



District Teachers of the Year Enriched at Annual State Teacher Forum Winter Workshop Hosted by CERRA

by Jason Fulmer
Program Director

The annual State Teacher Forum Winter Workshop was held February 13-15 at Springmaid Conference Center in Myrtle Beach. The successful workshop honored 2008 South Carolina District Teachers of the Year, who represent the voices of educators as members of the South Carolina Teacher Forum. It also provided those teachers an opportunity to strengthen the profession and meet the needs of their students through vision, collaboration, and hard work.

CERRA's theme for 2007-08 revolves around the book, *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson. At the workshop, the district teachers of the year were charged to think beyond their personal comfort zones and break down barriers in an effort to strengthen and support teacher leadership across the state.

Opening night of the conference featured student performances by the award-winning Aynor Elementary Blue Pan Jam Band. Highlights from the workshop included a keynote address from Andrea Peterson, National Teacher of the Year, presentations by The Riley

ONLINE EXTRA

- Listen to National Teacher of the Year Andrea Peterson's keynote address as she talks about the three new R's of education
- View a slideshow
- All this and more available at www.cerra.org/leaders/ww

Institute, Debbie Elmore from the South Carolina School Boards Association and Superintendent Dr. Jim Rex. The workshop also showcased the efforts of local teacher forums and featured presentations by several other accomplished educators.

The silent auction, benefiting the Ken Bower Scholarship fund, generated more than \$2,200 that will help provide four one-time college scholarships to Teacher Cadets later this spring.

Participants learned and laughed together and even cried together as each reflected on the impact of teacher leaders. CERRA's goal was to not only plan a celebratory event, but to create an experience that would encourage everyone to continually grow personally and professionally. Together, we can make a difference every day!



National Teacher of the Year Andrea Peterson from Granite Falls, Washington, delivers the keynote address to the group of District Teachers of the Year gathered for the annual State Teacher Forum Winter Workshop in Myrtle Beach. Peterson shared stories about her students and how she has helped to change the culture of education in her rural Washington school.

What they're saying...

Thoughts from four District Teachers of the Year who attended the State Teacher Forum Winter Workshop

"This workshop needs to be bottled and sent to folks so that they can see what good professional development looks like. Happy faces...empowerment...thinking outside the box...think of the possibilities!"

"This workshop has strengthened my resolve to be a voice for my students and teachers."

"Everything was so upbeat and positive. It is obvious that the CERRA staff genuinely enjoys working with one another and all involved are passionate about public education."

"This workshop was truly one of the highlights of my life...what an inspiration!"

Taylor Urges Teachers to 'Show Them What Today's Education Looks Like'

by Ann Marie Taylor
State Teacher of the Year

A couple of the exciting parts of my role as State Teacher of the Year is working with CERRA and the opportunity to meet, share and collaborate with the District Teachers of the Year.

Teacher Forums met regionally this past fall to learn more about teacher leadership and shared leadership. We met recently in Myrtle Beach for the annual Teacher Leader Winter Workshop hosted by CERRA, where we collaborated and expanded our knowledge on what leadership can really mean for us as District Teachers of the Year. One aspect of teacher leadership I have been

focusing on is sharing our teacher voice. With our legislators back in session and with many educational topics to be reviewed and discussed this session, we must share our voice. Dr. Jim Rex has said before that he is held accountable for what teachers do every day on the front lines in our classrooms. Yet, traditionally we have the smallest voice. He, too, wants that to change.

We have a chance to really let our voices be heard, so please get involved with your local delegation this session. Call them, invite them into your classrooms, and show them what today's education looks like. We have to make our voice be heard. If you want change, ask for change. We have a right to have a say in what we do every day! Share your teacher voice...make a difference!



CERRA Unveils Message Board, Encourages Teachers to Connect Online

www.cerra.proboards54.com

With new and innovating methods, CERRA continues to stay on the cutting edge of technology to improve the flow of communication between teachers across the Palmetto State. CERRA has launched a peer-to-peer online message board to increase collaboration among teachers through the user-friendly forums.

