



Carolina Family Engagement Center

Family Engagement VOICE

April 2020

Equity,
Opportunity
& Excellence
in Education



*“We’re in
this
together.”*



ATTENTION South Carolina Parents and Teachers: CFEC Family Engagement and Leadership Opportunities Available Now!

The Carolina Family Engagement Center is offering two partnership opportunities for teachers and families. The *CFEC Parent Leadership Partners* program aims to strengthen the abilities of families to take leadership roles in their children’s education and build relationships with other parents, while teachers interested in professional development and family engagement are encouraged to apply to be a *CFEC Teacher/Teacher-Team* partner.



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See “Family Engagement and Leadership Opportunities Available Now!”
pg. 3

In this issue

- CFEC Family Engagement and Leadership Opportunities Available Now!.....pg. 1
- SC Joins NAFSCE Pre-Service Family Engagement Consortium.....pg. 2
- Coming Soon - *Ready, Set – Kindergarten!*.....pg. 2
- For Parents: Supporting Early Literacy at Home.....pg. 3
- Foster Care: A Matter of Basic Civil Rights.....pg. 3
- CFEC Staff: Interns Sydni Edwards & Emile Roberts, Liaison Claressa Hinton.....pg. 4
- Closing Notes: CFEC Project Director Karen Utter.....pg. 4

South Carolina Joins NAFSCE Pre-Service Family Engagement Consortium

We are excited to announce that South Carolina is one of seven states that are represented on a newly formed national *Pre-Service Family Engagement Consortium* sponsored by The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) and its partners. The goal of this initiative is to advance the development of educator preparation programs that equip educators and administrators with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to engage families and communities as a strategy for student achievement and school improvement.



Seven state teams comprised of representatives from state education agencies and select educator preparation programs were chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants to serve on the Consortium. In addition to South Carolina, the states represented are California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

UofSC College of Education faculty member and CFEC Specialist Dr. Michele Myers is representing the University of South Carolina College of Education on the South Carolina team, which also includes Yolande' Anderson, Director of the Office of Family and Community Engagement, SC Department of Education; Dr. James Ritter, Education Services Department, SC Department of Education; Dr. Anthony Pittman, Dean of the School of Education at Claflin University; and representatives of other schools of education from around the state.

We believe that effective preparation for teachers and administrators in our Colleges of Education is a key component to increasing the level of family and community engagement in early childhood and K-12 schools. Congratulations to Dr. Myers and all of the members of the South Carolina team!

We will keep you updated on the Consortium's work over the next 18 months.

Coming Soon - *Ready, Set – Kindergarten!*

Ready, Set – Kindergarten! gives parents, caregivers, and teachers a colorful, easy to read family guide for age 3, age 4 preschool, and age 5 kindergarten development. There are six separate booklets, one for each of the areas of growth and development, that bridge the development indicators of the *Early Learning Standards* with the kindergarten standards of the *College and Career Ready Standards*. The six guides cover:

- **Approaches to Play and Learning**
- **Emotional and Social Development**
- **Health and Physical Development**
- **Language Development**
- **Mathematical Thinking**
- **Cognitive Development**



Included in each booklet are explanations of a domain's individual sub-goals with samples of the end-of-age development indicators for that sub-goal. Also included are numerous at-home activities to help caregivers understand ways to aid their child's development. Additional resources are listed for information, games, and activities available on smart phones and computers.

The *Ready, Set – Kindergarten!* guides will soon be available, as will a poster focusing on the at-home activities suggested in the guides. Watch for more info - or [contact us](#) for more details!

cont. from page 1:

“Family Engagement and Leadership Opportunities Available Now!”

