



## South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

### Commissioners' E-Alert

May 2009

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Mr. Hood Temple  
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.  
Dr. Mitchell Zais

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

### Commission Highlights -- *This E-Alert brings highlights from the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

The Commission meets each month on the first Thursday. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. An agenda will be available at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Commission%20Calendar&Materials/Calendar/CommCalendar2009.htm> approximately one week prior to the meeting.

### ***SUBSTANTIAL GAINS FOR SC IF WE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST EDUCATED STATES***

#### ***ECONOMIC RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN SC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY RESULTS PRESENTED***

Dr. Doug Woodward, Professor of Economics at the USC Moore School of Business and Director of the Moore School Division of Research, presented on his research on the return on economic investment for higher education in S.C. This research was conducted at the request of the Higher Education Study Committee, chaired by Mr. Dan Ravenel, as part of its work in developing and recommending a strategic plan for higher education to the General Assembly and Governor. The research reveals significant returns to South Carolina if the recommended goal of study committee to make South Carolina a leading state by 2030 in education attainment as measured by the percentage of South Carolinians with at least a bachelor's degree is realized. Dr. Woodward reviewed the statewide findings of the study and presented new analyses by region of the state. He noted the study is a work in progress and plans to conduct additional research for more information. The full report which will be finalized in the next several weeks will be made public as soon as it is completed. A copy of the Dr. Woodward's PowerPoint presentation may be accessed at [http://www.che.sc.gov/Commission%20Calendar&Materials/May2009MtgMaterials/AgendaItem\\_8\\_May7\\_WoodwardPresentation.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/Commission%20Calendar&Materials/May2009MtgMaterials/AgendaItem_8_May7_WoodwardPresentation.pdf).

Dr. Woodward's report on the statewide results was published in the Study Committee's recently released action plan, ***Leveraging Higher Education for a Stronger South Carolina: The Action Plan Implementation***. A copy is available on CHE's website at [http://www.che.sc.gov/HigherEd\\_ActionPlan.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/HigherEd_ActionPlan.htm).

### ***SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION SPEAKS WITH COMMISSION***

Continuing efforts to engage in discussion on important topics and issues facing the state and higher education, Chairman Wingate introduced a special guest speaker, the Superintendent of Education, Dr. Jim Rex. Dr. Rex was invited for a presentation and conversation on education and how K-12 and higher education can continue to work together for positive progress toward a more educated South Carolina. He discussed with the Commission the importance of changing the culture of our state to make education a priority for everyone and the role that effective grass roots support and advocacy can play in doing so. After commenting positively on the many collaborative efforts that are on-going between K-12 and higher education, he shared his thoughts on additional opportunities. An important message conveyed was that every child can succeed if we start early enough to prepare them, and that well-prepared, quality teachers can make the difference. Reaching more of our youngest students can be transformative for South Carolina, and higher education and K-12 must work together on these goals.

### ***SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION***

The Commission presented a special **Commendation of Excellence to Officer Alan Sayre** of Francis Marion University for his recent recognition as the **2009 Campus Safety Officer of the Year**. Officer Sayre was selected by his peers of the S.C. Campus Law Enforcement Association for this honor. Dr. Fred Carter, President of Francis Marion University, was on-hand for the presentation and commented on the effective service that Officer Sayre gives to the campus, faculty and students.



***Pictured from left to right:***

*Dr. Fred Carter, President,  
Francis Marion University,*

*Officer of the Year  
Alan Sayre, and*

*Commission Chairman  
Ken Wingate.*

***Support for higher education is the lever by which the government can move the entire economy***

~Stanford/Hoover Institution Economist Dr. Paul Romer

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Chairman's Report and Report of the Executive Committee:

Mr. Ken Wingate, Chairman of the Commission, introduced and welcomed the newest Commissioner, Mr. Guy C. Tarrant of Charleston. Mr. Tarrant is being appointed by the Governor as an at-large statewide member of the Commission. The Senate confirmed Mr. Tarrant's appointment to the Commission on Thursday, May 7. Mr. Wingate reported on the recent meeting of the Executive Committee which continues to meet a week prior to the monthly Commission meetings for the purpose of reviewing the upcoming meeting agenda. The Commission's Executive Committee includes the Commission's chairman, vice-chairman, and chairs of the standing committees (Academic Affairs and Licensing, Finance and Facilities, and Access and Equity and Student Services).

