

## EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

### Coversheet

**EIA-Funded Program Name:** Teacher of the Year

**Current Fiscal Year:** 2011-12

**Current EIA Appropriation:** \$155,000

**Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:**

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**Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):**

**This program:**

was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984

was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998

has been operational for less than five years

was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds

is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year

Other

**Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.**

**Code of Laws:**

General Appropriation Act, 2007 S.C. Acts 117, Proviso 1A.18.

**Proviso(s):** (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

Proviso 1A.18.

**Regulation(s):**

**Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?**

Yes

No

**Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)**

The objective of the Teacher of the Year program is to celebrate excellence and strengthen the teaching force by honoring and recognizing exceptional teachers on a district, state, and national level. The long-term mission of the program is retention and recruitment. Each Teacher of the Year serves as an advocate for the profession by motivating high school students, college students, and career changers to enter the classroom. Since 1956, one teacher and four Honor Roll teachers are selected by two separate panels of educators, deans, and business representatives. He or she spends one school year of service as a roving ambassador providing mentoring, attending speaking engagements, participating in leadership programs, working with teacher cadets and teaching fellows, leading the state Teacher Forum and serving as a spokesperson for the state's public school educators.

This program not only honors the selected recipients, but all teachers in South Carolina. Extra incentive points are given to those teachers who have become National Board Certified. Honor Roll teachers are active in teacher-leadership forums as are most District Teachers of the Year. District Teachers of the Year are awarded \$1,000 each. Four Honor Roll Teachers receive \$10,000 each. The State Teacher of the Year receives \$25,000. All awards are subject to state taxes.

**Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?**

**Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.**

**Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.**

**IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?**

In 2010-11, 83 districts participated, including the newest addition-the South Carolina Public Charter School District. In addition, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Palmetto Unified, and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind also participated bringing the total to 86. The Office of Educator Recognition works with public information specialists and/or coordinators from each district in an advisory role as they select their District Teacher of the Year. All names are due to SCDE on the 15<sup>th</sup>

of September and all applications are due January 6, 2012. This office attends five regional forum meetings to provide information and tips about the application process, answers ongoing phone calls and emails, and selects and secures 28 exceptional judges from the education and business community to serve on the screening and selection committees. She is constantly in contact with District Teachers of the Year, coordinators, and judges. She works with CERRA to coordinate a day of judging at the Forest Drive Offices of the SCDE. She also provides information and writing support to the Palmetto Horizon Foundation.

The State Teacher of the Year, Kelly Nalley (Greenville), served as an exceptional role model and ambassador traveling throughout the state to speak and interact with teacher cadets, teaching fellows and educators. She served as the chair of the State Teacher Forum and participated in regional forum meetings. She participated in Leadership South Carolina which gave her an opportunity to share the teaching profession's point of view with statewide business leaders. Nalley provided mentoring to induction teachers and championed teaching as a profession to Rotary clubs and others. She had an opportunity to meet and share ideas with other State Teachers of the Year at an all-expenses paid conference in Dallas, Texas. Nalley also had the honor of meeting the President and Vice President in Washington, D.C.

In the spring, a special education celebration, sponsored by statewide businesses and legislative partners, was held in Columbia. State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais and Governor Nikki Haley announced Patti Tate, an English teacher from Northwestern High School in York Three, as the 2011-12 State Teacher of the Year. Participation in the 2011-12 program is now underway and participation is again high with 86 districts and agencies.

**Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?**

**Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.**

The Teacher of the Year program is designed as a retention, recruitment and motivational tool. Eighty-six districts and state agencies participated in 2010-12. The State Teacher of the Year continues to serve as a year-long ambassador for South Carolina's teachers working closely with district teacher cadet programs and CERRA's teaching fellow program. The State Teacher of the Year also works closely with the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) as a statewide teacher leader/mentor who trains, encourages, mentors, and retains members of South Carolina's teaching workforce. In addition, the State Teacher of the Year serves as a liaison between the teaching profession and the business community throughout the state. Honor Roll teachers and District Teachers of the Year are actively involved in teacher-leadership forums, teacher cadet programs, and mentoring. The Teacher of the Year selection process at the local level generally includes selection of a Teacher of

the Year for each school. This process encourages excellent teaching and rewards hundreds of teachers across South Carolina. Eighteen of last year's applicants had participated in the teacher cadet programs in high school.

**Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?**

**Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:**

**Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.**

Outcomes include high participation in the Teacher of the Year program with 83 districts and the Department of Juvenile Justice, Palmetto Unified, and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind participating- 86 total. The judging process ensures competitiveness, fairness, and excellent finalists. Business sponsors endorse the importance of the teaching profession and remain actively engaged as judges as well as in both providing funding for and attending a special event held in Columbia in the spring. The Teacher of the Year continues to be an excellent ambassador for South Carolina and strong recruitment tool as she addresses teacher cadets, teaching fellows and induction teachers. He or she continues to travel the state visiting classrooms and participating in district teacher forums. Media interest remains high, coverage often appears on the front page with several follow-up stories. Eighteen of last year's applicants had participated in teacher cadet programs in high school.

**Question 7: Program Evaluations**

**What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?**

Spring 2005

**Has an evaluation ever been conducted?**

Yes

No

**If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?**

Members of the Division of Educator Quality & Leaders, CERRA, and former judges met at the DEQL to review the judging process. Several changes were made to the process. More judges were added to the Screening Process - it was felt that it was too time consuming for one set of judges to evaluate all district applications. Consequently, each set of judges (3 sets) read and score approximately one third of the applications. In addition, the

name of the applicant as well as the district and school of the applicant were removed from the judges' copies to ensure impartiality. Finally, since the outgoing Teacher of the Year often works with the current District Teachers of the Year, it was established that there would be a four year lapse before a veteran Teacher of the Year could be a judge. Although the program had not had problems, it was felt this would reinforce an impartial process. The judging seasons continue to run smoothly and all felt these safeguards were a positive adjustment.

**Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?**

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide URL link here.**

[www.scteachers.org](http://www.scteachers.org) - Educator Recognition/Teacher of the Year/application process Guidelines.

**If no, why not?**

**Question 8:**

**While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.**

**Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?**

Again, this is a fixed amount based on district participation it includes all participating districts plus DJJ, Palmetto Unified and the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. Eighty-six will participate in 2011-12.

**Question 9:**

**If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year's appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?**

**Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?**

This is a fixed amount. We do not and have not requested additional funding above the level indicated. We were able to add the SC School for the Blind and the SC Public Charter School because two districts did not compete last year. This year they will be covered as Sumter combined two districts as did Dillon.

**If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports,  
either reference a website below or email the report directly to  
[mbarton@eoc.sc.gov](mailto:mbarton@eoc.sc.gov).**