

# South Carolina Technical College System

## 2007-2008 Highlights

### Achievement of Legislative Priorities and State Funding Goals

In July 2007, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education approved legislative priorities and funding requests for the 2008-09 fiscal year. All of the priorities identified were designed to help the System more effectively train the state's high-skilled workforce, which in turn supports South Carolina's ongoing economic development.

Specific items for which FY2008-09 funding was requested, and ultimately approved, include:

- Ongoing funding to further the operations of our innovative start-up workforce training division, the Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT) and its readySC™ program (received \$3 million in nonrecurring funding);
- A third year of the System's Allied Healthcare Initiative, which is designed to help address South Carolina's ongoing healthcare worker shortage in this critical area (received \$4 million in nonrecurring funding);
- A continued focus on increasing access to post-secondary education through the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, which uses funds from the South Carolina Education Lottery to provide awards to eligible students each term, allowing them to offset tuition costs at the state's two-year institutions (the program received \$47 million for the 2008-09 academic year, the majority of which goes to students attending technical colleges); and
- Ongoing support of Lottery Technology Funding, which will enable our technical colleges to continue to provide innovative and highly effective program delivery (\$12 million, \$5 million of which flows to the System).

### Development of Projects in Key Areas of Statewide Need

#### *Apprenticeship Carolina™*

In 2007, the General Assembly called upon the System to create a coordinated statewide infrastructure to promote and support the development of registered apprenticeship programs in partnership with South Carolina employers. To this end, the System established Apprenticeship Carolina™, which works to ensure that all employers in South Carolina have access to the information, consultative services and technical assistance they need to create their own demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs.

A registered apprenticeship is a flexible, employer-sponsored training program that cultivates highly skilled workers who meet the workforce demands of a competitive global economy. A registered apprenticeship consists of two complementary components:

- supervised on-the-job training that is provided by an employer at the workplace and is customized to meet job-specific needs; and
- job-related education (JRE), which is often delivered by a technical college or other provider and serves to reinforce the theories underlying the skills being learned on-the-job.

In its initial year of operation, Apprenticeship Carolina™ already has helped register 22 new apprenticeship programs – 20 percent of the state's total number – in a wide variety of fields. There were 976 active apprentices in the state at the end of the fiscal year.

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## South Carolina Technical College System 2007-2008 Highlights - continued

SOUTH CAROLINA'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPER  
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SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM



### *competeSC*

Working with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the System has developed plans for a new workforce development tool, *competeSC*. This initiative is targeted to those South Carolina businesses that, for any number of reasons, do not meet *readySC*'s criteria for training assistance, but are still in need of access to the high-caliber training offered by the state's technical colleges. *competeSC* comprises two distinct programs, *QuickJobs Carolina* and *Retool Carolina*, each one aimed at different niches of the workforce.

*QuickJobs Carolina* is designed to provide specialized training to potential employees in 90 days. As the name suggests, the program aims to quickly meet the needs of area employers while keeping the investment of time by employees at a minimum. *Retool Carolina* will assist companies that may not be expanding, but still need their employees trained in the latest technologies and processes in order to remain competitive in the global economy. *competeSC* was not funded by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2008, but the System is seeking other funding sources to help establish the initiative. State funding is vital to the long-term success of the program.

### *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count*

The South Carolina Technical College System and four of its colleges—Aiken Technical College, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Technical College of the Lowcountry and Trident Technical College—have recently been chosen to participate in *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count*. This multi-state initiative is designed to help students—particularly low-income students and students of color—improve certification, degree completion and graduation rates. The information and findings gleaned by the four demonstration site colleges will be shared System-wide, with the goal of bringing the benefits of the initiative's "culture of evidence" to bear for all the state's technical colleges and their students. Partnering with the System on this project is the Palmetto Institute, an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit research and educational organization focused on increasing the per capita income of South Carolina's citizens.

### *Allied Healthcare Initiative*

Funding for Year Two of the System's Allied Healthcare Initiative was distributed to colleges through a combination of base and FTE allocations. Year Two projects included various activities to increase the number of graduates from nursing and allied health programs, expand innovative learning opportunities through increased use of simulations and web-based activities, and enhance the capacity and quality of educational settings through renovation and/or the creation of new space.

### *QuickSkills SC*

The System has partnered with the Department of Commerce and Adult Education to develop a highly targeted workforce development program that will be funded by a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant. Called *QuickSkills SC*, this program provides unemployed, underemployed and displaced workers with a GED, a Career Readiness Certificate and the technical and soft skills necessary to move into available high-demand, high-wage jobs within a six-month period. Workers without a GED, but with adequate skill levels, will be placed in a Fast Track GED program, tested for and provided with remediation as necessary to obtain a Career Readiness Certificate, and, if necessary, enrolled in *Quick Jobs* programs, which the technical colleges would administer.

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# South Carolina Technical College System

## 2007-2008 Highlights - continued

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### Successful Integration into South Carolina's Innovative Educational Improvement Initiative

#### *Personal Pathways to Success Implementation Grants*

The System plays a significant role in the implementation of South Carolina's innovative educational improvement initiative known as Personal Pathways to Success. The initiative is designed to increase high school graduation rates and provide a more seamless transition from high school to the next stage of life (workforce, college, etc.). As part of Personal Pathways, the System received funding for the development of programs to facilitate this transition. Current programs are aimed at enhancing curriculum alignment between secondary and post-secondary institutions within identified career clusters, increasing dual enrollment opportunities, and closing skill gaps with assessment and remediation activities.