

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Brig Gen John L. Finan, USAF (Ret.), Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul O. Batson, III
Mr. Tim M. Hofferth
Ms. Dianne C. Kuhl
Ms. Allison Dean Love
Dr. Louis B. Lynn
Vice Admiral Charles Munns, USN (ret.)
Mr. Clark B. Parker
Mr. Kim F. Phillips
Ms. Terrye C. Seckinger
Dr. Jennifer B. Settlemyer
Mr. Hood Temple
Dr. Evans Whitaker

Dr. Richard C. Sutton
Executive Director

TO: Chairman John L. Finan and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education
FROM: Members of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services
SUBJECT: Items for Consideration on April 2
DATE: March 26, 2015

The attached items for your review and consideration at the April 2 Commission meeting were considered at the meeting of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services on March 11, 2015.

If you have any questions about a particular item, or if you need additional information, please contact Dr. Karen Woodfaulk at (803) 737-2244.

6.03A Consideration of Year Round Scholarship Policy Guidelines

6.03B Consideration of College Transition Program Policies

6.03C College Application Month *(For Information, No Action Required)*

6.03D Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, Section 702 *(For Information, No Action Required)*

6.03E FY2015-16 EIA Funded Teacher Recruitment Project: Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC- PRRMT) *(Schedule for Quarterly Updates)*

Enclosures

**Consideration of Year-Round Scholarship Policy Guidelines
for the 2014-15 Academic Year**

April 2, 2015

Background

During the 2013 legislative session, the University of South Carolina (USC) requested consideration of the General Assembly to allow state undergraduate scholarships to be awarded during the summer in order to facilitate time-to-degree for students desiring to earn their degrees on a faster time-table than the traditional academic calendar. USC's request was not acted on during the 2013 session. However, this item was revisited and included in the FY 2014-15 Appropriations Act. The SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) convened stakeholders from public and independent institutions to participate in discussions regarding how to move forward with summer scholarship award disbursements for the state's three merit based scholarship programs: SC HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows.

Analysis

CHE staff and the stakeholders on the Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce, met on several occasions to engage in conversations on the current status of the merit based programs and any changes that might be necessitated as a result of providing a summer term award disbursement. The General Assembly approved a provision in the FY2014-15 Appropriations Act to enable Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship recipients to receive an award during the summer term in addition to being awarded for the fall and spring terms. The proviso was included within the lottery expenditure proviso (3.5) and took effect with the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. The Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce convened four times over the course of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years. Please refer to **Attachment I** for a list of the Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce members.

FY 2014-15 Proviso Language Excerpted From Proviso 3.5

(LEA: FY 2014-15 Lottery Funding): "... A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not completed by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student's total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation. . . ."

The draft guidelines were initially provided for review in July 2014 and intended to be effective for program implementation for FY2014-15 with implementation initiated for the 2014 summer term. Subsequently, all parties were able to generate a plausible resolution in respect to implementing a summer scholarship disbursement that would be applicable to all eligible 2-year, 4-year, public, and independent institutions. As such, the Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce was charged with and assisted in fashioning a set of policy guidelines to be disseminated to eligible institutions regarding the awarding and disbursement of scholarship funds for a summer term. The Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce continued discussions with

institutions concerning the guidelines through fall 2014, and the final draft guidelines presented are under consideration for implementation for the summer 2015 term.

Presidents/Chancellors and key institutional personnel were provided a draft of the Year-Round Scholarship Policy Guidelines for review on December 5, 2014. Institutions returned to CHE staff any concerns. All institutional feedback was gathered and compiled into a finalized version of the Year-Round Scholarship Policy Guidelines. Suggestions regarding the Guidelines are included in the final draft being presented to the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services. **(Attachment II)**

Taskforce deliberations have resulted in the following outcomes effective for the summer 2015 term:

1. Guidelines for determining eligibility specific to a SC HOPE, LIFE, or a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient.
2. Process for institutional scholarship award disbursement and request for invoicing CHE for disbursement.

The attached Policy Guidelines have been developed as a result of discussions, suggestions, and insight from the Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce. The presented Guidelines provide a foundation in which to gauge the progress and feasibility of a summer scholarship disbursement. Because the Year-Round Scholarship program is directed by a temporary one-year budget proviso, considerations for the program in subsequent years will be subject to any statutory or regulatory changes that may occur during the upcoming 2015 Session of the General Assembly or renewal of the budget proviso for FY 2015-16.

