Carolina Collaborative for Alternative Preparation Spurring Innovation Through Collaboration

QUARTERLY REPORT



College of Education UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CarolinaCAP has developed a residency pathway launching this summer with 20 residents through investments from the South Carolina Legislature and the University of South Carolina and in partnership with three additional higher education institutions. The pathway is designed in alignment with evidence-based strategies tailored to SC's needs. It accelerates three critical areas of support for teacher preparation through the CarolinaCAP pathway to assist in bringing well-qualified teachers into more SC classrooms:

- A robust coaching model embedded in daily classroom practice;
- Preparation for the Praxis exams; and
- Rich learning experiences on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) content.

COACHING FOR CLASSROOM SUCCESS

Coaching is an evidence-based best practice for building teaching effectiveness, particularly for new practitioners. CarolinaCAP residents receive a full year of co-teaching experience alongside an expert coaching teacher. This element of the model ensures daily opportunities for modeling, observation, and immediate feedback three of the most important elements of effective teacher coaching.

Residents receive:

- Fully-supervised clinical experience to immediately apply teaching theory to practice;
- Integrated supports from coaches with reading or other content area expertise;
- Structured shadowing of other school support staff to gain a 360-degree view of the work of their schools and colleagues; and
- Facilitated opportunities to learn alongside other residents in their buildings, allowing schools to "grow their own."

Coaches, principals, and mentor teachers also receive monthly workshops and other supports to ensure high-quality coaching in every residency site.

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HBCUs PARTICIPATING IN RESIDENCY

- ALLEN UNIVERSITY
- BENEDICT COLLEGE
- MORRIS COLLEGE

PREPARING FOR PRAXIS

As many as 54% of aspiring teachers struggle to pass the Praxis exams, creating a barrier for otherwise excellent candidates entering classrooms that need them.

The CarolinaCAP model embeds targeted test preparation and practice throughout the residency year. Additional supports of this kind have been shown to boost passage and licensure success rates, especially for nontraditional candidates who bring deep expertise in hard-to-staff content areas.

Residents receive:

- Regular, focused workshops with their cohort;
- Graduate-level coursework alongside other CarolinaCAP candidates; and
- Financial support for additional Praxis exam preparation and exam fees.

SUPPLEMENTING STEM CONTENT

Teacher shortages are especially acute in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) classrooms—the subjects most important to well-paid future jobs for students.

The CarolinaCAP pathways emphasize STEM teacher recruitment and preparation, and residents receive additional content-area training. Experiences not only help them grow their own subject matter knowledge but also learn tailored strategies for teaching it to students.

Residents engage in:

- Co-planning summer STEM enrichment experiences for students;
- STEM mentoring from faculty at USC, Allen University, Benedict College, and Morris College; and
- Intensive coursework in STEM subjects and content-specific pedagogy.

CAROLINACAP RESIDENCY DISTRICTS



CAROLINACAP DISTRICT PARTNERS

CAROLINACAP RESIDENCY DISTRICTS

- DORCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT 4
- LEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- MARLBORO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- RICHLAND ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT
- WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



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For questions or to learn about becoming a CarolinaCAP partnering district, contact **carolinacap@sc.edu**.

