

University of South Carolina Office of Educational Outreach is Now CarolinaCrED

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A leader in teacher education and professional development, CarolinaCrED is poised to serve as a one-stop shop for educational professionals across the state.

"Our vision is to become South Carolina's learners' and leaders' trusted source for personalized professional growth," Cindy Van Buren, Director of CarolinaCrED and Assistant Dean for Professional Partnerships in the College of Education at UofSC, said. "Our rebranding is much more than a name change and a new website. Our CrED Core work originated to meet the demands of districts for the traditional building blocks of professional learning: **flat-rate courses, customized degree programs, add-on certifications, and endorsements**. A new menu of CrED+ options expands those offerings to keep pace with what districts need: strategies to personalize educator learning without losing alignment with state and district priorities."

The new products and services include **100+ micro-credentials** developed for South Carolina educators by South Carolina educators and offered through a partnership with the [Center for Teaching Quality \(CTQ\)](#).

"While micro-credentials offer a strategy for competency-based learning, their value can best be fully recognized as part of a professional personalized learning system," Ann Byrd, President and Partner at CTQ, said. "CarolinaCrED's services include a range of wrap-around supports designed to meet targeted learning needs for educators in the context of the schools and students they serve, as well as positioning districts for sustainability and success. This innovative partnership presents a unique opportunity to fully serve districts in driving continued improvement."

CarolinaCrED also offers fixed-contract courses for professional development, certifications, and add-on endorsements. The office houses two ground-breaking programs: **CarolinaTIP**, an innovative model to retain new teachers, and **CarolinaCAP**, implemented for candidates seeking alternative pathways into teaching, aimed primarily at addressing recruitment and retention needs in South Carolina's rural districts.

The new products include expanding **custom course options**, a new **Praxis Preparation opportunity**, and an **increase in the number of districts/educators** served by the programs. Together, the existing and new product lines will be grouped into **CarolinaCrED Core, CrED+, and Featured Programs**.

**Details of the various offerings are available
on the new website, CarolinaCrED.org**