

South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program: At a Glance



The South Carolina State Teacher of the Year Program aims to recognize and honor the contributions of outstanding classroom teachers in South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) selects the State Teacher of the Year and works in collaboration with the Center for Educator Recruitment Retention & Advancement (CERRA) and South Carolina Future Minds (SCFM) to train and recognize all District Teachers of the Year. Throughout the 2015-16 school year, you will receive correspondence from each of these entities. Below you will find key information about each organization.



CERRA

- Provides professional development



SCDE

- Selects the State Teacher of the Year



SCFM

- Hosts the Teacher of the Year celebration

Organization	Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement (CERRA)
Overview	<p>CERRA is the oldest and most established teacher recruitment program in the country. The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement, established by the Commission on Higher Education in December 1985 and funded by the South Carolina General Assembly, celebrates its 30th year of operation in 2015-2016. Following the passage of the state's landmark Education Improvement Act, CERRA was created out of a concern for the condition of South Carolina's teacher supply pool and a need for a centralized teacher recruitment effort.</p> <p>CERRA's agenda is a comprehensive one in which the Center pursues a variety of programs for increasing the number of students in the education pipeline and recruiting and retaining qualified, caring, and competent teachers. The Center's primary target groups are middle and high school students, college students, and adults interested in changing careers.</p> <p>CERRA also targets groups of accomplished teachers through programs like</p>

	<p>mentoring, teacher leadership, and National Board Certification. The network of educators in our programs overlaps in powerful ways to increase the level of collaboration for recruitment, retention, and advancement of South Carolina educators. For more information about CERRA, visit www.cerra.org.</p>
<p>Role in TOY Process</p>	<p>CERRA’s role in the TOY process is varied. We collaborate with the SCDE and SC Future Minds to ensure the District Teachers of the Year are recognized for their accomplishments and that they receive teacher leader specific professional development. CERRA is not responsible for the selection of the SC State Teacher of the Year.</p> <p>CERRA’s primary role in the TOY process is the facilitation of the fall SC Teacher Forum Conference and the spring Teacher Forum professional development meeting for the District Teachers of the Year. The mission of the SC Teacher Forum is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give recognition to the state and district teachers of the year, • develop teacher leadership among this outstanding group, • provide teachers a voice in educational issues, and • encourage Forum members to facilitate the development of teacher leadership skills among their peers. <p>The SC Teacher of the Year serves a one-year residency at CERRA. The residency provides the autonomy and the flexibility needed to accept the numerous invitations to speak and participate in the professional development opportunities available to the SC Teacher of the Year. Believing that teacher leadership is not a one-year commitment, CERRA works closely with the Veteran State Teachers of the Year and the Honor Roll Teachers. These accomplished educators are included in many of the Teacher Forum events.</p> <p>Finally, CERRA sponsors the luncheon held in honor of the five finalists on interview day and works closely with SC Future Minds to plan and facilitate the Teacher of the Year banquet. CERRA should be viewed as a resource and a support system for the District Teachers of the Year.</p>
<p>Contacts</p>	<p>Jenna Hallman Assistant Director hallmanj@cerra.org 803-323-2600 ext. 6412</p> <p>Suzanne Koty 2016 SC State Teacher of the Year sctoy2016@cerra.org 803-464-0520</p>

	<p>Todd Scholl Coordinator of Communications and Technology schollt@cerra.org 803-323-2600 ext. 6408</p>
Helpful Links	<p>www.cerra.org http://cerra.org/sctoy2016.aspx http://cerra.org/teacherforums/scteacherforumworkshop.aspx http://cerra.org/teacherforums/programoverview.aspx http://cerra.org/teacherforums/districtforums.aspx</p>

Organization	South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)
Overview	The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) oversees K-12 public education in the state. Our mission is to ensure that every student in South Carolina receives an education that meets their individual needs, while also preparing them to be contributing members of society. We work closely with students, parents, teachers, staff, school districts, government officials, and the media to facilitate the best possible education for South Carolina’s students.
Role in TOY Process	The South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the South Carolina Department of Education and is coordinated by the Division of School Effectiveness. Teachers are nominated by South Carolina school districts for consideration as the South Carolina Teacher of the Year. SCDE is the only entity involved in the selection process for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year.
Contact(s)	<p>Kali Noel SC State Teacher of the Year Coordinator knoel@ed.sc.gov 803-896-0428</p>
Helpful Link(s)	Teacher of the Year Application Process

Organization	South Carolina Future Minds (SCFM)
Overview	South Carolina Future Minds is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that organizes private support for the state’s 700,000 public school students. Public universities and private schools often have dozens of people working to connect private support to their institutions. South Carolina Future Minds is the only entity working to connect private donors to all public K-12 public schools across the state.
Role in TOY Process	South Carolina Future Minds works in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education to host the largest event celebrating public education in South Carolina, the Teacher of the Year Celebration. With help from over a dozen volunteers and company representatives, SCFM begins the planning process a year in

	<p>advance to ensure a terrific evening for business leaders, government officials, education leaders and most importantly teachers. SCFM works hard to ensure that each teacher gets to experience a “red carpet” night. The Teacher of the Year Celebration began as a dinner celebration to honor the state’s top teachers and has turned into a two-day event starting with a reception at the Hilton hotel and ending the next day with the teachers being recognized on the floors of the SC House and SC Senate. Sponsors make it possible for all District Teachers of the Year to come to Columbia and experience a one of a kind event that includes free hotel rooms, an elegant red carpet dinner, prizes and most importantly recognition. SCFM aims to ensure the night is the highlight of your teaching career and a night you will remember.</p>
Contact(s)	<p>Trip DuBard Executive Director trip@scfutureminds.org 803-741-5646</p> <p>Debbie Jones Administrator debbie@scfutureminds.org 803-741-5646</p> <p>General info@scfutureminds.org</p>
Helpful Link(s)	SCFM Website

Dates to Remember

Over the next few months you will receive information and/or requests for information from SCDE, CERRA and SCFM. Below you’ll find a few dates to keep in mind.

Date	Event/Action	Contact
September 29, 2015	All DTOYs receive email from CERRA	CERRA
October 14, 2015	Deadline to register for SC Teacher Forum Conference	CERRA
October 31, 2015	All DTOYs receive email from SCFM	SCFM
November 11-13, 2015	SC Teacher Forum Conference	CERRA
November 30, 2015	Submit online form with information (biography, hotel confirmation, and guest names) for TOY celebration	SCFM
January 1, 2016	Deadline for submitting state application	SCDE
March 18, 2016	SC Teacher Forum Professional Development Meeting	CERRA
March 31, 2016	Deadline to confirm hotel room for TOY celebration	SCFM
April 19, 2016	Conference call for all DTOYs	SCFM
April 20, 2016	Teacher of the Year Celebration	SCFM