### The Report of the Committee on Finance & Facilities:

Commissioner Jim Sanders, chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, brought forward several recommendations that were approved by the Commission to advance requests for interim capital projects at Clemson, USC Columbia, MUSC, Coastal Carolina University, and the College of Charleston, and to approve lease requests of Clemson, MUSC, and the College of Charleston. The Committee also provided for information a list of capital projects and leases processed by CHE staff during the month of April.

### The Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs & Licensing:

The Commission approved recommendations advanced by the Academic Affairs and Licensing Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Bettie Rose Horne. Included among the approved recommendations were the approval of nine new academic program proposals for public colleges and universities, the approval of amendments to existing licenses for two out-of-state institutions, and a proposal for the use of lottery-funded nursing simulation funds. The Committee also brought forward several reports which were approved or accepted by the Commission including: the "Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshman, FY 2008-09", the "Annual Report of AP Course Acceptance Policies, FY 2008-09", and an information report on the fine arts unit in college course prerequisites.

For details on the items in this section, see <http://www.che.sc.gov/ExecutiveDirector/Mailouts/CommMailOutMay2009.htm>

## NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education, shared information about recent activities and community outreach efforts in regard to the importance of higher education in today's knowledge economy and the Action Plan for Higher Education. Highlights from his report are bulleted below.

- Dr. Walters talked with the Commission about recent **visits to institutions and rotary clubs and his plans to visit as many civic and community organizations** as possible during the year to increase awareness about the knowledge economy and higher education. If you are interested in having Dr. Walters address your organization, please see the information at right.
- He praised recently announced initiatives including: a **collaborative program between USC and Claflin University**, which is aimed at producing more minority public health care workers by giving students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in biology from Claflin and a master's degree from USC Arnold School of Public Health, and the recently announced **Spartanburg 40/30 initiative** which is an effort of the Spartanburg community to increase significantly their educational attainment levels.
- Dr. Walters made note of an upcoming conference that the Commission has worked on with the Carolinas Association of General Contractors (CarolinasACG) to bring to public facilities professionals information about available construction alternatives that may be used. The conference, **The Approval and Use of Alternative Construction Delivery Methods for South Carolina Higher Education, State Agencies and K-12: Tools to Save Time and Money in Today's Economy** will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> and additional information is available by contacting Mr. Gary Glenn, CHE Director of Finance, Facilities and MIS, at (803) 737-2155 or [gglenn@che.sc.gov](mailto:gglenn@che.sc.gov).
- Dr. Walters provided the Commission with a **FAQ Sheet on commonly asked questions about higher education**. Issues addressed include the percentage of the state's budget that is spent on higher education and how it compares to other states, whether public funds directly or indirectly subsidize out-of-state students at South Carolina's colleges and universities and whether online education provides a less expensive alternative than classroom instruction. The information dispels current myths showing that the state ranks low in comparing our expenditures for support of institutions to those of other states, that out-of-state students are not subsidized by public funds, and that online education is not necessarily a lower cost alternative and can actually be more expensive. The FAQ sheet on these and other commonly asked questions will be posted on CHE's website.

### CALL TO INFORM AND WORK TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

Higher Education for all our citizens has never been as important as it is today in the Knowledge Based Economy. To change our state we must make sure all our citizens have the work skills and education they need to compete with the world. They also must know how to access this education. We are sharing this message with Chambers of Commerce, civic organizations, business organizations, parent and school organizations and others. If you are interested in a program, please call us today and we will be glad to work with you.

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