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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chair, and Members,
Commission on Higher Education

From: Mr. Dan Ravenel, Interim Chair and Members
Committee on Student Services and Access & Equity

2003-2004 LIFE Scholarship Informational Report

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship was established by the General Assembly during the 1998 legislative session and was signed into law on June 19, 1998. The LIFE Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship designed to increase access to higher education, improve the employability of South Carolina students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, improve SAT scores, and encourage students to graduate from college on time.

During the 2003 legislative session, there were no changes made to the LIFE Scholarship Program. Forty million dollars of the funding was allocated from the proceeds generated by the S.C. Education Lottery. Students attending a four-year public or independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition, not to exceed \$4,700, plus a \$300 book allowance, while students attending a two-year public or technical institution received up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance. In addition, students attending the two-year independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition at the two-year regional campuses plus a \$300 book allowance.

In order to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship as a first-time entering freshman at a four-year institution, students were required to meet two of the following three criteria: 1) earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on a 4.0 scale or the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS), 2) earn a minimum score of 1100 on the SAT (24 ACT), 3) rank in the top 30% of the graduating class. The average SAT score for first-time entering freshmen who received the LIFE scholarship in 2003 was 1164 (ACT scores were converted to SAT). For first time entering freshmen at

eligible two year or technical institutions, students must earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale. Students may receive a LIFE Scholarship for a maximum of two terms for a one year certificate or diploma program, four terms for an associate's degree program or a two year program that is acceptable for full credit towards a baccalaureate degree, eight terms (or its equivalent) towards the first baccalaureate or program of study that is structured so as not to require a baccalaureate degree for acceptance into the program and leads to a graduate degree program or ten terms towards an approved five year baccalaureate degree program.

To earn or renew scholarship eligibility, the student is required to 1) meet all general eligibility criteria; 2) earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer) consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution; and 3) earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours if a rising sophomore, 60 credit hours if a rising junior, or 90 credit hours if a rising senior.

As of August 18, 2004, the Commission on Higher Education awarded 26,669 students, totaling \$119 million for the 2003-2004 academic year. This is an 8% increase of the number of students awarded in 2002-03. The following reports provide additional information regarding the 2003-2004 LIFE Scholarship recipients including: number of students awarded and the amount disbursed by institution; recipients by classification; Fall 2003 retention; recipients by ethnicity; recipients by gender; first-time entering freshman by county of origin; and recipients by county of origin. These reports may also be found on the Commission's Website at www.che.sc.gov.

**South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
Academic Year: 2003-04
Scholarship Type: LIFE Scholarship**

Institution	Revised Fall 2003		Revised Spring 2004		Academic Year	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
The Citadel	265	\$651,849	256	\$625,178	266	1,277,026.50
Clemson Univ.	3,838	9,585,970	3,755	9,372,349	3978	19,072,856.43
Coastal Carolina University	730	1,818,540	700	1,745,928	763	3,564,468.00
College of Charleston	2,171	5,422,397	2,120	5,288,747	2240	10,711,144.12
Francis Marion University	700	1,748,613	703	1,756,293	733	3,504,906.04
Lander University	586	1,463,614	569	1,420,874	604	2,884,487.74
South Carolina State Univ.	363	900,449	347	858,207	372	1,758,656.00
U.S.C. – Columbia	5,584	13,928,794	5,565	13,874,595	5759	27,803,389.17
U.S.C. – Aiken	627	1,560,782	621	1,537,555	659	3,098,336.80
U.S.C. – Beaufort	86	188,810	74	165,314	94	354,123.21
U.S.C. – Upstate	707	1,763,990	705	1,754,266	755	3,518,255.58
Winthrop University	1,528	3,813,792	1,489	3,713,895	1557	7,530,187.00
Medical University of S.C.	52	130,000	50	125,000	57	255,000.00
SUB-TOTALS	17,237	42,977,599	16,954	42,238,201	17,837	85,332,836.59
U.S.C. – Lancaster	197	387,976	201	397,578	218	785,553.80
U.S.C. – Salkehatchie	76	150,032	68	134,099	83	284,131.01
U.S.C. – Sumter	171	338,238	171	334,606	188	672,844.00
U.S.C. – Union	52	102,568	54	106,524	58	209,092.00
SUB-TOTALS	496	978,814	494	972,807	547	1,951,620.81
Aiken Tech	46	66,700	48	69,600	57	136,300.00
Central Carolina Tech	62	73,069	58	72,500	73	145,569.00
Denmark Tech	61	75,884	44	54,736	62	130,620.00
Florence-Darlington Tech	156	214,155	174	291,562	197	505,717.00
Greenville Tech	327	489,795	319	478,681	372	968,475.64
Horry-Georgetown Tech	187	231,230	194	239,608	222	470,838.00
Midlands Tech	443	706,931	423	675,622	506	1,382,553.00
Northeastern Tech	104	137,643	97	128,382	114	266,025.00
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech	102	152,796	102	151,212	118	304,008.00
Piedmont Tech	193	292,098	200	302,294	234	594,392.00
Spartanburg Tech	274	424,105	315	485,415	361	909,520.00
Tech Coll.of the Low Count	16	23,200	16	23,200	19	46,400.00
Tri-County Tech	417	576,664	370	511,896	463	1,088,560.00
Trident Tech	213	294,241	212	292,973	252	587,214.53
Williamsburg Tech	11	16,335	9	13,365	13	29,700.00
York Tech	195	302,357	204	311,965	230	614,322.00
SUB-TOTALS	2,807	4,077,203	2,785	4,103,011	3,293	8,180,214.17
Allen University	25	62,500	22	55,000	28	117,500.00
Anderson College	430	1,074,000	408	1,019,000	433	2,093,000.00
Benedict College	226	565,000	219	547,500	229	1,112,500.00
Bob Jones University	369	918,500	367	909,505	382	1,828,004.61
Charleston Southern Univ.	452	1,129,000	431	1,076,500	462	2,205,500.00
Claflin University	305	762,500	301	752,500	323	1,515,000.00
Coker College	164	408,750	151	376,563	168	785,313.00
Columbia College	267	667,500	260	650,000	275	1,317,500.00
Columbia International Univ	75	187,500	72	180,000	81	367,500.00
Converse College	199	497,500	193	480,588	199	978,088.00
Erskine College	192	478,167	185	462,500	193	940,667.00
Furman Univ	292	545,812	295	553,750	299	1,462,062.00
Johnson and Wales Univ	108	153,588	103	145,476	111	443,102.00
Limestone College	73	182,500	66	165,000	76	347,500.00
Morris College	58	136,366	56	133,614	58	269,979.50

