

## SC Mathematics & Science Coach Initiative Grant

The South Carolina Mathematics and Science Coach Initiative (SC MSCI) is a strategy to increase the capacity of South Carolina teachers to provide effective grade level instruction to South Carolina elementary students. The SC MSCI is a partnership of school districts, the Department of Education, the Mathematics and Science Regional Centers, and institutions of higher education. One of these partnerships is with Francis Marion University and the FMU Center for Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty, in Florence, South Carolina. The Center of Excellence has as its principal goal the improvement of teaching and learning in schools serving children of poverty. The improvement of teaching and learning is also the central goal of the SC MSCI partnership.

During the 2005-06 school year, the SC MSCI and the Center of Excellence (COE) will collaborate to strengthen the efforts that are shared in the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina. The SC MSCI will involve the COE in its coaching efforts and the COE will support the coaching initiative by convening meetings of the various coaching-like interventions (Teacher Specialists, Literacy Coaches, and Mathematics and Science Coaches) in order to facilitate sharing and coordination. In addition, the COE will develop appropriate professional development activities for the summer of 2006 for the teachers and coaches in Cohort I in COE Partner District schools with Mathematics and Science coaches. (Cohort I coaches began their coaching during the 2003-04 school year and will have completed their third year of coaching at the end of the 2005-06 school year.) Francis Marion University will recruit content professors to serve as authentic partners by participating in the planning and delivery of the professional development activities that will focus on enhancing teacher content pedagogical knowledge specific to children of poverty.

In consideration of this effort, the SC MSCI will provide funds to the COE. These funds will enable the COE to employ a Project Director who will oversee the activities developed during the school year and the summer experience. The SC MSCI will further support the on-going operations of the COE throughout the academic year and including the summer professional development activities in the form of a Mathematics and Science Partnership grant funded through the Federal Department of Education. The SC MSCI and the COE are committed, subject to the renewal of both projects and their funding sources, to extending this partnership over a three year period, commencing August, 2005.