

**PR Award #:** S336S220033

**Columbia College**

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Columbia, SC 29203

**Program Contact Information:**

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**Absolute Priority:** Absolute Priority 2

**Competitive Preference Priorities:** CPP 1-4

**Year 1 Award Amount:** \$

Total Award Amount: \$

**Project Title:** Alternative Pathways to Educator Certification (APEC) Center

**Project Description:** Columbia College is submitting a proposal for the 2022 Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) grant competition to expand, strengthen, diversify, and evaluate the impact of the Alternative Pathways to Educator Certification (APEC) Center. The APEC project will prepare more quality teachers for high need schools in our partner districts by ensuring that teachers prepared through the APEC Program are effective in content knowledge and pedagogical practice, are supported in the beginning years of teaching, and receive quality professional development to improve their practice. Since its creation in 2018, The APEC Center has developed a “grow your own” program that is centered around a teacher residency. The APEC proposal is aligned with TQP Absolute Priority 2—Partnership Grants for the Establishment of Effective Teaching Residency programs. This proposal also addresses Competitive Preference Priority 1—Increasing Educator Diversity; Competitive Preference Priority 2—Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce and Professional Growth to Support Student Learning; Competitive Preference Priority 3—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs; and Competitive Preference Priority 4—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities. The project objectives are to:

1. Recruit, prepare, and support 150 new teachers, particularly teachers of color, in critical shortage areas and high need schools in our partner districts.
2. Improve the mentoring and coaching abilities of in-service educators by implementing a yearlong mentor development academy.
3. Strengthen induction support provided for APEC graduates in the first three years of teaching.
4. Prepare future teachers who can meet the social, emotional (SEL), and academic needs of all students.

**Project Expected Outcomes:** The project outcomes are:

1. Increased retention of APEC Fellows through three years of classroom teaching.
2. Increased competency of APEC Fellows’ ability to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students.
3. Increased enrollment of APEC Fellows of color.
4. Increased enrollment of Fellows certifying to teach middle and secondary education.
5. Improved teacher impact on student achievement for high need schools.

**Project Partners:** This project represents a collaboration with the APEC Center at Columbia College; the Divisions of Education, Social Sciences, and Health, Mathematics, and Sciences; the Institute for Building Resilience through Trauma-Informed Practices (I-BRTIP); the National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR), the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), Benedict College, Morris College, Bellwether Education Partners, and six school districts.