



DEC | 2024

NEWSLETTER

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS

The Clemson Teaching Fellows program welcomed 29 new students in the Fall 2024 semester, **25 first-year admits** and **4 sophomores** who transferred into our program. A little about these students:

- 25 first-year students come to Clemson from 11 South Carolina Counties
 - 16 from Upstate, 7 from Midlands, 1 from Pee Dee, and 1 from Lowcountry
- All teacher preparation program areas in our college are represented in this first-year cohort.
 - 15 students studying Early Childhood or Elementary Education, 4 studying Secondary Education, 3 studying Middle Level Education, and 3 studying Special Education.
- 4 students transferred into our program and joined the sophomore cohort.
 - 1 student transferred from Anderson University's Teaching Fellows program, 1 student was a Clemson Bridge Crosser, and 2 students were current Clemson students who joined from Clemson's CERRA waiting list because we had students who transferred to other institutions.
 - 3 students studying Secondary Education and 1 studying Elementary Education

We welcomed all new students at the beginning of the academic year with a Welcome Dinner where they were able to meet their Teaching Fellows mentor, an upper classman picked for them to help them navigate their Clemson and Teaching Fellows experience.



The first-year cohort met weekly for a course providing program orientation and a study of leadership development (left). The next photo captures this same cohort's first professional development seminar, a panel discussion with area teachers, including two Clemson Teaching Fellows alumni (right).

MOMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT FROM THE FALL 2024 SEMESTER

The 2024 fall semester has been a busy and exciting one for Clemson Teaching Fellows as we've welcomed new students and placed a more intentional focus on building a supportive community.

Some highlights from the semester include:

- More professional development seminars offered in a way that allowed Fellows to engage with students outside of their cohort and form new relationships.
- We held our first ever “**Bring a Friend to Fellows**” professional development event and welcomed nearly **160 people for a guest speaker**, Kathleen Fox, who spoke about sparking creativity & innovation in the workplace. Invited guests were **peers inside and outside of education** and even included some local cooperating teachers.
- 70 toys collected in a service drive for Clemson Hope’s “**Adopt a Classroom**” initiative, which provides holiday gifts for students in local Title One schools. This represents **three classrooms adopted** by Clemson Teaching Fellows.
- Each Fellow participated in **4 professional development seminars in the fall**, 1 with their cohort, 2 with members of other cohorts, and 1 full group meeting with all students. During our November meeting, students were able to select their professional development topic based on interest and could choose from learning more about educator **self-care**, using **improv** strategies to improve communication, exploring **school psychology**, and the **Reggio Emilia** approach to education.
- In the fall, the Public Relations & Recruitment Committee **contacted all high schools in South Carolina** with information about the Teaching Fellows program, and they held several “**Lunch & Learn**” informational sessions at local high schools to promote education as a career and the Teaching Fellows fellowship opportunities.

To see more photos from Teaching Fellows activities, follow us on Instagram [@clemson_teachingfellows](https://www.instagram.com/clemson_teachingfellows).

If you'd like to be involved in Teaching Fellows activities, please contact [Staci Koonce](#).



Welcome Dinner and meeting new mentors



Clemson Hope “Adopt A Classroom” toy drive



Professional Development with Craig King, PSTA



Lunch & Learn event at local high school to promote Teaching Fellows & education careers

CORE VALUES



Full group of Clemson Teaching Fellows, currently 100 students enrolled in teacher preparation program areas

Members of the Teaching Fellows leadership team met at the end of last school year to shape a vision for the program as we grow, and this discussion included a conversation around what they consider to be the core values for the Clemson Teaching Fellows program. With those values in mind, student leaders have been building plans for professional development, service learning, and intentional and supportive community building.

The leadership **identified 5 core values** to guide them: Connections, Commitment, Community, Intentionality & Growth

With these values in mind, leadership has worked to shape meetings and hold social gatherings to help Fellows in fostering relationships with one another and build a richer community of practice, a primary goal for the 24-25 academic year.

If you would like to join Teaching Fellows for any of our meetings or activities, please contact [Staci Koonce](#).

WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH TEACHING FELLOWS?

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Teaching Fellows program, there are multiple ways that you can engage in activities as a volunteer through our professional development seminars, by participating in special events, or as a member of the Clemson Teaching Fellows Advisory Committee, a volunteer board of people within Clemson University and beyond who offer support to the program.

If you are interested in learning more information about these opportunities or interested in becoming involved with Teaching Fellows, please contact [Staci Koonce](#).