S.C. scholarship program wins award

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A scholarship program to draw South Carolina's top high school students into teaching has become the first winner of a new award recognizing effective education programs in the state.

South Carolina Teaching Fellows won the first WhatWorksSC Award for Excellence, presented Wednesday by Furman University's Riley Institute and the nonprofit South Carolina Future Minds, which coordinates private support for public schools.

The program, run by the state Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, will receive a $10,000 prize from BB&T.

The two other finalists will receive $1,000 each from the Riley Institute, said Courtenay Williams, institute project director.

Those two are a reading program at Clinton Elementary in Lancaster, which its principal credits for a 23-percentage-point jump in students' reading scores over the last few years, and Clemson University's Reading Recovery Training Center, which trains elementary teachers to help struggling readers.