

University of South Carolina Beaufort

South Korean and Asian Literacy Education (SKALE)

Project Type: 4-Week Short-Term Curriculum Development in Education (International)

Number of Participants: 12 + 2 including (6) K-12 educators; (4) USCB faculty; (2) USCB Education major students; (1) Scholar-Escort; and (1) Project Director

Project Administrators: Project Director, Dr. Juanita Villena-Alvarez; In-Country Scholar-Escort, Dr. Greg Choy (UC Berkeley)

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) recognizes expansive changes taking place in the region with the Oct. 2022 ground-breaking of a \$5.54 billion Korean car manufacturing facility some 37 miles from USCB Bluffton main campus. To prepare for this, plans have been announced to raise clearance of the biggest bridge in the area to accommodate bigger ships in nearby Savannah as well as the arrival of the biggest port cranes in the entire East Coast of the USA in the same location. In that same month, the Korean Professional Golf Association Tour in South Korea was moved, due to COVID, to a golf club in Jasper County, SC, the same county as USCB. Several dozen Korean and Asian guests were in the area at this sport tournament. USCB is proposing the *South Korean and Asian Literacy in Education* (SKALE) curriculum development project in an effort to have multicultural foresight to prepare student constituents of our region for the cultural, demographic, economic, and social changes that are underway. The Coastal Empire region of Savannah and the Lowcountry of South Carolina are neighboring areas that need more in-depth South Korean and Asian educational training to mitigate potential conflict, as has already happened in certain areas. This project will allow 12 participants and two project leaders the capacity to study and understand Korean society, culture, and language at USCB, in Seoul, and 5 other locations in South Korea for 4 weeks in collaboration with Korean partners such as Woosong University (Daejeon), Seoul National University of Education, Asia Campus-Incheon, and Mason Korea in Incheon. In addition, Dr. Greg Choy will serve as the project's in-country Scholar-Escort. Dr. Choy is a Korean American faculty member at UC Berkeley, specializing in comparative ethnic studies and education pedagogy.

This USCB SKALE project has three main goals with measurable objectives: 1) to successfully educate regional university and K-12 instructors and students on the language, history, culture, and economy of South Korea; 2) to effectively create and develop Korean/Asian curricular content in teachings at K-12 and university level; 3) to establish mechanisms for wide-spread dissemination and sharing of Korean and Asian materials created from the SKALE project through more than one educational event in the 6-month window after arriving back from South Korea (GPA GPRA Measure #2).

With the support from USCB and regional K-12 administrators who foresee the challenges our region faces with these sudden extensive developments, the participants will incorporate the lessons learned from the study trip to Korea into their teachings and research. More importantly, USCB can partner with other regional higher education institutions to replicate the materials through workshops and collaborations. To guarantee goal #3 success, SKALE will schedule a Korean Cultural Studies Conference at the USCB Hilton Head Island Campus as the culminating activity at the end of this grant, with the hope of continuing this event yearly through collaboration.

Project SKALE addresses **competitive priorities 1** (New applicant), **3** (Korean is an LCTL), **4** (50% K-12), and **5** (Education-International discipline).