The site requires users to create a username and password, separate from the MyCERRA Portal currently used by Teacher Cadet instructors, administrators, and guidance counselors. After joining the message board, users will be able to add "threads," or discussion topics, within the broad categories on the site that include: Teacher Cadets, Teaching Fellows, State Teacher Forum, Mentoring and Induction, and National Board Certified Teachers (and those seeking certification). Additionally, forums are set-up to allow the discussion of topics related to each of CERRA's five regions: Upstate,

Savannah River, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Lowcountry.

The message board is directly accessible at www.cerra.proboards54.com, or from the message board link on the CERRA home page. Please take advantage of this exciting new communication tool now available to you. The site is open to all teachers in South Carolina who register. Content on the site is secure and viewable only by those persons who are registered users.

The content of the site will be monitored by CERRA staff and we ask that discussions be kept to education-related issues. Remember to represent yourself and your profession in a positive light when posting information on the site. Inappropriate content will be removed to maintain the integrity of CERRA and the message board.

We look forward to you connecting with CERRA staff and with teachers from across the Palmetto State.

Director's Chair



by Gayle Sawyer
Executive Director

Article Suggests Schools Should Be Modeled After Teaching Hospitals to Remove Feelings of Isolation Experienced By First-Year Teachers

You're snowed in where? Thinking about what? Try Racine, Wisconsin, with thoughts of teacher recruitment and retention; what else! CERRA is part of a SC Department of Education team partnering with the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, and at recent conference we were stranded in the Milwaukee airport with four other state teams. NCTAF is the organization that published *No Dream Denied* in 2003; KnowledgeWorks and The Institute for the Future produced the *Map of Future Forces Affecting Education* in 2006.

During the conference and through the snow day, I began to read one of NCTAF's new publications "Building a 21st Century U.S. Education System," a collection of articles by well-known authors including former U.S. Secretary of Education and Governor of South Carolina Richard Riley.

One article in particular caught the attention of our Palmetto State group. The article was "Teaching Teams in Professional Development Schools: A 21st Century Paradigm for Organiz-

ing America's Schools and Preparing the Teachers in Them," by Arthur E. Wise. Wise compares the current design of schools to an egg carton in which teachers work in individual cells to replicate the education of a different group of students every year, year after year. He attributes high teacher turnover, particularly in hard to staff schools, to this egg carton isolation. Wise advocates school redesign using the model prevalent in the medical, legal and architectural professions in which new professionals work in teams with experienced professionals to learn the application of their profession. He equates a professional development school to a teaching hospital. "The team delivers the services and the experienced professionals are accountable to the client for those services and are responsible for the performance of the novices" (p. 60). In other words, the model allows for accountability and for professional development through guided practice.

Wise also proposes that the team approach would remove guess work and decrease anxiety as the new teachers observe experienced team members on a daily basis. They would also experience hands-on learning about lesson planning, behavior and

classroom management, student assessment, and other practices in which the new teacher's lack of proficiency early in the profession has contributed to attrition from the profession. The accomplished teachers use their expertise to support new teachers as they learn in a structured environment the strategies to increase student achievement; and, in return, the new teachers are retained in the profession, which benefits everyone.

Good stuff. So, what's missing in the article? Ensuring the accomplished teachers can mentor and coach the novice teachers so that they become reflective, self-motivated, confident and accomplished teachers who will be able to nurture the next generation of new teachers. Our state already has that plan in place with the Mentoring and Induction Guidelines and with the commitment of our school personnel to the mentoring process. Now, let's get the mentoring process fully funded so that we can concentrate on other innovative practices that are supported by it.

For further information on NCTAF and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, please visit www.nctaf.org and www.iff.org.



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement - South Carolina (CERRA) is to provide leadership in **identifying, attracting, placing and retaining** well-qualified individuals for the teaching profession in our state. In doing so, CERRA will respond to changing needs of teachers from under-represented populations, in critical subject fields and in underserved geographical areas in South Carolina. CERRA will work cooperatively with other organizations to promote the teaching profession.

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Teachers In Residence

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Tracie Sweet

Region Two

Genie McDill

Region Three

Marcella Wine-Snyder

Region Four

Jo Ann Sherbine

Region Five

Rhonda Farmer

2008 South Carolina Teacher of the Year
Ann Marie Taylor



Education Week's Quality Counts 2008 Report Ranks SC No. 1; Palmetto State Receives B- for 9th Best Overall Rating

Courtesy State Department of Education

South Carolina ranks No. 1 in state efforts to attract, develop and keep the best teachers possible in a respected national report released today. Overall, the state ranked No. 9 in the nation for education performance and policymaking.

