With high hopes of becoming a 2013 South Carolina Teaching Fellow, 129 high school students attended Teaching Fellows Interview Day held February 9 at USC Upstate.

The Teaching Fellows program recruits high-achieving high school students into the teaching profession by providing up to $24,000 fellowship to those Fellows attending one of the 10 designated Teaching Fellows Institutions.

To be considered, these students are required to submit an application, and then participate in Interview Day where they must write an essay, make a presentation, and be interviewed by teams of educators and current Fellows.

Twelve USC Upstate Fellows took part in this year’s event. Some escorted students to and from interview rooms while others worked at the registration table or in the writing rooms. Four Fellows served on Interview teams.

S.C. Teacher Loan Application NOW AVAILABLE

The 2013-2014 South Carolina Teacher Loan application is now available.

Go to www.scstudentloan.org to download the form.

The priority deadline is TUESDAY, APRIL 30.
In what has become a tradition, USC Upstate was, again, home to this year’s Piedmont Region III Science Fair on February 19-23.

More than 750 students in grades 1-12 from public, private and home schools in Chester, Cherokee, Lancaster, Spartanburg, Union and York Counties participated in the competition.

Hosted by USC Upstate and the Rotary Club of Spartanburg, this week-long event presented an opportunity for over 100 volunteers to work together to ensure success. The School of Education Teaching Fellows provided help with set up, registration, take down, and even the awards ceremony, where they helped welcome the 400 people who came to celebrate the competition.

SoE Teaching Fellows Volunteer at Science Fair

School of Education Teaching Fellows volunteered to work at the registration desk.

Volunteers help set up tables for project display.

School of Education Teaching Fellows, along with other faculty and students, pose for a group photo at this year’s science fair.

The Piedmont Region III Science Fair showcased projects from more than 750 students.

PROGRAMS, PROSPECTS & PATHWAYS

Academic Advisement Period Scheduled

Academic advisement officially begins Monday, March 18, and continues through Friday, March 29.

An appointment is required and can be made by signing up with your advisor.

Your advisor will be able to best assist you if you come prepared with the following information:

- A tentative idea of your fall 2013 schedule (use your program of study sheet to guide your selections).
- An advisement form which can be found on the “Forms Wall” in the SoE office.

To register for Fall 2013 classes, visit https://my.sc.edu/ and find the “Enrolled Students” section. There, you will find a registration link along with links to view your class schedule, grades, transcripts, and holds. Registration for Summer I and II 2013 will again be conducted in VIP.

You must have a VIP ID and password to sign in. If you don’t know your VIP ID, you can go to https://vip.sc.edu/ before your registration appointment. You will not be able to use your Social Security number to register for fall classes.
Learning To Take Experiences Full Circle
BY KAHLA ELLISON

When we take the time to closely examine the things that impact us, we find everything has an origin. It can be from something as complex and intricate as our family’s history to something simple. Take, for example, our school newsletter, the Edu-Babble. Its origin lies in the experiences our director, Dr. Marilyn Izzard, had when she was a kindergarten teacher.

Reminiscing about her years teaching at Kershaw Elementary School, Dr. Izzard reflected on her pioneering efforts to create a school newsletter. With the full support of her principal, Mrs. Brown, Dr. Izzard started the Kershaw Elementary News. This innovative project offered her students many new opportunities such as learning how to use tape recorders to conduct interviews for the newspaper and how to enlist the help of their parents to assist with the publication.

Since then, Dr. Izzard has continued to pave the way for students to experience and embrace new ideas, leading by example as she shares vital lessons, such as “Cherish the opportunity to learn; be creative in college because it will have a large impact on your future.” In fact, her daughter, Dr. Deborah E. Cureton, heeded that advice and followed in her mother’s footsteps and now also teaches at USC Sumter.

From those first pages of the Kershaw Elementary News to those of Edu-Babble, Dr. Izzard has shown that all our experiences have merit and may often provide the seeds of opportunity which can come full circle to leave a lasting legacy for those who follow.

Success Comes From Working Together
BY MEGAN MCGOLDRICK

As a pre-blocker and new member of the Student Education Organization in the spring of 2012, I knew I needed to get involved if I wanted to learn more. Weighing my options of how I could be most effective, I signed up for the Grand Writing Committee. My desire to become involved was certainly realized as two weeks later I was named chairperson of the committee!

Recognizing that grants could help offset some of the ever-growing budget constraints teachers face, our committee began to explore ways we could make this a reality. One of the first things we did was ask Lori Smith from Sumter County School District if she would help us develop a Grant Writing Workshop, as well as conduct the sessions.

At our initial planning meeting, we decided that in order to maximize the potential of this workshop we should actually write a grant that would help meet an existing need. Knowing that USC Sumter’s Director of Education Dr. Marilyn Izzard had expressed a need for flip cameras for pre-service teachers to use, the committee researched organizations and companies that offered grant opportunities which would meet this need.

Having written several successful grants for more than $3 million going toward school supplies, books, and technology, Ms. Smith provided insightful guidance and input as we began writing our grant proposal. She explained that we should always inquire about what types of projects a company or organization prefers to fund because they are more inclined to award the grant if a proposed project meets that criterion.

After much research and deliberation, the committee chose to work through the Wal-Mart grant application process because they had a category related to health, nutrition and education in which our proposed use of flip cameras by pre-service teachers could be used to document learning through lessons they taught in
Success Comes From Working Together continued ...

Sumter schools. These lessons would include nutrition and overall health information needed to maintain healthy bodies and minds, as well as combat the state’s obesity epidemic.

Ms. Smith and the Grant Writing Committee involved everyone in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process on the Wal-Mart website. We reviewed the sections and discussed the problem we were addressing (obesity), what we needed (flip cameras), our goals and objectives (providing awareness and knowledge), and our project summary. Many attendees provided verbiage for the grant and Rebecca Jewell gave our project a catchy name, “Flipping for Fruits and Veggies!”

Following our workshop, Ms. Smith and I spent hours working on the final product for submission. Once we completed and submitted the application, it was nearly 10 months before we received notification confirming that we had been awarded a $500 grant for flip cameras!

I was so thrilled to learn that our grant was successful that I started jumping up and down! I am looking forward to implementing “Flipping for Fruits and Veggies” and sending in documentation and thanks to Wal-Mart for funding our needs!

Success certainly yields excitement, but so does the fact that we learned how to be effective in our grant-writing endeavors because we worked together for a common purpose.
Spartanburg Campus Graduate Programs Open House
Thursday, March 21
4-6 p.m.
J M Smith Boardroom
Health Education Complex

Greenville Campus Graduate Programs Open House
Thursday, April 18
4-6 p.m.
Teaching & Learning Lab
University Center Greenville

For more information or to register, contact Lori Kopf at lkopf@uscupstate.edu or (864) 503-5573.