Benefits of being a *CFEC Parent Leadership Partner* include:

- A \$1,000.00 stipend for participants who complete all PLP requirements.
- Hot meals and childcare for participants at each scheduled session.
- Beginning in 2020-21, dates for PLP sessions will be based on participants’ schedules. The 2020-21 sessions are expected to be held in the SC Lowcountry (Charleston) area.
- Application deadline: midnight, Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Benefits of being a *CFEC Teacher/Teacher-Team* partner are:

- Free tools and ongoing professional development, and technical assistance with all aspects of family engagement planning, implementation and evaluation from a CFEC regional liaison.
- Enhanced parent-teacher partnerships that focus on improved student learning and development.
- A \$1,000 stipend upon completion of all CFEC requirements.
- Application deadline EXTENDED! New deadline: midnight, April 26, 2020.

Applications and more information are available on the CFEC website. [Contact us](#) with any questions!

For Parents: Supporting Early Literacy at Home

(From the SC Department of Education:) “[The] Office of Early Learning and Literacy has developed *“Supporting Early Literacy at Home: A Parent’s Guide”*, a series of online, self-paced learning modules designed to provide information for parents and caregivers so that they can support their children’s early literacy development.



Research shows that parent/caregiver involvement is the number one predictor of early literacy success as well as future academic success. Each learning module will provide information and tips (strategies) that will arm parents/caregivers with tools to support children from birth through the beginning years of school.”

Foster Care: A Matter of Basic Civil Rights

In preparation for Foster Care Awareness Month in May, we wanted to bring this opportunity to your attention:

Foster Boy is a pulse-pounding cinematic legal drama that activates reform against corruption in foster care. They are seeking nonprofit and institutional partnerships to facilitate targeted public and private sector screenings and awareness-raising events to engage both the general public and policy makers. For more information on hosting your own Virtual Screening, fill out a [Screening Request Form](#). For more information on Foster Boy, see their [partner deck](#).



photo credit: FOSTER BOY - PARTNER DECK
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jhwOW-wjx06JMjYac-oYdAy6Pmu_0tPz/view

CFEC Student Interns: Sydni Edwards & Emile Roberts



Sydni Edwards

Sydni Edwards is a junior broadcast/journalism major and a political science minor. She serves as the Social & Digital Media Intern for CFEC and is responsible for coordinating content among all social media platforms, developing a podcast, and editing video content. She serves as a College of Information and Communications ambassador and is an executive producer for her own show through SGTV, that focuses on UofSC multicultural events.

Emile Roberts is a senior advertising student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. She serves as the Marketing & Communications Intern for CFEC and is responsible for coordinating and designing the yearly annual report, creating engaging press releases, and assists with developing promotional materials for events. She also serves as a photographer/content creator for The Carolina Agency and is a Resident Mentor on campus.



Emile Roberts

CFEC student interns are actively pursuing stories to highlight the great work of our partner schools and community partners. If you would like to pitch a story to be highlighted via our social media accounts, newsletter, or in our annual report please [let us know!](#)

CFEC Welcomes Claressa Hinton, Regional Liaison-Low Country Region



Claressa Hinton

Claressa Hinton was born in Rock Hill, SC and moved to Tamasee, SC at the age of 9. She received a Bachelor's degree at Morris College and received her Master's degree at Webster University. She has previously served as a Parent Family Engagement Specialist in the Midlands. Some of her favorite things are sports, Snicker bars, peach cobbler, and the book *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Claressa will serve as CFEC's Low Country liaison serving: Allendale, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston.

Closing Notes

Dear CFEC Friends,

The nation's evolving public health emergency and the closure of all SC public schools is presenting new and, in some cases, daunting challenges for everyone concerned with the education of children in our state. Please know that our Leadership Team and Regional Liaisons remain available to respond to any request for assistance that you may have. Don't hesitate to reach out and connect with us virtually or by phone; contact information for all CFEC staff is available [on our website](#).

We will be posting information about available resources for families and educators on a regular basis on our social media sites. If you have not already, please follow CFEC on Twitter: @CarolinaFamily2; Facebook: @CFECatUofSC; and Instagram: uofscfec.

Take good care of each other,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen".