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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
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Subject: Your Op-Ed

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I wanted to commend you on your Op-Ed piece in the State Newspaper. You hit on some key and critical issues that teachers face and I know I and others continue to work to push for legislation and other resolutions to address not only the crisis we face through recruiting but also how we support and retain our teachers. I wanted to share with you (and would be happy to provide details) an initiative that we have launched here at USC-College of Education. In my almost 30 years as an educator, I have always believed that colleges of education can only do so much in the 120 hours and four years to prepare teachers for the reality of the classroom on day one and beyond. For example, we at USC provide our pre-service teachers with between 400-900 hours of classroom experience and we teach many of our classes on site at the elementary, middle and high schools so as to engage our students with students in these schools and further develop their sense of what teaching will be. But that is still not enough. Our program, Carolina Teacher Induction Program (Carolina TIP) is a guarantee to our graduates that we will coach and mentor them through the first three years of their professional experience. With so many teachers leaving in those first three years (in South Carolina as well as nationally) we felt we had to do something in order to stem the flow of teachers stepping out of the classroom.

Again, thank you for sharing your voice and if you would like to know more about Carolina TIP, please let me know.



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