

**Valdosta State University  
College of Education**

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Valdosta State University's College of Education has a rich history of supporting cultural diversity and the mission of the Azalea International Folk Fair. For four years, we have been proud to serve as a program partner for the annual festival that we feel greatly impacts the curriculum in our P-12 schools.

Our teacher candidates learn a great deal of content and pedagogical knowledge by serving as cultural ambassadors for the annual event. We look forward to attending and participating once again this year.

The programs strongly support the diversity goals of our College. We believe that "multi-cultural perspectives should not be limited to isolated courses, but awareness should permeate throughout the curriculum. . . . The goal of providing culturally appropriate educational experiences is to increase respect for diversity, reduce prejudice, and positively affect student learning." (Dewar College of Education Policies & Procedures Manual, 2006)

VSU has exceptional resources and a firm commitment to involving our teacher candidates and promoting the programs within the College of Education. As Department Head of the Dewar College of Education, Early Childhood & Reading Education, I welcome the opportunity to further our collaborative efforts to "bridge gaps of understanding in order to secure a significant patch in the quilt of diversity that makes South Georgia the most pleasant place to live in America." (AIFF Mission Statement).