



## Mission of the Education Department

### Teachers Transforming Education

The mission of the Teacher Education Program at Erskine College is to prepare teachers who transform education through **captivating leadership**, **creative instruction** and **caring relationships**.

### Conceptual Framework

The overarching goal of the education unit derived from its Conceptual Framework is that the teacher candidates will acquire the knowledge and skills to become positive change agents. Transformational teachers create success experiences for all students, for the institutional systems in which they work, and for the communities in which they live. The teacher candidates will demonstrate this transformational attitude, knowledge and skills by achieving the following goals:

- a. They will demonstrate **captivating leadership** by articulating a clear vision for establishing an atmosphere where all children will learn, by approaching teaching with a passion and enthusiasm, by empowering children to become independent, critical thinkers and problem solvers, and by demonstrating a professional stance of lifelong learning.
- b. They will demonstrate **creative instruction** by framing all instruction with a knowledge, understanding and respect for the diverse needs and strengths of each student, by planning learning experiences based on differentiated instruction, by creating and assessing learning experiences that are hands-on, performance-based, best-practice, and interactive and by being willing to take risks to reach each child.
- c. They will demonstrate **caring relationships** by knowing and relating to each student based on individual needs and strengths, by using instruction and management techniques that are student-centered and promote student responsibility, by being committed to the mental, physical and spiritual growth of each child, and by being involved with students, families, and the community beyond the classroom walls.

### Dispositions – Beliefs that Drive Actions

Erskine teacher candidates base their actions and decisions on the following beliefs:

1. A belief that teaching is a special calling;
2. A commitment to the concept that each child is unique and that developing learning experiences based upon individual needs will lead to success;
3. A belief that maximum learning occurs in an environment based on the establishment of caring relationships;
4. A commitment to the concept that a teacher is a leader who can change education through implementation of best practices and involvement in the total learning community;
5. A belief that teaching is all about problem solving based on a commitment that there is never just one-way to meet the needs of diverse learners.