OFFICE OF
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT IN
EDUCATION

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A Message From the Director

BY ARCHIE FRANCHINI

It has been an exciting first half of the year in the Office of Professional Development in Education (OPDE). It has gone so quickly. Summer is well upon us, but we are not slowing down in OPDE. In fact, Summer I enrollment is up considerably over last year.

During the winter/spring of 2019 we continued to offer high quality professional development opportunities to South Carolina’s teachers. Many teachers took Read to Succeed courses through our department as well as courses in technology, school law, ESOL. Gifted Education and the arts. Course and instructor evaluations continue to be high indicating that what we deliver is of value to teachers in the classroom.

Also during the first half of 2019, Paul Irwin and I met with representatives of school districts across the state to listen and learn about the professional development needs of our state’s teachers. Some of our meetings were with established partners, but others were with districts that we would like to collaborate with in the coming year. In all cases, we left with a sense of the continued need for what we do in OPDE. As result of our meetings, we established some new partnerships and believe that more will come in the future. We continue to strive to be the “go to” provider of professional development for teachers in SC.

In addition to site visits Kandy White, Paul Irwin and I visited school districts during their professional development conferences for teachers, and we attended the SC Learning Forward Conference in March. By doing this we are able to not only share the work that we do in OPDE, but also listen to teachers about their professional development needs.

Because of some of our visits, and the conversations we have had, we have learned that there are teachers in need of courses to meet the Middle Level Add-On endorsement to teach in middle school. We have developed those courses and are excited to begin offering them in the Fall of 2019.

As you can tell, we have had busy first half of the year and we busy making plans for the 2019-2020 school year. We will continue to work to meet the professional development needs of our current school district partners and to establish new partnerships across the state.

Remember, when you think of professional development, think CofC Office of Professional Development in Education.
We thank all of you for your support over the years and we want to keep you up to date on all the great things happening at Professional Development in Education. We’re excited to announce that in addition to our website, we are also launching two new social media profiles on Facebook and Twitter!

At OPDE, we plan on sharing information and updates regularly, including photos, new member announcements, and more! Please take a moment and visit our pages. Once there, click “Like” or “Follow”. We look forward to bringing you tons of great information and connecting with you! We encourage you to comment and share on our posts too. Feel free to ask us questions or share the content with your colleagues.

We are happy to welcome our new Undergraduate Assistant, Kijana Davis, to the Office of Professional Development. She is a rising senior at the College of Charleston. She is currently getting her Bachelors degree in Marketing and will be graduating next summer. Since starting this May, Kijana has been a tremendous help to our office.
Summer 2019 Courses

824 R60:
Content Area Reading and Writing for Elementary Grades
July 1 - August 12
$400
3 Graduate Credits

The purpose of this course is to engage in-service early childhood and elementary teachers as active learners of content area reading and writing using the literacy instructional model. The model has developed in response to the Read to Succeed Act of 2014 mandate for content area reading and writing across all grade levels. Developing a literacy mindset requires a paradigm shift away from telling students what to know and towards creating literacy-rich lessons for acquiring knowledge through reading and sharing learning through writing. Intentional planning and literacy-based instruction are transformational as a culture of literacy emerges and a literacy-rich environment nurtures it.

824 L60:
Google Applications for Education
July 8 - September 30
$400
3 Graduate Credits

This on-line professional development course builds upon the technology skills and applications covered in undergraduate work and addresses strategies to improve teaching and learning. The course provides opportunities for teacher and student to interact face to face, through Lync 2010. During this course, students will participate in on-line discussions, blog postings, journal reflections, and develop lessons aligned with SC Educational Standards. Students will reflect on technology projects, articles, and videos covered in this course and collaborate with classmates on effective technology integration strategies into their content areas. Students will learn how to use Google Apps for Education to support instruction, enhance classroom management, and communicate professionally.
If you can read this, thank a teacher. Or a parent. Or a sibling. Or a grandparent. Or a caregiver. Your journey into literacy began by listening to someone’s voice. You mimicked those sounds, and after a while, you realized that letters could be used to represent those sounds! These letters became words to read. What you read created ideas for you to share with others through writing.

And if you use this literacy mindset as a result of one of the OPDE’s Read to Succeed courses, thank Dr. Andrew Lewis! As the 2014 mandate moved through the state’s legislative branches, he made time for a stranger with a vision and a course outline for Content Area Reading and Writing for Middle and High School Teachers. Our combined effort brought this course to in-service teachers a short time after the bill was signed.

It is five years later, and through the continuing effort of Archie Franchini, Paul Irwin, Kandy White, and Rachel Bruce, all five R2S mandated courses are available to in-service teachers across the state. And for graduate credit! That’s good news for the OPDE, for CofC, and for the teachers and students of South Carolina. We are a good team!

And it’s my privilege to teach four of them. I’ve been a reading teacher since my first day of my first job out of college. I have taught primary students, elementary students, and middle school students – within a classroom and within pull out reading sessions. I stepped back into the classroom as a student and emerged to find myself teaching college students of all ages and ability levels. It was in those college students that I began to realize the roadblocks that exist for adults who have not been empowered with the ability to read and write to learn.

I feel blessed to be a part of a department that is transforming these roadblocks into speed bumps. Our year-round courses are changing lives, one teacher at a time. These teachers develop a literacy mindset toward instruction; their students practice ‘reading and writing to learn’ process strategies that transform them into lifetime learners.

If someone asks you, “What is the Office of Professional Development in Education?,” here’s your answer: It is teachers teaching teachers to become the best teacher they can be. And how do R2S instructors do that? Using reading and writing to learn process strategies.
The College of Charleston Office of Professional Development in Education (OPDE) is pleased to announce that we will begin offering three online graduate-level professional development courses that will assist teachers seeking Middle-Level Education as an add-on certification.

**824V Middle-Level Curriculum and Organization (Fall 2019)**

**820P Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Area (Fall 2019)**

**EDPD Early Adolescent Growth and Development and Learning Communities (Spring 2020)**
MIDDLE-LEVEL EDUCATION ADD-ON CERTIFICATION

The courses carry 3 hours of professional development graduate credit. All three courses will carry a Pass/Fail grade with zero quality points and cannot be converted to a letter grade, or count toward an advanced degree. Participants who earn a “P” in the courses will meet the SC Department of Education’s requirements toward the Middle-Level endorsement. Teachers will still need to meet the content courses, in a specific area, requirement to earn the full endorsement. The cost of the courses for professional development graduate credit is significantly lower than graduate level catalog courses.
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Have a great Summer!

Thank you for your support!