

November 7, 2002

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**From:** Ms. Dianne Chinnes, Chairman, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Recommendations of CHE Service Learning Awards Panel**

In 2001, the Commission on Higher Education undertook an initiative to publicize on a statewide scale the service learning and volunteerism efforts of the public colleges and universities in South Carolina. To this end, the Commission began holding an annual competition on service learning among the public institutions in the state with the stated outcome of recognizing in a public fashion those projects that best represent the integration of student learning with community service. In fall 2002, the Commission held the second annual competition. Each public college and university was asked to submit one service learning project nomination, and the Commission stipulated that it would award Commendations of Excellence in Service Learning to two institutions, one in the four-year sector and one in the two-year sector. In all, 17 separate institutions submitted nominations (please see **Attachment 1**).

For purposes of the competition, the Commission defined service learning as college student learning at any level and in any situation that is linked in a direct, hands-on fashion to the resolution of a problem or concern in a target community outside the institution. The staff convened a selection panel, chaired by Dr. Vermelle Johnson, Commissioner and former Vice President for Academic Affairs at Claflin University. The other members of the panel were Dr. Belinda Gergel, former Vice President for Academic Affairs at Columbia College, Mr. Steve Ghelardini, First Vice President for Investments at Salomon Smith Barney, and Dr. David Loope of the Commission staff.

At its meeting on October 16, 2002, the Selection Panel reviewed and discussed each of the nominations and after numerically scoring each proposal unanimously decided to recommend the awarding of Commendations of Excellence in Service Learning to two projects: 1) “Joining Wisdom with Youth: Computer Skills Development Through Intergenerational Service Learning” from Clemson University in the four-year sector (please see **Attachment 2**), and 2) “Summer Dental Care Clinic” at York Technical College in the two-year sector (please see **Attachment 3**). The panel thought that these two projects, to the degree that they enhance student learning while simultaneously helping to solve problems or concerns in the community, were truly meritorious. Importantly, too, this is the second consecutive year that Clemson has won the competition in the four-year sector. Also, the panel wishes to acknowledge the many projects of very high caliber received from each sector, a fact testifying to the fine service learning efforts currently underway at the public colleges and universities in South Carolina.

### **Recommendation**

The Service Learning Awards Selection Panel recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend to the Commission for approval the awarding of Commendations of Excellence in Service Learning to Clemson University for “Joining Wisdom with Youth: Computer Skills Development Through Intergenerational Service Learning” and to York Technical College for the “Summer Dental Care Clinic” project. The Committee will consider this item at its meeting on November 6 and will make its recommendation to the Commission on November 7.

Cc: Attachments (3)

## Attachment 1

### 2002 CHE Service Learning Nominations

#### *Public, Four-Year Institutions*

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project</b>
The Citadel	Citadel Summer Reading Program for Children
Clemson University	Joining Wisdom with Youth: Intergenerational Computer Skills Development
Coastal Carolina Univ.	Ethically Gray Areas in Corporate Accounting
College of Charleston	Implementing Green Building Technology
Lander University	Journey to a Hate Free Millennium
SC State University	Providing Services through Collaboration and Teaming
USC-Aiken	MLK Day Service Project
USC-Columbia	MLK Day of Service
USC-Spartanburg	Students Educating Inmates

#### **Public, Two-Year Institutions**

<b><u>Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>
Horry-Georgetown TC	Enhancing Dental Health in the Hispanic Community
Midlands TC	Village of Hope Family Support Center
Orangeburg-Calhoun TC	Service Learning: A Teaching Strategy
Piedmont TC	Camp Power Puffers
Trident TC	Nativity School Network Installation
USC-Lancaster	Service Learning in University 101
USC-Sumter	Making a Difference Fridays
York TC	Summer Dental Care Clinic