

Research & Development

Reports to *Planning & Accountability Executive Director*

Our demographics

Director: Paul McKenzie

Years in position: 14 **In district:** 14 **In education:** 14

Staff: Dianne Hamrick, Administrative Assistant; Robin Baker, Part-time Administrative Assistant

Adrienna Witherspoon, Program Director

Reggie Lowery, GEAR-UP Coordinator

School Coordinators – Mike Barnes, LaMonica Blair, Deborah Boulware, Rodney Hamright, Sara Jordan,

Reggie Lowery and Latasha Thompson

Location: 610 E. Meeting Street, Lancaster, SC

Our focus

Our department supports the district by researching and securing financial and programmatic resources to assist children and families in the community.

Our functions

- Review all grant proposals submitted by teachers, schools or departments.
- Research local, state and federal funding sources.
- Develop, implement, manage and evaluate grant funded programming, especially federal programs.
- Secure data, both archival and survey, detailing the needs and resources relevant to Lancaster County children and families.
- Serve as liaison with community organizations that support the district in serving children. Examples include:
 - Coalition for Healthy Youth
 - Lancaster County Partners for Youth
 - Hope on the Hill
 - Lancaster County First Steps
- Assist with teacher training on grant development.

Our department strengths

- Prolific collaboration with public, private, civic and faith-based organizations.
- Serve as a conduit and repository of resources, programmatic and data, for parents and community organizations.

- The department has successfully sustained programs once grant funds have lapsed and has retained project staff throughout this process.
- One of most diverse departments in the district.

Our honors & awards

- Authored over \$32 million dollars in approved federal grants.
- Authored over \$10 million dollars in approved state or foundation grants.
- 2000 Outstanding Program of the Year by the South Carolina Association for Rural Education (After-School Program).
- 2003 Top Truancy Prevention Programs, South Carolina Department of Education.
- 2004 FAST National Leadership Award (for family strengthening services throughout district).
- Character Education Programs at both Clinton and McDonald Green Elementary received a nationally recognized “Promising Practices” award.
- Successful Federal Grant Awards in several highly competitive competitions, including:
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - Alcohol Prevention
 - Carol White Physical Education Program
 - Drug Free Community Support
 - Drug – Safety Coordinators Program
 - Early Head Start
 - Character Education Initiative
 - Juvenile Mentoring Project
 - Early Learning Opportunities Act
 - Abstinence Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention
 - Reading First
 - Elementary Counseling Demonstration Project
 - Safe Schools – Healthy Students
 - GEAR-UP
 - Professional Development for Arts Educators
 - Smaller Learning Communities
 - Juvenile Drug Court Initiative
 - Safe and Bright Futures
 - Advanced Placement Incentive Program