Four
Williamsburg County School District

Informational Contacts

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“The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn’t being said.”
-Peter Drucker