



Columbia College

Dr. Marla S. Sanders

Dr. Marla S. Sanders, associate professor of education and chair of the Middle Level Education Program, is Columbia College's 2022 SCICU Excellence In Teaching award recipient. She holds a doctorate in educational research and policy analysis from North Carolina State

University. Dr. Sanders also earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia College.

Dr. Sanders is recognized for her work as director of Columbia's Alternative Pathways to Educator Certification (APEC). This teacher certification program recruits, prepares, and retains quality teachers in critical-need schools and districts in South Carolina. APEC offers an innovative certification alternative that incorporates a year-long teacher residency with compensation, mentoring, and graduate coursework. In recognition of its effectiveness in improving student outcomes in public schools, the APEC program was a finalist for the 2020 Riley Institute WhatWorksSC Award for its effectiveness in improving student outcomes in public schools.

School policies and practices that negatively impact students in ethnic and cultural minority groups highlight Dr. Sanders' research interests. Her scholarly research has been published in the *Journal of Latinos and Education*, *Canadian Journal of Action Research*, and *Multicultural Learning and Teaching (MLT)*.

Professional memberships held by Dr. Sanders include the South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators (SCATE) and the South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education. In 2018, Dr. Sanders wrote the College and Career Clubs curriculum for the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships. This college and career readiness curriculum is used in 1,200 schools located in 35 states.