



March 1, 2018

Dear Teacher Cadet Candidates & Parents:

We are elated that you are considering applying for admission into your school's Teacher Cadet Program! The Teacher Cadet Program is a high school recruitment program aimed at attracting our state's best and brightest students to the teaching profession. The program provides a curriculum-based, hands-on approach to educate students on the requirements to become a successful teacher and enables students to put their acquired knowledge to work through a classroom internship. A unique facet of the program is that it provides the opportunity for schools and districts to identify and recruit "homegrown" teachers and educators, providing a gateway for academically talented students to return to their communities as education professionals.

The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement (CERRA), administers the Teacher Cadet program in South Carolina. Because the Teacher Cadet Program is funded, in part, by the South Carolina General Assembly via Education Improvement Act (EIA) funds, CERRA is required to report the program's efficacy data by submitting three reports at the end of each fiscal year to the CERRA Board of Directors (BOD), the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC).

In order to sustain funding for our program and be able to continue to share the Teacher Cadet "experience" with 2,700 exemplary students, annually, CERRA must provide data on our program's effectiveness. Thus, as a condition of participation, students MUST agree to provide a VALID social security number to CERRA for data collection and reporting purposes. (Please note that this requirement does not apply to students who are not eligible to apply for a social security number.)

The use of this number is for data and reporting purposes ONLY and is acquired from students via a short survey that students are asked to complete at the beginning of the course. Pre-and-Post surveys gauge student perceptions about education and education careers, predictors about career selections, perceptions about post-secondary academic aspirations, feedback regarding whether or not the course helped to change students' minds favorably toward a career choice in teaching and/or education, and whether or not program participants become classroom teachers in our state.

Our data collection site is protected with security features that will ensure the safe transmission of this information. When we designed the website, we specifically requested this feature for this purpose as we completely understand the importance and significance of safeguarding and protecting the social security numbers of students.

If you have questions, we are only a phone call and/or email away and are willing, ready, and able to assist you. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcella Wine-Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

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