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Office of Professional Development in Education

The Office of Professional Development in Education’s (OPDE) staff would like to wish each of you a Happy New Year and hope the coming months will be filled with many successful opportunities. The need to engage in professional development activities is as important now as at any time in the past. While we all face the economic difficulties and budget cuts, it must be remembered that in order to provide our students with quality educational experiences we must continue as educators to prepare ourselves with best practice techniques. The economic downturn that this country and our educational systems are faced with will challenge us now and into the future. Yet, we must make every effort to continue plans to provide information that will help colleagues meet the needs of our children.

The OPDE will also be dealing with many of the same economic challenges that each of your school districts must face. We hope to address these challenges of travel, services, and continued communication in a way that our efforts meet your needs. Therefore to help assist with school districts’ financial challenges, the OPDE has continued its Incentive Program. The program allows school districts that have offered three fee-based courses to offer a fourth course at no cost for the participant tuition fee. Additional information on the Incentive Plan can be found in this newsletter.

As many of you are aware our office has instituted an Online Registration process that has proven to be very effective in assisting with internal operations. I would like to thank each of you for your cooperation as we have worked to institute this online registration process so that errors and registration time are reduced. The OPDE continues to investigate and explore ways that will allow us to work more efficiently while serving your needs.

A new year brings about many new challenges and opportunities and our office again looks forward to serving and helping you meet the needs of your colleagues through the many professional development opportunities that will be made available. We are here to serve, advocate, and promote the importance of professional development.

“We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.”

-Franklin Roosevelt

Online Registration

The OPDE piloted online registration in January of 2008. The transfer from paper registration to online registration was well received by participants.

The online registration process must be completed within 48 hours of the first class meeting to be officially registered in a professional development course. The cost of this procedure is $5 that must paid by using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check.

Full implementation began during Summer I of 2008. Since then, over 2300 students have entered their registration for professional development courses online.

Continued success with the online registration has resulted in reduced data entry errors, quick class roll production as well as efficient and timely data reporting.
"Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.”  
-Mary Kay Ash

The incentive plan approved by the College of Charleston’s Board of Trustees in July 2003 was revised as shown in item “b” below at its summer 2008 meeting.

To take advantage of the incentive plan, school districts would need to be prepared to address the criteria stated below.

Teach three courses that are managed by the College of Charleston OPDE. A fourth course (to be offered immediately, if possible) will be facilitated without a per participant fee assessed if the following conditions are met:

a. All courses to be counted toward the incentive plan must be one for which the educational funding agency pays a per participant fee.

b. All courses to be credited in the incentive plan must have a minimum enrollment of 20 students or average 60 students over three fee payment courses.

c. If an instructor’s salary is assessed to the free course, the responsibility of the salary will rest with the contracting school, district, or agency. The College of Charleston will absorb the ($35.00, $70.00, or $105.00) per participant fee only. Maximum enrollment may not exceed 25 students per class in free incentive courses.

d. The school district or agency must use the incentive course(s) immediately (during that given session/semester) or within 18 months of having earned the free course.

In addition to the tuition fee, all non South Carolina residents taking EDPD courses will be assessed a Differential Fee as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Duration</th>
<th>Differential Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour course</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hour course</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hour course</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The College of Charleston’s Board of Trustees at its June meeting increased EDPD tuition fees. Beginning in Fall 2008 EDPD courses will be assessed the following fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Duration</th>
<th>Tuition Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour course</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hour course</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 hour course</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incentive Plan

EDPD Course Fees

Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Are PD and Catalog courses the same?  
**Answer:** No, PD courses do not count towards completion of a graduate degree at the College of Charleston. Catalog courses have been approved as part of a graduate degree program.

**Question:** Are PD and Catalog course fees the same?  
**Answer:** No, PD course fees are less because they are not designed to lead to a degree. Catalog fees are based on the regular tuition for degree seeking programs.

**Question:** Does senior citizen status apply to PD courses?  
**Answer:** No because OPDE serves primarily as a facilitator of courses offered by agencies outside the College of Charleston.
Course Highlight

EDPD 810-H: “Gender Issues in the Classroom”

This interactive course is designed to explore and implement single gender teaching and learning strategies in the classroom. Teachers will observe how differentiating instruction according to gender-specific strategies will increase student engagement in the educational process and lead to a decrease in the failure rate while increasing scores on critical state assessments.

