In 1884, Francis W. Parker, a pioneer of the progressive school movement wrote, "Work is the greatest means of education. To train children to work, to work systematically, to love work, and to put their brains into work, may be called the end and aim of schools." To echo the words of Mr. Parker, the “work” our students produce is important. To that same claim, our “work” as educators is vital to the future of our society. To improve our effectiveness as classroom teachers and administrators, we continuously work to develop our capacity as educators. In recent years, much attention has been given to ways in which boys and girls learn. To address their unique preferences, both co-ed and single-gender teachers are developing the necessary skills to ensure the success of all students. Therefore, the connection between instructional practices and empirical research should be valued.

It is with much anticipation that I invite you to the first annual Institute for the Study of Instructional Strategies (ISIS). While the Palmetto State Gender Institute has provided teachers across our state and region with the opportunity to network and learn from colleagues, ISIS will enable educators to partner with researchers who value the work we do. As a result, educators throughout our state will have the opportunity to better understand the relevancy and effectiveness of what we do in our schools. Our efforts in this area will further provide our students, male and female, with the opportunities they deserve to participate fully in tomorrow’s world.

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