The rankings are part of Quality Counts 2008, the 12th in a series of annual report cards on the state of education reform published by the national magazine *Education Week*. Quality Counts is highly regarded because it uses a variety of sources for its annual evaluations, including information from the U.S. Department of Education and national standardized test results such as NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress).

South Carolina scored 91.9 and earned an A-minus, the highest grade awarded, to claim the No. 1 national ranking for strengthening the teaching profession. The nation's average score was 73 – a C – with nine states and the District of Columbia posting grades of D or lower.

Quality Counts editors said this year's edition focused on the teaching profession because "teaching matters more to student learning than any other school-related factor." That makes South Carolina's top grade more significant, according to State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex.

"We're continuing a record of success that began with No. 1 teacher improvement rankings in both 2003 and 2004 and No. 2 rankings in 2005 and 2006," Rex said. "Strong, effective teachers are critical to ensuring the academic success of our young people. The quantity and quality of people we have in our classrooms will determine whether South Carolina schools meet the challenge of being competitive with those in other states and nations."

South Carolina received special mention for supporting teacher quality by:

- Ensuring regular evaluations of teachers' on-the-job performance.
- Publicly reporting information about working conditions school-by-school, based in part on teacher surveys.
- Participating in the federal Teacher Incentive Fund program for performance-based pay.

"We've already started our advertising campaign to polish teaching's image and attract more talented people to the profession in South Carolina," Rex said. "And this year we'll push to uplift and reward quality teaching with fair, results-based compensation and a pilot project on team teaching, among other reforms." A score of 93.5 put South Carolina in the top 5 nationally for standards, assessment and accountability based on 25 key steps that Quality Counts says states should take to define what students need to know and be able to do to move successfully from one stage of education to the next. The Palmetto State met 22 of the 25 criteria and was one of only seven states to earn an A. The nation's average score was 83.6.

"This is another affirmation that South Carolina remains a national leader in raising standards and improving accountability," Rex said. "Our accountability system needs revision to make it more understandable to parents and more helpful to schools, but we can make changes while keeping our well-deserved national reputation for setting high expectations."

Quality Counts 2008 gave South Carolina a B-minus score of 82.1 for enacting policies that align – or connect – early childhood education, postsecondary education and the economy and workforce. Fourteen key policies were considered, and South Carolina has adopted nine. Maine, New Mexico and Pennsylvania tied the Palmetto State for fourth place in this category. The national average was a C score of 73.3. South Carolina's ranking improved slightly in the Quality Counts chance for success index that tries to predict a child's "life prospects" from birth through adulthood, given the educational and economic hurdles that he or she is likely to face. In addition to student achievement, the index includes economic and social factors such as family poverty level, parental employment, parent education and annual income.

South Carolina's grade of C was 39th out of the 49 states and the District of Columbia and ranked two places higher than last year. The Palmetto State finished ahead of California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Nevada, West Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. The neighboring states of Georgia and North

Carolina ranked 36th and 31st respectively.

In the school finance category, Quality Counts rated states according to per pupil spending and equity – whether education funding is higher for schools in less-wealthy districts. South Carolina's score of 76.1 – a middle C – was one-and-a-half points under the C-plus national average and ranked 26th overall. The state's per pupil spending was lower in 34th place.

A 40-member statewide task force appointed by Rex to propose changes for public school funding delivered its recommendations to a State Senate joint study committee in December. Rex said he supports the task force plan for a new adequacy system that includes a "poverty weighting" in statewide funding formulas, taking into account the higher costs associated with educating students who have special learning needs, who do not speak English or who live in poverty. South Carolina and nine other states received a D in the K-12 achievement index that measures current academic performance and gains made by students over time. The national average was D-plus in this category, with three states recording D-minus and four finishing with an F. The Palmetto State was in 41st place – tied with Oregon – based on recent reading and math scores, high school graduation rates and results of Advanced Placement (AP) exams. South Carolina earned pluses for long-term eighth-grade NAEP math test gains and for improvements in the high school graduation rate (2000-2004) and Advanced Placement scores (2000-2007). But points were subtracted for 2007 NAEP reading scores and for AP scores and high school graduation rates that remain below the national average despite improvement.