Newberry College	179	447,500	176	440,000	183	887,500.00
North Greenville College	455	1,134,625	439	1,096,500	466	2,231,125.00
Presbyterian College	280	700,000	275	687,500	281	1,387,500.00
South University	99	247,500	95	235,625		
Southern Wesleyan Univ	57	141,175			101	483,125.00
Voorhees College	355	886,067	52	130,000	58	271,175.00
Wofford College			349	872,500	357	1,758,567.49
SUB-TOTALS	4,660	11,326,050	4,515	10,969,621	4,763	22,802,208.60
Spartanburg Methodist Coll.	250	490,716	225	445,050	259	935,766
SUB-TOTALS	250	490,716	225	445,050	259	935,766
ACADEMIC TOTALS	25,450	\$59,850,382	24,973	\$58,728,689	26,699	119,202,646.17

Fall 2003 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Recipients	Fall 2002 Percentage of Total Recipients
	Fall 2003	
Black/African-American	4,065	15.9%
American Indian/Alaskan National	60	.2%
Asian/Pacific Island	430	1.6%
Hispanic	274	1.1%
White/Non-Hispanic	19,534	76.7%
Unknown	1,087	4.2 %
Total	25,450	100%

A three-year comparison of LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity

(Fall 01, Fall 02, Fall 03)

*Criteria changed during Fall 02

Ethnicity	Fall 01	*Fall 02	% Change F01-F02	Fall 03	% Change F02-F03
Black/African-American	2,151	3,636	60.10%	4,065	12%
American Indian/Alaskan National	37	68	83.10%	60	-12%
Asian/Pacific Island	352	425	20.10%	430	1%
Hispanic	166	241	45.10%	274	13.70%
White/Non-Hispanic	15,046	18,278	21.60%	19,655	6%
Unknown	1,596	678	-57.30%	878	30%
Total	19,348	23,326		25,450	

Percent Change by ethnic group from Fall 01 to Fall 03

Ethnicity	Fall 01	Fall 03	% Change F01-F03
Black/African-American	2,151	4,065	89 %
American Indian/Alaskan National	37	60	62 %
Asian/Pacific Island	352	430	22 %
Hispanic	166	274	65 %

White/Non-Hispanic	15,046	19,655	29 %
Unknown	1,596	878	-30 %
Total	19,348	25,450	

Fall 2003 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Gender

Gender	Recipients	Percentage
Male	9,393	36.9%
Female	16,016	62.9%
Unknown	41	0.2%
Total	25,450	100.0 %

Fall 2003 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Classification

Classification	Fall 2003	
	# of Recipients	Percentage
Freshmen	11,252	44.09%
Sophomores	5,718	21.97 %
Juniors	4,448	17.38 %
Seniors	3,925	15.38 %
Unclassified Undergraduate	23	.09 %
First Professional	38	.15%
Unknown	46	.94 %
Total	25,450	100.00 %

Fall 2003 LIFE Scholarship Retention

Students receiving the scholarship in Fall 2002 retained the scholarship in Fall 2003 at a rate of 65%. First-time entering freshman in Fall 2002 retained the scholarship in Fall 2003 at a rate of 49 % as compared to sophomores, 85% and juniors, 84%. Data shows that since 1998 the retention numbers have steadily increased each year.

Institution	Retained at Same Institution			
	Freshman-Sophomore	Sophomore-Junior	Junior	Total
Senior Public	51%	78%	82%	65%
Two-Year Regional of USC	34%	0	0	33%
Technical	21%	0	0	21%
Senior Independent	46%	74%	85%	63%
Two-Year Independent	30%	0	0	30%
Sub-Total	45%	77%	83%	61%
Including students who transferred from originating institution to another institution in the State and retained	51%	85%	84%	65%

LIFE. The Grand Total is:				
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