



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Executive Director

CAAL  
1/9/2014  
Agenda Item 4

January 9, 2014

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs  
**From:** MaryAnn Janosik, Ph.D., Director of Academic Affairs

### Discussion and Consideration of Draft Proposal for a South Carolina Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads

#### Background

At its strategic planning retreat October 13-14, 2013, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education developed four key issue priorities to guide the Commission's work in the coming years. The four priorities are as follows: 1.) Strengthen academic planning; 2.) Develop new higher education funding models/accountability-based funding (ABF); 3.) Strengthen P-20 collaboration; and 4.) Improve monitoring of non-public education providers.

Under the third priority, "Strengthen P-20 Collaboration," the Commission identified as one of several action items the creation of a P-20 Council. In response, Commission staff, including the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Academic Affairs and other members of the Academic Affairs team, developed the attached draft proposal for a South Carolina Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads.

#### Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends favorably to the Committee on Academic Affairs discussion and consideration of the South Carolina Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads draft proposal as submitted.

The staff also emphasizes that this proposal is a **draft** – *developed internally within CHE* – one that was designed to be shared with the respective agencies and other interested parties for their input, guidance, advice, and endorsement.

The staff further recommends that, if this proposal is favorably considered by the Committee, the CHE Executive Director proceed to share the proposal with the heads of the respective agencies and others to begin the process of collaborative consultation and collective decision-making that will lead to the establishment of this initiative: a voluntary P-20 Council.

## **Draft Proposal for a South Carolina Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads**

Prepared by Staff of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE)  
Submitted to the CHE Commission on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAA) for Initial Consideration  
9 January 2014

**Purpose:** The undersigned state educational agencies propose to convene a council of leaders from their respective organizations who will gather periodically by mutual consent to consider policy and procedural issues to improve the education of South Carolina students at all levels. The Council will strengthen the integration of educational policies, procedures, and services at all levels to serve the students of our state.

**Mission:** The Council will enable and encourage P-12 and post-secondary educational collaboration to increase student success and academic achievement throughout the state.

**Vision:** The Council will articulate and advance clear expectations for improved collaboration and communication among P-12 and post-secondary education providers. The council will bring together a variety of stakeholders, including education leaders, key decision-makers, and other constituents across the education continuum. The Council will recommend policies and encourage innovative programs to prepare students for success in the twenty-first century. The P-20 Council's representatives will be committed to long-term transformational change and will integrate existing reform efforts with new, sustainable educational initiatives.

**Strategic Goals:** The Council will establish strategic goals and action plans that address the need to:

- 1) Improve college and career readiness by increasing student success (e.g., increase high school graduation rates, decrease high school drop-out rates, decrease remediation rates, increase post-secondary enrollment, improve post-secondary retention rates, and increase degree completion rates).
- 2) Strengthen the quality, recruitment, and retention of teachers and other educators.
- 3) Improve data quality and data systems, including the development of a fully integrated P-20 longitudinal data system.
- 4) Coordinate initiatives and establish P-20 partnerships to expand access to education at all levels for all SC residents.

**Membership:** The Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads will be comprised of the following members (or their designees):

- Chair of the Commission on Higher Education
- Chair of the State Board of Education
- Chair of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
- Executive Director of the Commission on Higher Education
- State Superintendent of Education
- Executive Director of the Education Oversight Committee
- Executive Director of the Technical College System
- Executive Director of the Department of Employment and Workforce Development
- Executive Director of First Steps to School Readiness

The Council will elect its chair, determine its membership, establish by-laws, and may choose to expand or decrease the number of voting and/or non-voting members. It may create categories of membership, task forces, standing committees, or subcommittees, as appropriate, for its projects and priorities.

**Staffing and Expenses:** The Council will share the minimal expenses for its meetings among the participating agencies. CHE will pay for these expenses during the first twelve months of the Council's operation, with the cost rotating among the participating agencies in subsequent years. CHE (Director of Academic Affairs and Associate Director of P-20 Initiatives) and SCDED (TBD), will jointly staff the Council.

**Signatories:**

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John L. Finan  
Chair, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Date

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Barry Bolen  
Chair, State Board of Education

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Date

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Ralph A. Odom, Jr.  
Chair, State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

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Date

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Mitchell M. Zais  
South Carolina Superintendent of Education

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Date

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Richard C. Sutton  
Executive Director, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Date

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TBD  
Executive Director, South Carolina Technical College System

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Date

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Melanie Barton  
Executive Director, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee

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Date

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Cheryl M. Stanton  
Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Development

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Date

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Susan DeVenny  
Executive Director, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

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Date