



STAR - a program of the Foundation for Professional Development, is a statewide program designed to recognize and reward outstanding veteran teachers in South Carolina.

The goals of this project are:

- ★ *To reduce the number of outstanding veteran teachers leaving the profession early and to retain quality teachers in all South Carolina classrooms;*
- ★ *To enhance teachers' commitments to their profession and to the improvement of educational opportunities for all South Carolina students;*
- ★ *To reward outstanding veteran teachers who have taken initiatives to grow professionally and to recognize them for exceptional performance;*
- ★ *To provide teachers with opportunities to discuss interesting education-related topics and techniques with other outstanding colleagues and leading experts;*
- ★ *To renew the teacher's enthusiasm, leading to improved student performance and improved relationships with parents and students;*
- ★ *To assist teachers in forming long-lasting networks with other educators.*

Applying to STAR

There are two (2) eligibility requirements: 1) you must be an outstanding teacher and 2) you must have taught in the public school system in South Carolina for at least five (5) years.

STAR accepts applications for the fall seminar until July 31 and the spring seminar until December 15.

In a large envelope, please enclose the application form, typewritten responses to the essay question, and two (2) sealed letters of reference.

Reference forms are attached. References from a colleague and a supervisor are required. Supplemental letters from students, parents, or others may be submitted if desired. Send no more than four (4) letters of reference.

Materials should be mailed to: Dr. Elizabeth Gressette, STAR, 220 State Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Applications will be kept on file for three (3) years.

Name _____

Home Address (street, city, state, zip) _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (cell) _____ (school) _____

Email (home) _____

School Name _____ District _____

School Address (street, city, state, zip) _____

Principal's Name _____

Superintendent's Name _____

Grade(s) Teaching _____ Subject(s) Teaching _____

Years Teaching in SC _____ Total Years Teaching _____

Undergraduate Degree (circle one) B.S. B.A. B.Ed.

Name of College/University _____

Graduate Degree (circle one) M.S. M.A. M.Ed. Ed.Sp. Ph.D. Ed.D.

Name of College/University _____

Hours Earned Above Highest Degree _____

Teaching Areas in Which You are Currently Certified _____

Have you applied to STAR before? Yes No

Have you ever attended a STAR seminar? Yes No

How did you learn about STAR? _____

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please answer one question. Essays should be at least 200 words. Please do not submit more than one typewritten page.

1. You have answered many questions on this form, all asked by someone else. If you were in a position to ask a provocative and revealing question of STAR applicants in order to learn something about their intellectual curiosity, what would the question be? Now that you have asked your ideal question, answer it.
2. If you could be the apprentice to anyone, past or present, who would that be, and why? What would you expect to learn?

CONTINUING EDUCATION DATA

The goal of STAR is to recognize, reward, renew, and retain career teachers who are outstanding educators in South Carolina. Consistent with these ideals, teachers must have demonstrated a commitment to lifelong learning and scholarly pursuits. Indicate those items that apply to you as a career educator. (IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE AN ANSWER IN EVERY CATEGORY TO BE SELECTED AS A STAR TEACHER.) Include only those activities in which you have voluntarily participated over the last five years. Do not include state mandated in-service courses required of all teachers. Use additional sheets of paper as needed.

1. Additional courses, workshops, seminars (indicate topics, locations, dates)
2. Other types of teaching experience, including those in community settings
3. Performances, exhibits, presentations (indicate topics, locations, dates)
4. Unpublished writings, publications, research, other scholarly interests
5. Professional organizations (indicate committee memberships and responsibilities at the local, state, and/or national level)
6. Honorary organizations and awards
7. Any additional information regarding lifelong learning and scholarly pursuits

AUTHORIZATION FOR ATTENDANCE

I certify that the applicant is teaching full-time and has taught a minimum of 5 years in a South Carolina public school. If the applicant is accepted to participate in a STAR seminar, permission will be granted by the district for release time. (NOTE: Substitute teacher reimbursement will be made by STAR.)

Signature of Superintendent or Designee

I am aware that the teacher submitting this application is interested in attending a STAR seminar. If the applicant is accepted, I will provide assistance in determining a mutually feasible time for attendance.

Signature of Principal

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 opens records for inspection. The law permits the applicant to sign a waiver relinquishing the right to inspect letters of recommendation. The applicant's signature below constitutes a waiver; no signature means the applicant will have the right to read the reference.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant's Name _____

Reference's Name _____ Title _____

Association with Applicant _____ Number of Years It Has Existed _____

Describe the characteristics of this person that you feel are indicative of an outstanding career teacher (one who is successful in the classroom and is a continual learner), and why he/she should be selected as a seminar participant at STAR.

Reference's Signature

Date

Please insert this reference form into a standard business-size envelope. After sealing the envelope, sign your name across the seal and return it to the applicant.



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Foundation for Professional Development
220 State Street
West Columbia, SC 29169