



Carolina Family Engagement Center

Family Engagement VOICE

December 2019

*Equity,
Opportunity
& Excellence
in Education*



*“We’re in
this
together.”*



Carolina Family Engagement Center Begins Direct Work with Schools

The Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC), a five year, \$5 million dollar grant program of the U.S. Department of Education and housed in the UofSC College of Education and SC School Improvement Council office, has entered its second year of operation with direct service provision to five schools districts and 25 schools.

These include: Richland One (Midlands) – Burton Pack ES, Edward E. Taylor ES, Hyatt Park ES, Alcorn MS, Heyward Gibbes MS, and Eau Claire HS; Chester County School District (Upper Central) – Chester Park Center of Literacy through Technology,

*(cont.)
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New Learning Opportunities for Educators Available Through CFEC

CFEC is offering districts and schools two new professional development opportunities for educators – available free of charge. *The Basics of Family Engagement* is an interactive session facilitated by Project Director Karen Utter that is customizable for diverse audiences including principals, faculty and staff, and district personnel.

Topics covered include (1) defining family engagement; (2) developing a welcoming school and trusting relationships, (3) applicable standards and frameworks including the SC Family Engagement Framework for K-12 Schools, (4) examples of research-informed programs and practices, and (5) engaging diverse populations.



CFEC is also offering a session entitled *Engaging Families to Promote Resiliency and Reduce the Impact of Trauma for All Students*. This workshop – created and facilitated by CFEC Regional Liaisons Julia Beaty, MSW, LISW-CP, and Lorilei Swanson, LMFT, LPC – addresses the impact of trauma on student learning and behavior and presents a best practices framework for working with families.

To schedule one of these sessions, please contact CFEC Project Manager Theresa Harrison at harri642@mailbox.sc.edu. Learn more about these and other training sessions offered through CFEC and its partner organizations at <https://cfec.sc.gov/>.

Family Matters: CFEC Panel Sparks Discussion of Family Engagement with UofSC CoE Students

CFEC began what will surely be an ongoing conversation with UofSC College of Education (CoE) students and faculty around the importance of family engagement to student success during a recent 3D Diversity Forum sponsored by the CoE Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion on October 30.

Members of the CFEC parent/educator panel and many of the over 30 participants shared their own stories as well as observations from the classroom and experiences in the field. Panel members included Michelle Gritz, a principal of Sugar Creek Elementary in Fort Mill; 2018 SC Teacher of the Year Erin Fox of Gaffney High in Cherokee County; and Kathryn Padgett, a parent of a child with special needs and volunteer with Family Connection SC.

A key takeaway from the resulting discussion was the role that general education teachers play in supporting students and families with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and the need to provide all teachers and administrators with additional capacity-building training and resources in that area.

CFEC and its partner Family Connection SC are currently collaborating on the creation of new professional development opportunities in family engagement that address the needs of families of children with special needs as an integral part of capacity building for general education as well as special education professionals.

Watch for more information on this project in the coming months.

Upcoming:

2020 Equity in Education Conference

Registration is underway for the Equity in Education Conference set for Jan. 15-16, 2020. The annual conference was extended to two days following an overwhelming response from educators last year.

The theme of the 2020 conference is *Culturally Sustaining Teaching for Educators and Students* and topics include:

- Culturally Relevant Pedagogy
- Where is the Black History When Teaching Social Studies?
- Hip Hop and Engagement
- The Study of African American Rhetoric in Secondary Classrooms
- Activities for Creating an Inclusive Classroom



Register at <http://bit.ly/2Nx52Tx>



CFEC Upstate Regional Liaison Lorilei Swanson (2nd from left) presents a Carolina Family Engagement Center banner to Belton Elementary School Principal Tracy Hedrick, Assistant Principal Jonathon Fowler, and Anderson School District 2 representative Teresa Phillips

CFEC Providing Direct Services To Schools

(cont. from pg. 1)

Chester Park School of Inquiry, Chester Park School of the Arts, Chester MS, and Chester HS; Rock Hill Schools (Upper Central) – Ebinport ES and W.C. Sullivan MS; Clarendon School District Two (Pee Dee) – Manning Early Childhood Center, Manning Primary School, Manning ES, Manning JHS, and Manning HS; and Anderson School District 2 (Upstate) – Marshall Primary School, Wright ES, Belton ES, Honea Path MS, Belton MS, and Belton Honea Path HS.



Laurann Gallitto, MMFT

Four Regional Family Engagement Liaisons have been added to the CFEC staff to work directly with these districts and schools, as well as with selected classroom teachers/teams within eight schools in six additional districts: Jackson Creek ES, Polo Road ES, and Richland Northeast HS (Richland School District Two); James M. Brown ES (School District of Oconee County); Harleyville ES (Dorchester School District Four); Laurens ES (Laurens County School District 55); Sims MS (Union County Schools); and Paul Knox MS (Aiken County Public Schools).



Julia Beatty, MSW/LISW-CP



Ranina Outing, MHA

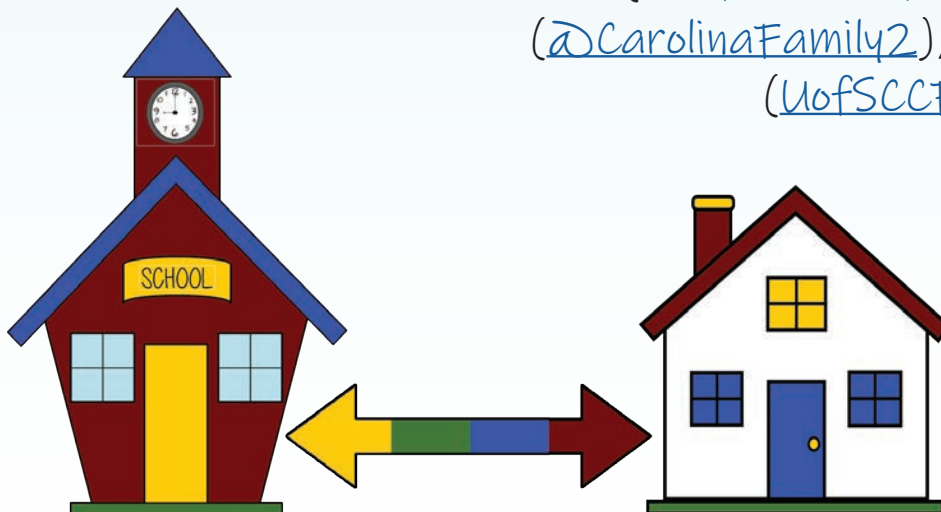
CFEC Liaisons are providing multiple and ongoing supports to schools and teachers in strengthening family engagement planning, implementation and evaluation on an ongoing and long-term basis.

Serving the Midlands region is Lead Liaison Laurann Gallitto, MMFT, with Julia Beatty, MSW/LISW-CP serving the Upper Central region, Ranina Outing, MHA in the Pee Dee, and Dr. Lorlei Swanson, LMFT/LPC serving the Upstate.



Dr. Lorlei Swanson,
LMFT/LPC

More about the Carolina Family Engagement Center staff and CFEC's work can be found on its [website](#). CFEC can also be followed on Facebook ([@CFECatUofSC](#)), Twitter ([@CarolinaFamily2](#)), and Instagram ([UofSCCFEC](#)).



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