"We know we have too many students performing below expectations and failing to graduate from high school in four years, and we've got to improve performance at a faster rate," Rex said. "But Quality Counts reports continue to show that we've laid the foundation in the right way – by supporting good teaching, raising standards and accountability and connecting what kids learn in school to the real world of work. Now we need to add reforms that will move us ahead: testing changes to give teachers better tools; more instructional choices for stu-

dents and parents within public schools; and a more effective and equitable school funding system."

The 2008 report included overall grades for states for the first time. South Carolina's overall score was 80.4, a B-minus, good for 9th place nationally. Rankings for neighboring states included a B-minus for Georgia (scoring 80.2), a C-plus for Florida (at 79.2) and a C for North Carolina (scoring 75.8). The national average was 75.9, a C.

South Carolina
1st in Teacher Quality
EdWeek 2008

4th
Connecting to Work force

9th
Overall national ranking

26th
Per Pupil spending and equity

On the road with the TIRs

journey around the state with Teachers in Residence



Region 1 - Upstate by Tracie Sweet

As I travel through the Upstate, I am reminded of a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Superintendents, principals, and teacher leaders are building forests throughout the Upstate. Dr. Tom White, Superintendent of Spartanburg 7, recently shared his thoughts about teacher leadership during his district's first full-day Teacher Forum meeting, organized and lead by Frances Hardy and Tonya Beaty. Dr. White encouraged his teachers to stand up for what is best for the students of Spartanburg 7. The purpose of Teacher Forums are to give recognition to teachers of the year, develop teacher leadership among this outstanding group, give teachers a voice in educational issues that face teachers today, and to impact the professional development of other teachers by encouraging them to facilitate the development of leadership skills among their peers. Excitement is in the air as National Board candidates are preparing to mail their portfolios on March 31st. Anderson 4, Anderson 5, Oconee, and Pickens school districts teamed up this year to hold support workshops for candidates. Accomplished teachers throughout the Upstate are stepping up to support candidates going through the process. Ed Epps, an NBCT in Spartanburg 7, organized a National Board Retreat at Wofford College February 9. Teachers learned valuable insights from NBCTs who offered support sessions dealing with student assessment, writing for National Board, videotaping lessons, and scoring. If you are interested in learning more about how you can become an NBCT, go to www.nbpts.org and www.cerra.org. As always, thanks for making a difference! Remember, you might just be the acorn that is needed to grow an entire forest!

Region 2 - Savannah River by Genie McDill

Several Schools in Region 2 have been recognized both nationally and on a

State level for outstanding achievement. The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) recognized only two schools in the State of South Carolina for Report Cards that earned the distinction of "Excellent with Challenges." Those schools were McCormick High School and Saluda High School. *US News and World Report* recognized two schools in Region 2 on a list compiled of the "Best High Schools". Those schools were Ninety Six High School and Calhoun County High School. The 2008 spring semester has seen the addition of two new Teacher Cadet classes in the region. I have had the pleasure of visiting both Saluda High School, under the direction of Deborah Minick, and Greenwood 50, under the direction of Renee Silver. Follow up visits to other Cadet classes are scheduled. USC Aiken hosted its Teacher Cadet College Day on January 7. Schools sponsored by USC Aiken include: Saluda, Strom Thurmond, Fox Creek, Aiken, South Aiken, North Augusta, Silver Bluff, Midland Valley, Ridge -Springs Monetta, and Williston Elko. Region 2 remains active with National Board Support groups. I am currently meeting with Greenwood 51, Laurens 55, McCormick, Greenwood 50, Williston, and Calhoun County. I will gladly host a National Board Awareness Meeting for your district and will be more than happy to provide support for candidates. Additional meetings are scheduled for Orangeburg 5 and Greenwood 51. Region 2 sadly acknowledges the death of John Hendrix, principal of Laurens High for the last three years and a tremendous supporter of CERRA's many programs. He will be greatly missed by his family, students, and the entire school community. Please join us in remembering his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Region 3 - Midlands by Marcella Wine-Snyder