Recommendation

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services commends favorably to the Commission approval of the proposed Year-Round Scholarship Policy Guidelines for dissemination to eligible institutions.

Attachment I: Year-Round Scholarship Taskforce Members

The Presidents and Chancellors of each eligible South Carolina institution were tasked with designating an institutional delegate to serve as a representative of their institution on the Scholarship Taskforce. The following is a list of the institutional designees that have diligently served on the Taskforce since its inception.

Institution	Name	Title
Central Carolina Technical College	Lisa Braken	Vice President of Student Affairs
Central Carolina Technical College	Tiffany Wilson	Director of Financial Aid
Clemson University	Chuck Knepfle	Director of Financial Aid
Coastal Carolina University	Stacie Bowie	Vice President of Finance and Administration
Coastal Carolina University	Greg Thornburg	Vice President for Enrollment Services
College of Charleston	Don Griggs	Director of Financial Aid
Francis Marion University	Peter King	Associate Provost
Lander University	Fred Hardin	Director of Financial Aid
Midlands Technical College	Angela Williams	Director of Financial Aid
Medical University of South Carolina	George Ohlandt	Executive Director of Enrollment
SC Independent Schools and Universities	Mike LeFever	President & CEO
SC Independent Schools and Universities	Eddie Shannon	Executive Vice President
Spartanburg Community College	Nancy Garmroth	Director of Financial Aid*
The Citadel	Mark Bebensee	Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
The Citadel	Hank Fuller	Director of Financial Aid
Tri-County Technical College	Sarah Dowd	Director of Financial Aid*
Trident Technical College	Ellen Green	Director of Financial Aid*
University of South Carolina-Aiken	Kathy Long	Scholarship Program Coordinator
University of South Carolina-Beaufort	Doug Oblander	Vice Chancellor for Student Development
University of South Carolina-Columbia	Dennis Pruitt	Vice President of Student Affairs
University of South Carolina-Columbia	Scott Verzyl	Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
University of South Carolina-Columbia	Ed Miller	Director of Financial Aid*
Winthrop University	Michelle Hare	Director of Financial Aid
SC Technical College System	Hope Rivers	Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs
SC Technical College System	Russ Bumba	Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs*

**Members have since retired or are employed by a new institution. Replacements have been identified for any future Taskforce meetings.*

Attachment II: Year-Round Scholarship PFS and LIFE Policy Guideline 2/03/15

Year-Round Scholarships for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship Policy Guidelines for FY 2014-15

Background

During the fall 2013, Governor Haley requested that the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) provide a report to explore the feasibility of opening the state's scholarship programs for awards during the summer. CHE submitted a report prepared in consultation with institutions on the matter at the end of November as requested¹. The report offered a foundational, working proposal to provide additional flexibility for those students, regardless of institutional affiliation, who are on-track and may be proceeding in their programs full-time throughout the year to do so without being penalized by the absence of scholarship support in the summer.

The Governor supported the program in concept in her Executive Budget proposal for FY 2014-15. The program was in turn supported by both the House and Senate in their budget proposals and included in the final FY 2014-15 Appropriations Act. The implementation of the summer awards for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) and LIFE Scholarship is supported by increased funding for the scholarship programs and a provision in the lottery funding proviso which follows:

FY 2014-15 Appropriations Act, Part 1B 3.5. (LEA: FY 2014-15 Lottery Funding): ". . . A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not completed by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student's total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation. . . ."

This provision allows for State scholarship disbursements for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE for the summer semester, in addition to the fall and spring semester. The inclusion of another

¹ *Response to Governor's Request of CHE Concerning Summer Scholarship Awards: Assessment of Feasibility and Fiscal Impact of Year-Round Eligibility for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarships. Report prepared by the SC Commission on Higher Education, 27 November 2013. Accessible at http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/infocntr/legisl/2014/2013-11-27_CHE_ScholarshipYear-RoundEligibility_Rpt%20incl6a6b.pdf*

full semester of scholarship support during the academic year for eligible students affords students with greater flexibility while promoting affordability and a faster time to degree.

Purpose

South Carolina’s state-funded undergraduate scholarship programs recognize academically talented students who are enrolled at an eligible South Carolina institution. A summer semester scholarship disbursement yields a potential for those eligible students who demonstrate they are on an accelerated track to graduation to earn a degree at a faster pace than on a traditional academic calendar. The availability of summer awards allows for a decreased time-to-degree alternative which in turn assists students in attaining educational goals at lower costs.

