

# Suzanne Koty, PhD, NBCT

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March 13, 2025

Dr. Beth Costner  
Board Chair, CERRA  
Withers @ Winthrop University  
2020 Alumni Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

Dear Dr. Costner and Members of the Board of Directors:

As a current member of the CERRA staff, it is with great enthusiasm that I seek to step into the role of Executive Director of CERRA that was recently posted. I first came to CERRA in 2015 as the South Carolina Teacher of the Year; it was during that year that I began to understand the importance of the work being conducted within the organization. I believe that my existing familiarity with the organization, its programs and the staff uniquely qualify me to serve as the Executive Director.

My institutional knowledge of the organization and the connections I have made professionally throughout the state make me an ideal candidate for the role I am seeking. In recent years, I have worked with the outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Jenna Hallman, to learn about the budget, reporting, Rural Recruitment Initiative, and other parts of the administrative work. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Hallman and have learned a great deal from her. As the Director of Service Programs, I have not only been facilitating trainings, professional learning opportunities, and meetings for various stakeholders throughout the state, but I have been designing and revising various training materials. I helped design the advanced mentor trainings, planned the South Carolina Teacher Forum events, and facilitated two in-person and one virtual statewide National Board conferences for candidates in conjunction with the South Carolina National Board Network (SCNBN) on which I serve as the Chair. I have worked collaboratively with a variety of education agencies including but not limited to the school districts, the South Carolina Department of Education, SCNBN, PSTA, the SCEA, and SCASCD. I have partnered with outside agencies on existing grants to diversify CERRA's funding streams.

My passion for our mission of addressing the advancement of education through recruitment and retention have driven my work for the last ten years. I am committed to supporting educators in this state and addressing the workforce challenge of attrition so that every student in South Carolina can receive a quality education. While I value my work as Service Program Director and previously as a Program Facilitator, I also look forward to the prospect of serving as the Executive Director. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Koty  
Enclosures: Curriculum Vitae