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**Minority Access to Teacher Education (MATE)
Benedict College**

Benedict College's \$206,000 appropriation is used to fund the "Minority Access to Teacher Education" (MATE) program. The MATE program was originally funded as a pilot program designed to recruit minority students into teacher education. The activities involve: 1) recruiting college-bound minority students from rural and underdeveloped school districts in South Carolina and encouraging them to pursue teaching careers in the State; 2) identifying and nurturing high school students in grades nine through twelve who have an interest in careers in teaching; and 3) providing financial assistance, counseling, and tutoring for students enrolling in the teacher education program at Benedict College.

The 1998-1999 Annual Report provides the following summary of the project's objectives and achievements:

MATE Scholars. The MATE Scholars program allows Benedict College students who commit to teaching in rural areas, or in subject areas suffering from critical shortages, the opportunity to qualify for financial aid. While enrolled in the MATE program, students are provided scholarships, counseling, and enrichment activities.

Twenty students received forgivable loans through the program, totaling \$56,578 during FY 1998-99. This is a slight decrease in the number of MATE scholars (21 in 1997-98) but an increase in the actual loan amount (\$45,550 in 1997-98). Part of this increase is due to an increase in the maximum loan amount, to \$3,000 per year. Of these twenty students, five have graduated. Four of these graduates are either employed in South Carolina schools or awaiting test results, while one has experienced a long-term hospitalization.

Summer Residency Program. The Summer Residency program is available to rising high school seniors and high school graduates from rural school districts. Students enrolled in the summer program are in residence at Benedict College for a three-week session. They are exposed to the art and craft of teaching and to the skills and practice necessary to score highly on the SAT and ACT. Twenty-nine minority students participated in the program during the summer session, 1998. Of these students, one had graduated from high school and is currently enrolled at Clemson University.

PreMATE Program. The PreMATE program is structured to establish teaching "interest groups" among minority students in grades nine through twelve at target rural high schools. During FY 1998-99, sixteen clubs were active with 344 students participating.

Cooperative Activities. Benedict College is a member of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Partnership, established in cooperation with South Carolina State University and the South

Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment. Cooperative activities consisted of verbal and written communications among the three initiatives.

Evaluation. The Benedict College MATE program is including the amount of \$5,000 for an external evaluation of its programs in its budget increase request for 2000-2001.

Goals for FY 1999-00. The MATE Program has outlined the following goals for the upcoming fiscal year:

1. To encourage academically talented students to pursue teaching as a career.
2. To provide opportunities for MATE Program participants to interact with educators from across the state and nation at professional meetings.
3. To involve MATE Program participants in test-taking strategies and tutorial programs that will improve their professional competencies.
4. To provide financial assistance for students meeting the criteria for acceptance into the Minority Access to Teacher Education (MATE) Program
5. To recruit representatives from across the state to be involved in an advisory capacity.
6. To promote interest in teaching as a career by involving high school students in PreMATE activities.
7. To provide opportunities for participating high school students to be involved in an academic/enrichment program which will enhance their chances of taking and passing the new Praxis I as required by South Carolina for entering the teacher education program of study.
8. To provide opportunities for high school students to visit a college campus to encourage pursuing a college degree.
9. To provide opportunities for staff development of the administrative personnel.
10. To engage an external program evaluator.
11. To maintain an up-to-date data base of all students in the three components of the MATE Program.

Appropriation Request, FY 2000-2001

For 2000-2001, Benedict College requests a 23.2 percent increase of \$47,832, from \$206,000 to \$253,832, in its appropriation. Increases in salary and fringe benefits (3.0 percent), Scholarships/Loans (32.6 percent), Office Support (278 percent, including external evaluation costs), the Summer Residency Program (44.7 percent), and Travel (76 percent)

represent the increase in allocation requests.

Appendix 1 displays the actual expenditures for FY 1998-99, the approved expenditures for FY 1999-2000, and the appropriations request for FY 2000-2001.

The inflation factor for higher education recommended by the Division of Research and Statistical Services of the Budget and Control Board is 3.0 percent for FY 2000-2001. Although the budget request falls outside of this figure, the staff supports the increases based on programmatic reasons. With the exception of the modest increase in salaries and the necessary increase in Office Support, the increases requested reflect a growth in the services provided by the program and in the number of students served. The MATE program has aligned its loan forgiveness policies with those of the African-American Student Loan program, which will make them more attractive and increase demand. In addition, the current legislative pressure on the state's teacher supply to provide more highly qualified teachers requires that programs like the Summer Residency Program increase their efforts to attract high school students into the profession. In this light, the requested increases are a positive response to the current environment of educational reform.