The Midlands is certainly showcasing its wow factor----"ordinary people doing extraordinary things!" Even the lush, green hilled landscapes and pastoral scenes that one sees as traveling along the I-20, I-26, and I-77 interstates pale

in comparison to the unparalleled strides being made in education! Throughout our region, Teacher Cadets are learning from master teachers, sharing their puppet shows with partnership schools, and giving back to their communities by volunteering and/or sponsoring various charitable events. Future Educator's Association (FEA) members from Buford High, along with advisor Beth Seegars, had the opportunity to participate in a plethora of educational sessions and represent the Midlands at the National FEA Conference recently held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Plans are progressing to host the 1st Annual FEA State Conference at the College of Charleston this summer July 25-26. Mentoring initiatives continue to thrive as our second regional mentor training session added 19 more certified mentors to assist the State's new and induction year teachers in the region. The Teacher Forum Winter Workshop, which honored each of the District Teachers of the Year in a multimedia slideshow, can be summed up in one word - "POWERFUL." It sparked renewed commitments and reinvigorated and challenged participants to share their voice and be agents for change in their schools, districts, and communities. Region 3 is truly the place to be, and as I travel the Midlands every day I am afforded the opportunity to be humbled as I witness your efforts, dedication, and persistence advocating for South Carolina's students!

Region 4 - PeeDee by Jo Ann Sherbine

CERRA programs are alive and thriving in Region 4. Six new Teacher Cadet classes are in full swing this semester in Darlington, Lake View, Wilson, Crestwood, Conway, and Scott's Branch. The Scott's Branch class is unique because there was also first semester class. The Conway class consists of all juniors - part of a pilot program expanding the Teacher Cadet program to two years. Sumter High, Lee County Comprehensive High, and North Myrtle Beach High are in the second semester of their full-year programs. Kingstree and Socastee

held special appreciation ceremonies to close out their classes. Mentor teachers, cooperating teachers, and parents were recognized and honored for the contributions they make to the success of the Cadet program. ProTeam students in Hemingway and at Alice Drive Middle School in Sumter are experiencing education at the middle school level. They have been eager to share their portfolios for each unit as well as their goals and dreams. A National Board awareness meeting was conducted in Florence 4, at Johnson Middle School in the Timmonsville Education Center. About 10 teachers attended the meeting, with most expressing interest in pursuing National Board Certification. Just as gratifying has been the number of teachers across the region who have asked questions about National Board on a one-to-one basis: a Social Studies specialist, two District Teachers of the Year, two music teachers, and a career and technology teacher. At Mt. Pleasant Middle School in Lee County, one teacher expressed interest in becoming a mentor as a result of an introduction-to-CERRA session that was conducted for Mt. Pleasant faculty. Mentor training for Region 4 is scheduled for February 27-29 at the Poyner Center in Florence. Meeting with Region 4 District Teachers of the Year at the Teacher Forum Winter Workshop was inspiring. They are all ready and willing to become leaders and CERRA voices in their schools and their districts.

Region 5 - Lowcountry by Rhonda Farmer

Just when you thought the fun was over, the College of Charleston opened its doors for a spring semester Teacher Cadet College Day for Septima-Clark Academy, Timberland, and Cross High Schools. Cadets enjoyed informative sessions and a delicious lunch in the newly-renovated campus cafeteria. This New Year has also been a great opportunity to team up with Author Pinkney, Public Information Officer with South Carolina Student Loan, for a career fair.

Continued on page 5



From Page 5

On the Road with the TIRs

We shared college financial aid information and valuable information about CERRA with Septima Clark seniors. Hampton District 2 and Jasper County were visited by SC Teacher of the Year, Ann Marie Taylor. The districts planned an eventful morning including a welcome assembly and a tour of the campuses. The Estill High Teacher Cadets and the elementary school hosted and a reception. Jasper County's USMC Cadets at Hardeeville and Ridgeland High gave us a grand tour of both campuses before we were treated to a delicious lunch with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent from both districts. Hosting a regional mentor training was at the top of the agenda for Jasper, Hampton, Dorchester and Colleton Counties in January. More than 40 participants representing the districts completed the three-day training. This was a great opportunity for neighboring districts to come together and it was a great experience for all. The spring will bring more mentor training and National Board Awareness meetings in the Lowcountry. We are definitely on the move.

