

# FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

## Report To Commission on Higher Education



- I. Priorities & Plans for 2011-2012
- II. Budget Requests 2012-2013
- III. Capital Bond Bill Priorities 2012-2013

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**August 2011**

# **I. Priorities & Plans for 2011-2012**

- I. Continue the development of programs in the area of health care.**
  - Pending Master of Science / Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Pending Master of Science / Nurse Educator
- II. Continue to develop outreach programs that serve the Pee Dee Region and state of South Carolina, such as:**
  - Rural Area Leadership Initiative
  - Advancing Rural Community Health program
  - Non-Profit Leadership Institute
  - New partnership with Hope Health
- III. Continue to develop extension activities similar to our Marion and Lake City Centers that bring educational programs to areas of need in the Pee Dee Region.**
- IV. Pursue implementation of the I-95 Corridor Plan, which stems from the I-95 Corridor Study sponsored by Francis Marion and SC State Universities.**
- V. Collaborate with Teach for America by:**
  - Serving as the host university
  - Providing professional development for TFA teachers assigned to school districts in the Pee Dee Counties and Orangeburg County
- VI. Along with other higher education institutions, FMU will focus on the development and implementation of Accountability Based Funding criteria.**
- VII. Depending on the final outcome of congressional redistricting, FMU may seek changes in the University's enabling legislation regarding the composition of its Board of Trustees.**

## II. Budget Requests 2012-2013

### **Nurse Practitioner Program**

Francis Marion University requests an appropriation of \$750,000 in recurring funds for its Masters of Science / Nurse Practitioner Program to address the following needs in the region and state:

- The need for additional education and clinical training to deal with increasingly complex health issues.
- The shortage of faculty in 2 and 4 year programs qualified to teach in technical colleges and 4-year institutions.

Increasing the number of Nurse Practitioners will be of special benefit to the state's rural sections, such as the Pee Dee region where on average there are only one-fourth the number of NPs as in urban areas of the state.

### **Physician Assistant Degree Program**

Francis Marion University requests an appropriation of \$750,000 in recurring funds for its Master's level Physician Assistant Degree Program. FMU is ideally positioned to develop a new PA program to benefit the Pee Dee region and the state through its participation in the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership. Locating the program at FMU and emphasizing the care of vulnerable populations would significantly improve the chances that PA students would choose to practice in the Pee Dee region and help meet the health care needs of this impoverished and rural area of South Carolina.

### **III. Capital Bond Bill Priorities 2012-2013**

#### **School of Education/School of Business Building**

This project is to construct an approximately 61,000 square foot building for the School of Education and the School of Business, FMU's largest undergraduate and graduate degree programs. This building will provide 13 classrooms, 1 distance learning classroom, 4 computer labs, 1 open computer laboratory, 4 project rooms, a teaching materials center, 50 faculty offices, 2 deans' offices and various support staff facilities. This request includes one-time funding of \$23,250,000 for construction, start-up equipment and furnishings. Funding of \$750,000 was provided in fiscal year 2000 for architectural and engineering design.

#### **Founders Hall Renovation**

This project is to renovate the 76,366 square foot Founders Hall, the University's oldest classroom building. Renovation will address items of facility renewal such as replacement of the HVAC and lighting systems for improved energy efficiency, replacement of carpeting, ceilings, interior finishes, door locks, and classroom seating. The renovation will also effect recurring cost savings to the University through replacement of energy-inefficient HVAC and lighting systems and subsequent decreases in preventative maintenance and deferred maintenance costs. This request includes one-time funding of \$8,000,000 for renovation of the facility.