

Charleston Need-based Roundtable Fall 2006

1. What is the profile of the neediest students at your institution?

- Low-income
- First generation
- Just miss Pell eligibility
- Receive a low Pell amount and do not receive any other aid
- Has guardian parent. Guardian parent cannot complete the FAFSA.
- Married independent student without children does not qualify for aid
- LTAP doesn't pay for books
- Not Pell eligible but have high need
- Currently award NBG to students with EFC of less than \$5,000
- Single Parent
- Working student that does not qualify for aid because of earnings
- Single independent student qualifies for the least because of work.
- Doesn't qualify for PLUS loan
- High Alternative loans

2. How do we allow the neediest students access to colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- Give information on college to student and family earlier.
- Students are recruited out-of-state with high scholarship amounts that cannot be matched by in-state institutions.
- Have system that will help with college process.
- TRIO/GEAR-UP/HEAP
- Get Need-based Grant allocation out earlier. Bills go out in June and students need to know what has been awarded.
- It would be nice to have the NBG and LTAP amounts a year in advance. North Carolina does it.
- Applications peak between April and June. Money has been awarded if student applies late.
- Academic rigor
- Funding for administrative cost
- Financial literacy
- Have person in high school that is responsible for college and financial aid process. Could fund with EEDA.

3. What aid is available for our neediest students?

- Pell Grant

- Loans
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- Academic Competitiveness Grant
- SMART Grant
- Institutional Scholarships
- Institutional need-based program (\$750,000). Primarily used for students that have lost PFS, LIFE, and HOPE
- 68% of students receive need-based aid
- 80% of students have need
- Students at four-year institutions receive an average of \$11,800 in scholarships/grants
- Need to be able to raise credit hours and GPA for NBG in the summer.
- Two-year institution has needy population
- Middle income crunch
- EFC is less than \$5,001. Pell eligibility ends with an EFC of \$3,801.
- Repayment of loans effects quality of life
- Students who loose scholarships go to loans
- It cost 3 times more to recruit a new student than it does to retain a current student.

4 . How do we retain the State's neediest students at the colleges and universities in South Carolina?

- School program on Academic Success that combines academics and financial aid. Targeted at students who loose scholarships.
- Tutors
- Writing Center
- Non-traditional hours for support services. Don't close at 5pm.
- Academic rigor
- Involve faculty in retention effort
- It is not a one time effort.
- Retention is not just academics and money.
- Retention is a campus-wide concern
- Don't label student as needy
- Change name of need-based Grant
- Students don't want faculty to know they are receiving help (either academic or financial)
- If student completes first year he/she is more likely to graduate

5 . Are there special programs targeted at this population?

- Use institutional need-based money to assist students with incidentals (SCE&G)
- Access & Equity Program
 1. Focuses on "C" student

2. Makes sure all obstacles to going to college are taken care of so student can attend
3. Campus climate is important to students
4. Believe in student
5. Start at elementary school
6. Communicate
7. Involve parents

6. How can the State better serve our neediest students?

- Have money for administrative cost of support programs
- Lose award for semester instead of year
- Allow for summer disbursement
- Need-based Grant is not an entitlement

7. Should the State fund students instead of schools with the Need-based Grant?

- Tuition Grant goes to students
- Can transfer between institutions
- State would have to receive all ISIRs in order to process NBG.
This would be a huge administrative cost

8. What will happen to the student if the additional \$10 million is allocated based on the Pell Grant Methodology?

- Schools that lose money are interested in meeting the needs of the neediest students in the State.
- It would be more equitable
- Have ratio for need