State Teacher of the Year by Ann Marie Taylor

The role as South Carolina Teacher of the Year takes me all over this great state and, recently, I spent a day in Jasper County touring the beautiful new schools and meeting the new administration. It was a memorable experience! It has been two years since the documentary "Corridor of Shame" was released, but the idea has not left the hearts and minds of the community members, teachers and students of Jasper County. I understand that changes can not happen overnight and that all innovative ideas take time and research, but the devoted leaders and teachers in the Jasper County school system believe in turning the Corridor of Shame into something worth "writing home" about. I am so proud to say that I have met these outstanding individuals who are taking risks to turn their system around. The Jasper County team believes in innovation. They believe in hope. They believe in success. They believe that all of the children deserve a top-notch education. My "hat's off" to Jasper County school district for making a difference in South Carolina. I hope I can soon return to one of the most beautiful places in the low-country.

The time is now Legislators Want To Hear Your Voice

by Kathy Maness
Executive Director, PSTA
CERRA Board of Directors

The General Assembly is back in Columbia to complete the second year of a two-year session and I hope this is the session that our teacher voices are heard loud and clear.

In November's election, every seat in the House of Representatives and Senate is up for election and, as educators, we need to be sure that we know where our elected officials stand on public education. We must hold them accountable for their votes.

Teachers are the experts when it comes to education issues. Our elected officials must hear from the experts—you—the teachers in the classrooms. Many teachers do not feel comfortable calling or e-mailing their elected officials, but the time is now to step outside of your comfort zone and become engaged in the political process that shapes education issues in South Carolina. Too many times members of the General Assembly tell me they are not hearing

from the teachers. You have a right and a responsibility to speak to your elected officials about issues that are important to you, and issues that can negatively affect education in the state. When they hear from the people back home—the people who can vote to keep them in Columbia—the voice resonates loud and clear and makes a big difference. Recently, I was told by a House member that he hadn't heard from a teacher or principal in his county about important changes that we need to make to the Education Accountability Act.

All politicians are impressed by the energy and determination of groups and individual citizens who are perceived capable of turning out the vote! Some issues that are being discussed in the General Assembly include:

H 4800 - The budget bill has been debated in the Ways and Means Committee and will be on the House floor the week of March 10th. The bill increases the base student cost to \$2578. This is a \$102 increase over last year. The Average Teacher Salary will be \$47,004; this is a \$1825 increase over last year. National Board Certified Teachers will

continue to receive the \$7500 salary supplement for the ten year life of the certificate. This bill moves to the full House, Senate Finance Committee, the full Senate, a conference committee made up of three House members and three Senators. Then it travels to the Governor to sign.

H 4662- This bill revises the Education Accountability Act (EAA). This is the first time in ten years that this bill has been revisited. This bill eliminates the PACT testing for a more formative test. Teachers will be able to get tests results earlier and be more diagnostic. This bill passed the House today (Feb. 28). Also stricken from the bill, as a result of overwhelming input to legislators from teachers according to Speaker of the House Bobby Harrell, was the line requiring academic assistance plans.

H 3715- This bill enhances the penalties for sexual misconduct of school personnel. This bill has passed the House and now is in a Senate subcommittee.

To follow these bills go to www.sc-statehouse.net and click on bill number.

State Teacher of the Year Finalists; Winner To Be Announced April 25th



JENNA HALLMAN



JOSIE STRATTON



RONA NEELY



RENEE SANDERS



LAURA JEAN REED

During the 2008-2009 school year, the State Teacher of the Year will participate in a one-year residency program at CERRA and serve as a statewide ambassador for the profession.

The teacher will work with CERRA and the South Carolina Teacher Forum, whose members are district teachers of the year. The residency will include numerous speaking engagements around the state before civic and professional groups interested in education issues. The State Teacher of the Year will also conduct workshops for other classroom professionals, discuss public education issues with members of the General Assembly and State Board of Education, and work closely with the Teacher Cadet Program, a program that encourages academically able students with exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills to consider teaching as a career.

For full biographical information on each of the five finalist, visit www.scteachers.org.

Stay tuned for the April/May edition of CenterPoint for a feature story about the 2008-2009 South Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Important Dates

February 27-29

Mentor Training
Florence

March 1

Teaching Fellows award
letters mailed

March 6

CERRA Advisory Board
Meeting
Columbia

March 7

CERRA Open House
Rock Hill

March 10-12

Mentor Training
Spartanburg

March 18-20

Mentor Training
Greenwood

April 29-30

Train the Trainer
Columbia