

TEACHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY



August 9, 2012

Dear Guidance Counselor:

Thank you for your assistance in promoting the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. The Program is entering its fourteenth year of offering the State's brightest and best students **up to \$24,000** over four years to become South Carolina educators. The South Carolina General Assembly began funding the program in 1999 to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession.

Administered by CERRA-South Carolina, the program provides Fellowships for **up to 175** students each year (**actual number determined by funding from the General Assembly**). These students participate in enrichment programs at a Teaching Fellows Institution, participate in professional development and leadership opportunities, partner with communities and businesses, and receive **up to a \$6,000** fellowship annually for four years as long as they are in the process of completing a degree leading to teacher certification and meet the criteria to continue in the program. Fellows must agree to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for each year loan monies are received.

Any student who is currently a high school senior, a legal resident of South Carolina and will be attending college as a freshman in the fall of 2013 may apply. Fellowships are based on academic achievement, references, community and school involvement, an interview and a writing assessment. Students must attend one of the eleven Teaching Fellows Institutions. Currently, these include Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, Columbia College, Furman University, Lander University, Newberry College, SC State University, USC Columbia, USC Upstate, and Winthrop University.

Please encourage all students who are interested in teaching in South Carolina and who meet the qualifications for participation to submit an application, and share this information with your faculty and greater school community. **The online application will open September 1, 2012. The deadline for submission has been extended until December 1, 2012 with notification to Fellowship recipients as soon as funding decisions are made in early spring 2013.**

The application will be available on the CERRA Web site at www.cerra.org. We have enclosed detailed information on the application process. You will be asked to submit an official transcript for each applicant from your school. Teaching Fellows applicants will be responsible for collecting three references on the official 2012 reference form. All transcripts and references must be postmarked by December 5, 2012. Please take a minute to review the application process information. We have also included a pdf of the application and a copy of the 2012 reference form for your information. Please understand that students must complete the application online. In order for applications to be considered complete, the student must answer all mandatory questions on the online application, and a high school transcript and three (3) references on official forms must be obtained and sent to CERRA, postmarked by December 5, 2012. Incomplete applications will NOT be scored. You may access a short video about the Teaching Fellows Program and application process at teachingfellowsc.com beginning September 1, 2012.

Thank you for providing your students with information about these exciting Fellowships. If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact me or administrative assistant Libby Anderson at teachingfellows@cerra.org or call 800.476.2387.

Sincerely,

Jenna Hallman
Assistant Director/Program Director