



SEMINAR PARTICIPANT FORM

Strategies for Teacher Advancement and Renewal

Palmetto State Teachers Association

220 State Street

West Columbia, SC 29169

803.256.2065/800.849.7782

www.palmettoteachers.org

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



The goals of this project are:

- ★ To retain quality teachers in all South Carolina classrooms;
- ★ To reward outstanding veteran teachers who have taken the initiative to grow professionally and to recognize them for exceptional performance;
- ★ To provide opportunities to discuss education-related topics with colleagues;
- ★ 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: STAR Program, 220 State Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Applications are kept on file for three years.

Name _____

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

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

Email (home) _____

School Name _____

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 _____

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 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 outstanding veteran teachers in South Carolina. Consistent with those ideals, teachers must demonstrate 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. You may attach your resume in place of the questions.

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 for a minimum of 5 years in 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.)

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 Superintendent or Designee

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 _____

Association with Applicant _____ Number of Years It Has Existed _____

Describe the characteristics of this person that you feel are indicative of an outstanding veteran 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.

Applicant'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.

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Foundation for Professional Development
P.O. Box 2464
Columbia, SC 29202