A Message From the Director  Andrew Lewis, PhD

The warm days of summer are quickly approaching and as you prepare for fun filled days, I would like you to think about making these warm months professionally productive. I am sure this is not what you are thinking about now but time passes swiftly and we must prepare for those returning students who will bring their hopes, joys, and challenges into our classrooms. Professional learning is a lifelong process and now would be a good time to begin your preparations for the types of professional development opportunities you would like your teachers to engage in during the coming school year.

The Office of Professional Development in Education (OPDE) is very excited about helping Staff Development Directors meet the needs of various personnel during these continued troubling financial times. We understand that budgets will be under significant stress, and many difficult decisions must be rendered. We also know that our schools and the education of its students remain a high priority and the integration of Read to Succeed requirements appears to be a light in the distance that will bring about changes, some good and some that will pose challenges.

OPDE has the expertise to work with various organizations to help them develop and implement focused professional development activities. We also have the ability to assist with facilitation of catalog courses that assist teachers with best practices in the classroom today and beyond.

Have a wonderful year, and think of CofC when you think Staff Development.
News from the ODPE

As many of you know, we have made several changes (Online evaluation system, Online addition to class rolls, Expanded our Catalog course offerings, Increased cohort offerings, etc.,) during the past year. Most of these changes have results in improved office operations and more efficient services delivery to you our partners. As we continue to grow changes must be made. Therefore, we thank you for your patience and hope these changes will enhance communication, evaluation feedback, and timely processing of information.

We continue to facilitate a variety of PD and Cohort courses and encourage you to visit our website http://ehhp.cofc.edu/centers/opde/, give us a call, or send an email to see how we can help you accomplish the objectives of your program.

College of Charleston’s New QEP

The College of Charleston’s new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Sustainable Literacy as a Bridge to Address 21st Century Problems, will be starting Fall 2017. The QEP will equip students with the knowledge and capabilities to effectively understand, analyze, and problem-solve critical challenges to the triple bottom line (social, economic, and environmental) of sustainability. The College's plan is to “provide students with the global and interdisciplinary perspectives necessary to address the social, economic, environmental, ethical, scientific, and political issues of the 21st Century.” The Office of Professional Development in Education is looking for ways to promote sustainability literacy through new learning opportunities. We believe that it is important to develop empowered citizens who can think critically and solve challenges.
Fort Mill School District — Our newest Professional Development partners!

The Fort Mill School District’s commitment to its mission, “Children First, Every Day,” is at the heart of each decision made by staff, teachers, and trustees. We strive to ensure that programs, personnel, and curriculum are selected with students’ best interests in mind.

Putting “Children First, Every Day” has created a tradition of excellence and measurable success in our schools. The Fort Mill School District is the top performing district in the state, based on performance data. Each of the district’s schools has achieved Palmetto Gold awards for high achievement on state performance exams. Seven of our schools were singled out for efforts in closing the achievement gap.

The performance of Fort Mill’s two high schools further demonstrates the quality of a Fort Mill School District education. High school students from the district score well above state and national averages on the SAT and ACT exams. Additionally, our high school students have the opportunity to engage in rigorous coursework, with 17 AP courses available to them, and 86 percent of students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exams.

We balance our commitment to academics with a dedication to arts and athletics programming, creating well-rounded students with varied interests.

The Fort Mill School District is geographically one of the smallest in the state but has the fastest growing student population, serving more than 12,000 students in 15 schools. Though the district is rapidly growing, our schools remain the heart of the town, providing a quality education for students while also playing an integral role in enhancing community life. Our district contributes to the quality of life in Fort Mill by providing exceptional academic programs for its students and opportunities for community entertainment and enrichment through its arts and athletic programs.

In response to the recent Read to Succeed legislation, the district now offers several endorsement courses for its educators. The newly formed partnership between University of Charleston and Fort Mill Schools has enabled the district to provide the graduate level Content Area Literacy course for its secondary teachers. As a result of the district’s commitment to the cause of literacy, all middle and high school teachers in the district will have met the requirements for the Read to Succeed endorsement by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.
What is Read to Succeed? 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 that monitor student progress more closely. What does this mean for educators? Professional Development courses will be at the heart of ensuring the success of this legislature. Our office is already working on providing teachers with courses tailored to meet the requirements set forth by this bill, all at a fair and reasonable price. Feel free to contact our office at any time if you have questions regarding Read to Succeed or any of the future courses pertaining to it that we may offer. Below is a helpful chart that demonstrates why our office offers the most affordable and accessible option for taking this course. The next few pages provide information on courses currently being offered by the College of Charleston.

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<tr>
<th>Offered Online</th>
<th>Under $500 per course</th>
<th>Approved by R2S office</th>
<th>Middle &amp; Secondary classes</th>
<th>3 hours of graduate credit</th>
<th>Offered in Fall, Spring, and Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPDE Read-to-Succeed course offerings</td>
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Sample of Courses Offered

Fall 2017

821-T60  Foundation in Reading
       • 3 Credit Hours  • Online

823-J60  Assessment in Reading
       • 3 Credit Hours  • Online

820-P60  Content Area Reading and Writing for Middle and Secondary Teachers
       • 3 Credit Hours  • Online
General Contact Information

Website:
http://ehhp.cofc.edu/centers/opde/index.php
Fax: 843-953-4819

Office of Professional Development in Education
The College of Charleston
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424

Tia Brown, Administrative Assistant
Phone: 843-953-4819
Email: brownt@cofc.edu

Course Initiation, Development, and Approval

Dr. Andrew Lewis, Director
Phone: 843-953-8250
Email: lewsa@cofc.edu

Paul Irwin
Assistant for Administration and Public Relations
Phone: 843-953-6385
Email: irwinpj@cofc.edu

Registration, Grades, Payroll, Evaluation

Earline “Kandy” Lincoln White
Associate Director for Records & Budget
Phone: 843-953-8049
Email: whitee@cofc.edu

Graduate Assistant
Amanda Voges
opde@cofc.edu