

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OSSD EXTENDS TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM WITH
WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**

OCEAN SPRINGS, MS (OSSD) -- Ocean Springs School District is excited to announce the renewal of their Mississippi Teacher Residency program partnership with William Carey University and the Mississippi Department of Education.

In its third year, the program offers prospective teachers a more “hands-on” approach to training by providing them with real classroom experiences under the guidance of mentor teachers. It is open to anyone with an associate’s degree, or at least 60 college credits from a degree program, who has a minimum 2.75 GPA. The deadline to apply for the program is February 5th.

Dr. Bonita Coleman, superintendent of the Ocean Springs School District, said her mentor teachers love the program and want to see it become a permanent fixture.

“Most of the WCU teacher residency students assigned to our schools were not education majors when they entered the program. And unlike traditional education majors, our teacher residency students begin working in the classroom on day one – instead of having to wait until their third year,” Coleman said.

“We have also hired most of our residency students as assistant teachers. This means that as they work on their education and gain experience, they’re earning a salary at the same time and getting an early start in the state retirement system.”

The application for the Mississippi Teacher Residency program is available online. Visit the Mississippi Department of Education website at this link, www.mdek12.org/OTL/MTR.

The program supports both traditional education majors and people who want to become teachers but are not currently enrolled in an educator preparation program. Men and women of color, military veterans and community college graduates are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact Dr. Mary Rodgers at (228) 702-1786 or mrodgers@wmcarey.edu.

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