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College of

EDUCATION

Teaching Fellows

MAY | 2024

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

HONORING SENIOR FELLOWS

The Clemson Teaching Fellows program celebrates its first graduates, **27 total Teaching Fellows** who participated in the May graduation ceremony. Of these 27 graduates, all students have secured exciting post-graduation plans:

- 13 students are entering a graduate school program, many of whom are entering Clemson's Teacher Residency program while others are pursuing additional graduate school options.
- 12 students are entering employment with a South Carolina school district, several staying in Upstate districts and one planning to teach in the Pee Dee region in Horry County.
- 2 students are enjoying a gap year to pursue special internship opportunities connected to social services before returning to South Carolina to secure a teaching position.

As part of their engagement with the statewide Teaching Fellows network, senior Clemson Fellows participated in **CERRA's annual "Hill Day" experience in Columbia, SC** during their final semester, a partnership between the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) and the Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA). Hill Day took place on April 9, 2024 and was a special experience designed for Teaching Fellows across the state to **engage in educational advocacy**. Students had the opportunity to speak with elected officials and were **recognized by the South Carolina House of Representatives** in honor of their commitment to the teaching profession.



Senior Clemson Teaching Fellows visiting the South Carolina State House and meeting with Senator Thomas Alexander, President of the Senate (District 1 – Oconee & Pickens)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE YEAR

The 2023-2024 academic year has been an exciting one for Clemson Teaching Fellows as we've expanded our program, now serving nearly 100 undergraduate students who are pursuing teacher certification.

Some accomplishments that we are proud of this year include:

- High academic achievements with an average, cumulative program GPA of 3.79.
- Among the students participating in Teaching Fellows, all College of Education undergraduate teacher preparation majors are represented along with one Agriculture Education student.
- Our student population comes to Clemson from 25 counties throughout South Carolina.
- Each cohort participated in nearly 12 hours of professional development through workshops and guest speakers.
- Students completed a combined total of over 2,000 hours of service, completed in partnership with local non-profit organizations or in additional field experiences in local classrooms.

As our senior Fellows reflect on their experiences in the Clemson Teaching Fellows program, they value the community of practice it has provided.

According to one student, **senior Olivia Durham** (Special Education major):

“My involvement in Teaching Fellows has taught me how to work collaboratively with others, given me professional development opportunities to take and use, taught me the importance of service in the educational field, and taught me how to advocate for myself, my students, and the field of education. As well, it has given me some of my greatest friends and supporters through college.”

Another student, **senior Justin Kittrell** (Secondary Education, Mathematics major) explains:

“Teaching Fellows allowed me to foster and maintain deep connections to other peers, allowing me to grow as a student and as an educator. These connections, alongside



CERRA Junior Conference, 2024



Volunteering with Public Education Partners



Professional Development in arts integration



Graduates Avery Stoneman (Middle Level Math & Science) and Caroline Mack (Science Teaching)

the professional development and social activities, helped me learn more about what I could do to best prepare myself for my future career. I am very thankful for everyone I was able to meet through my Teaching Fellows journey!"

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](#).



Recognizing senior Fellows at the end of the year celebration

SOPHOMORE POSTER PRESENTATION



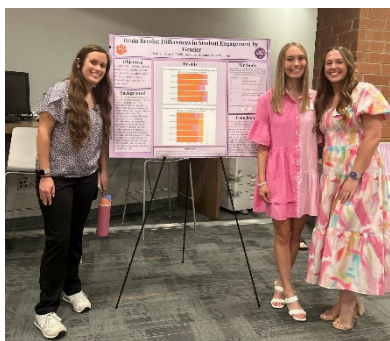
On April 18th, sophomore Fellows presented research posters that displayed findings from an action research project they conducted while participating in their Teaching Fellows field placement. Students **collaborated with Dr. Daphne Wiles** who led a series of professional development workshops to introduce students to the research process and provide support as they conducted their research and assessed their findings.



Students worked in small groups to develop lessons that they executed in their field placements. Fellows then **surveyed students about their motivation during the activities** utilizing the "[My Class Activities](#)" instrument.

When reflecting on their experiences with this project, sophomore Fellows appreciated the **opportunity to experience a new side of the teaching profession** by engaging in classroom research efforts. Some students shared the following comments:

"The research component of Teaching Fellows has probably been the most valuable. I now know how to identify problems within my classroom, and I can figure out how to improve my classroom through individual research."



"I think the sophomore research project helped me to get to know more people within my cohort and allowed me to think critically about how I will be engaging students in the classroom."

"The project was very valuable for me because I got to learn new things about teaching as it relates to classroom research."

In addition to collaborating with Teaching Fellows in this research initiative, Dr. Daphne Wiles also serves on the Clemson Teaching Fellows Advisory Committee.

If you would like to learn more about this project or our Advisory Committee, 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](#).