Recommendation

The Staff supports the MATE's request that the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Affairs recommends an increase of \$42,832 (or 20.8 percent) for FY 2000-2001, for a total appropriation of \$248,832.

cc: Mrs. Naomi Dreher

**Appendix 1
Budget Details**

**Benedict College
MATE Program**

	Actual Expenditures 1998-99	Approved Expenditures 1999-2000	Appropriation Request 2000-2001	Change
1. Personnel Services				
Salaries	84,634	84,634	87,173	2,539
Fringes	23,699	23,699	24,409	710
Total Personnel	108,333	108,333	111,582	3,249
2. Office Support¹	3,959	3,959	10,000	6,041
3. Travel	1,700	1,700	3,000	1,300
4. Other Expenditures				
MATE Tuition/Loans ²	56,578	56,578	75,000	18,422
Summer Residency Prog.	26,430	26,430	38,250	11,820
PreMATE Clubs	9,000	9,000	11,000	2,000
Total Other Expenditures	92,008	92,008	124,250	32,242
Total Project Expenditures	206,000			
Total Project Appropriations	206,000	206,000	248,832	42,832

¹ Office Support includes new expenditures for an office copier and \$5,000 for an external evaluation. It also includes Advisory Council and Conference/Workshop costs.

² This item reflects increases in both the number of students served and the amount of loans given.

1998-99, 58 former ProTeam students participated in the Teacher Cadet Program.

Teacher Cadet Program: This is an innovative approach designed to attract talented young people to the teaching profession through a challenging year-long introduction to teaching. The program seeks to provide high school students insight into the nature of teaching, the problems of schooling and the critical issues affecting the quality of education in America's schools. The Teacher Cadet Program includes 148 high schools serving 2,532 academically able high school juniors and seniors, 21 percent of whom were male and 27 percent minority. Activities included participation in the Teacher Cadet curriculum and regional activities sponsored by college partners.

By the end of FY 1998-99, over 23,500 academically talented high school students had completed this challenging introduction to teaching. The average SAT score of the 1998-99 Teacher Cadet Program participants was 1064. Of the respondents citing a preference for teaching as a career the S.C. average SAT score was 1050.

National Certification: The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is a national effort to develop professional standards for teaching. It is a voluntary process developed by teachers and other education stakeholders to recognize experienced teachers for the quality of their practice.

The South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment, in collaboration with the SC Department of Education, submitted a grant proposal to NBPTS and received subsidy grant funds to assist teachers seeking National Board Certification. The number of teachers interested in subsidy funding far exceeded expectations and the SCCTR requested additional funding from NBPTS. The amount was increased to \$75,000 - enough to fund every subsidy grant applicant with \$1,000 toward the application fee. Of the seventy-five teachers, fifty-four accepted the grant and pursued NB Certification. The candidates were responsible for completing the application to NBPTS, payment of the remaining \$1,000 of the fee, and the certification process.

Teacher Job Bank: The Center sponsors the only statewide education job placement service available in South Carolina. During FY 1998-99, 1,026 teachers listed with the Job Bank. Another 5,071 teachers requested job listings without formally enrolling in the Job Bank. Eighty of the 86 school districts and several special schools used the service to list openings or to obtain the names of available teachers.

The Job Bank is the initial point of contact for many interested in teaching in South Carolina, including those prospective teachers from out-of-state. This successful service has matched certified teachers with vacancies in hard to fill geographic and/or subject areas. A major addition to the effectiveness and outreach of the Job Bank has come through the development of a comprehensive Web site for the SCCTR which lists available teaching positions.

EXPO The South Carolina EXPO for Teacher Recruitment focuses on meeting South Carolina's short-term recruitment needs. The 11th Annual EXPO Job Fair was held in Columbia in June, 1999. Fifty-nine school districts from South Carolina took part, with 332 teachers from 31 states.

Teacher Forum: The Center sponsors meetings and other activities designed to recognize and involve state and district "Teachers of the Year," to develop teacher leadership, and to give teachers a voice in educational issues in an effort to retain the best and brightest teachers in the workforce through increased involvement and networking. Teachers throughout the State are in leadership roles as a result of the Teacher Forum. In the Fall of 1998, the Teacher Forum sponsored a two-day conference