



# South Carolina Education Policy Fellowship Program

*coordinated through*

South Carolina School Improvement Council  
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Columbia, South Carolina 29208  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **22 South Carolina professional and civic leaders named to prestigious education policy program**

COLUMBIA – Twenty-two (22) professional and civic leaders from across South Carolina have been selected to participate in the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) for 2015-16.

SC-EPFP is a 10-month intensive professional development program for established and emerging leaders in education and related fields to help equip them in working toward sound education policy and practice in South Carolina. SC-EPFP Fellows participate in a variety of activities that promote leadership, develop professional networks, demystify education policy, and foster a greater understanding of the roles of government and the community.

Members of the SC-EPFP class for 2015-16 are:

- Jennifer G. Ainsworth, 2015 South Carolina Teacher of the Year  
Socastee High School, Horry County Schools, Myrtle Beach
- Merita A. “Rita” Allison, Chair, House Education & Public Works Committee  
SC House of Representatives, District 36, Greenville/Spartanburg Counties
- Rhonda D. Caldwell, Coordinator, Homework Centers & *Business Week*  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Columbia
- Lisa L. Corning, Education & Early Disability Coordinator, Early Head Start  
Richland County First Steps, Columbia
- Mary D. “Penny” Cothran, APR, Multimedia Manager  
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Columbia
- Dr. Baron R. Davis, Assistant Superintendent  
Richland District Two, Columbia
- Don D. Doggett, Senior TA Consultant & Program Associate  
American Institutes for Research, Columbia
- Dr. Shawn P. Haggerty, Director of Specialized Programs  
Sumter County Schools, Sumter
- Dr. Robin L. Hardy, Principal, Fairfield Middle School  
Fairfield County School District, Winnsboro
- Traci M. Hogan, Executive Director of Federal Programs  
Horry County Schools, Conway

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- Col. James P. “Jamie” Houston, DDS  
United States Army, Fort Jackson
- Suzanne T. Koty, 2016 South Carolina Teacher of the Year  
Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention & Advancement (CERRA), Rock Hill
- Angela Leon, Field Account Manager  
Hewlett-Packard, Lexington
- Kathy F. Maness, Executive Director  
Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA), Columbia
- Dr. Christina S. Melton, Chief Instructional Officer  
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties, Irmo
- Joel M. Mitchell, Principal  
Williston-Elko High School, Williston District 29, Williston
- Margaret Peach, Principal  
McCracken Middle School, Spartanburg School District 7, Spartanburg
- Ryan T. Pool, Principal  
Lexington Middle School, Lexington School District One, Lexington
- Thomas L. Rhodes, III, President  
Rhodes Graduation Services, Inc., Summerton
- Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor, Member, Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools  
Vice President, M.B. Kahn Construction Company, Taylors
- Gregory B. “Gregg” Scott, Principal  
Woodmont Middle School, Greenville County Schools, Piedmont
- Kimberly M. “Kim” Wiley, School Liaison, Marine Corps Community Services  
United State Marine Corps, Beaufort

“In this year’s SC-EPFP class we are fortunate to have some of our state’s most talented and dedicated leaders,” said Robert E. Barnett, Associate Vice President for Workforce, Education and Manufacturing Policy with the SC Chamber of Commerce and SC-EPFP Advisory Board Chair. “Together they will learn new skills, develop added insight, and work collaboratively so they can take positive action to improve South Carolina’s future through meaningful education improvement and reform.”

Fellows will meet monthly throughout the academic year for full-day dialogues, exercises and group projects, in addition to an overnight in-state Fall Leadership Forum and a four-day Washington Policy Seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership.

The SC-EPFP operates under the auspices of the national Education Policy Fellowship Program of the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC, which oversees Fellowship programs in 16 states and the District of Columbia. In South Carolina the program is coordinated by the SC School Improvement Council, located in the University of South Carolina College of Education, with the assistance of the SC Department of Education’s Office of School Leadership.

SC-EPFP is supported by an advisory board providing cross-disciplinary leadership representing the state’s K-12 education, higher education, and business communities.

For additional information on the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program, visit the SC-EPFP page online at <http://sic.sc.gov/sceducationpolicyfellowshipprogram/Pages/index.aspx>.