Teachers will not only build a greater awareness of gender bias as it exists in their own practices but will construct a resource library of proven strategies as they apply to gender equity within their discipline.

The goals and objectives of the course are correlated to the College of Charleston’s Teaching and Learning Standards in gaining an understanding and awareness of the sociological and neurobiological foundations of cognitive gender differences as they relate to education.

Participants will explore many topics based on the field of gender equity and observe how to create an effective learning environment based on gendered instruction.

The class will allow participants to work cooperatively and to engage in constructive dialogue through a “book talk” format. Teachers will be required to complete a major project that integrates single gender instructional strategies in their classrooms. They will create gender-specific lesson plans using the same topic and implement them in their classrooms.

Teachers then will share their experiences with their colleagues and provide a reflection paper assessing the value of the lessons and changes needed for future use.

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”

-Kofi Annan
The ESOL program trains individuals to teach English to non-native English speakers. The program is designed to attract both practicing teachers as well as individuals who need these types of courses to work in other areas such as non-profit organizations or those teaching or working abroad.

The program is divided into two certificates. Certificate I courses provide a solid foundation in theories and methodologies for beginning ESOL teachers. Upon completion of Certificate I, teachers may enroll in Certificate II (Advanced) courses which help participants complete the hours they need for endorsement and field experiences in the instruction of English as a second language to elementary and secondary learners.

Abbreviated Course Directory-Spring 2009

808-Z: Differentiated Instruction and Safe School Management

This online course reinforces the use of differentiated instruction as a teaching tool by emphasizing classroom management and prevention/intervention crisis planning. It addresses how to better prepare school leaders to design safe school environments.

501-A: Life Skills for Teachers

This course is designed to assist beginning teachers or senior teacher education students in the transition into the post-graduate world by educating them with practical, life-related concepts. Topics range from personal finance to insurance to banking and real estate.

Initiator Highlight

Ann Cannon:

Dr. Ann Cannon has served as the new Early Childhood and Professional Development Coordinator for Sumter School District #17 since June 2008. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, Cambridge College in 1998 with a Masters of Education Degree, and Nova University in 2006 with a Doctorate of Education Degree.

While working for several Sumter county school districts, she served in various teaching positions including a first, second, and fourth grade teacher as well as a reading recovery and literacy teacher.

Ann also served as a first grade Teacher Specialist for the State Department of Education in Lee County and Florence County # 4 school districts.

During her career, she was honored as the Sumter School District #2’s Teacher of the Year for 1998-1999. Ann also received her National Board Certification in Early Childhood in 2000.

Ann is a member of the SC International Reading Association, SC Staff Development Council, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Reading Recovery Council of North America and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society.

She strives to make a difference in the lives of children and educators and couldn’t imagine a more gratifying career.
Professional Development Partnerships

Anderson County School District Two
Aiken County School District
Ashley Hall School
Bamberg County School District
Beaufort County School District
Berkeley County School District
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School
Calhoun County School District
Charleston County School District
Chester County School District
Chesterfield County School District
Christ Our King-Stella Maris
Clarendon County School District
Colleton County School District
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
Jasper 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 Two
Sumter County School District Seventeen
York County School District Two and Four
Williamsburg County School District
South Carolina Department of Education
(Office of Adult and Community Education)
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
South Carolina Department of Special Needs—Autism Division
South Carolina ETV
SC Forestry Commission
Sumter Soil and Water Commission

Informational Contacts

Tia Brown, Administrative Assistant
General information and questions on Professional Development in Education
Phone: 843-953-7651
Fax: 843-953-4819
e-mail: browntr@cofc.edu
Web page: http://www.cofc.edu/~pdie

Dr. Andrew H. Lewis, Director
Course initiation, development and approval
Phone: 843-953-8250 or 843-953-0784
Fax: 843-953-4819
e-mail: lewisa@cofc.edu

Elizabeth R. Grantham, Assistant for Administration and Public Relations
Course initiation, development and approval
Phone: 843-953-6385
Fax: 843-953-4819
e-mail: granthame@cofc.edu

Earline (Kandy) White, Associate Director for Records and Budget
Registration, grades, payroll, evaluation
Phone: 843-953-8049
Fax: 843-953-4819
e-mail: whitee@cofc.edu

“In the new economy, information, education, and motivation are everything.”
-Bill Clinton