The following working guidelines are in place effective July 1, 2014 for FY 2014-15 with implementation initiated for the 2014 and 2015 summer terms. Because the year-round scholarship program is directed by a temporary one-year budget proviso, considerations for the program in the subsequent and future will be subject to any statutory or regulatory changes that may occur during the upcoming 2015 Session of the General Assembly or renewal of the budget proviso for FY 2015-16.

I. General Requirements for Determination of Summer Award Eligibility

A. The program for summer awards applies to Palmetto Fellows and LIFE programs. Students earning HOPE may also be eligible following the spring term of the first year.

B. For purposes of the summer awards, summer term is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The summer term includes all sessions following the end of the spring semester, to include maymester, prior to the start of the succeeding fall term.

C. Pursuant to the provision within FY 2014-15 Appropriations Act Proviso 3.5, the program is implemented as of July 1, 2014. Students enrolled during summer 2014 may be eligible for award provided that the requisite hours have not been completed prior to July 1.

D. A student who has been verified as meeting all general and continued eligibility requirements at the end of the spring semester is eligible to participate in summer scholarship disbursements.

1. Each institution may identify, at their discretion, academic programs/majors/disciplines that present enrollment opportunities that may lead to early graduation so as to advise students with respect to advantages/disadvantages of a summer award.
2. An eligible student may elect not to participate in a summer scholarship disbursement.

E. A student can only receive a summer scholarship disbursement at their home institution. The PFS or LIFE Scholarship recipient must be verified for enrollment at an eligible South Carolina institution.

1. A student who is considered a transient student is not eligible to participate in summer award disbursements.

F. **PFS and LIFE Scholarship Enhancements**: A student who has been determined to have met continued eligibility for the PFS and LIFE Scholarship and has met the scholarship Enhancement eligibility requirement is eligible to receive Enhancement funds for the summer term.

1. A student shall be verified for enrollment in an eligible major after the last day to drop/add a course of the first summer term of their enrollment.

2. A student who is in the first academic year and has met continued eligibility for the PFS the scholarship and has met the Enhancement eligibility requirement at the end of the spring term is eligible to receive Enhancement funds starting the immediate succeeding summer term.
 - a. A student who has not met the Enhancement eligibility requirement at the end of the spring term is still eligible to use the PFS or LIFE Scholarship for the summer term. The summer term still may be used to earn PFS or LIFE Scholarship Enhancement eligibility during the first academic year only.
3. A student does not have the option of deferring Enhancement funds for a summer term if the student opts into the program for receipt of the base PFS or LIFE scholarship.

II. Student Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

A. To participate, a scholarship recipient must meet the following requirements by the end of the spring term in addition to meeting all general scholarship eligibility requirements as set forth by the established program statutes and regulations.

1. **Palmetto Fellows Scholarship:** For participation in summer scholarship disbursement, at the end of the spring semester a PFS recipient must:
 - a. Earn a cumulative 3.0 institutional GPA; and
 - b. Earn at least 30 credit hours of non-remedial coursework during the fall and spring terms, excluding AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP or exempted credit hours.
 - c. A summer term cannot be scholarship recipient's first term of enrollment.
2. **LIFE Scholarship:** For participation in summer scholarship disbursement, at the end of the spring semester a LIFE Scholarship recipient must:
 - a. Earn a cumulative 3.0 LIFE GPA; and
 - b. Earn an average of at least 30 non-remedial coursework during the fall and spring terms, including AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP or exempted credit hours.
 - c. A summer term cannot be scholarship recipient's first term of enrollment.
 1. First-time entering freshmen will not be penalized for any credit hours earned during the summer session immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment. The credit hours earned will not count against the terms of eligibility. The credit hours may be used toward the annual credit hour requirement.
3. A SC HOPE recipient who meets the continued eligibility requirement at the end of the spring semester will be determined to be a LIFE Scholarship recipient. Should the student decide to participate in a summer scholarship disbursement, the student will follow the LIFE Scholarship recipient guidelines.

B. A student must demonstrate having attempted and/or enrolled in a total of at least twelve credit hours over the course of the entire summer term to be awarded.

C. Participating students who are determined to be a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) or a LIFE Scholarship recipient and have met the continued eligibility requirements at the end of the spring term are eligible for a fall award regardless of their academic performance over the summer. Continued eligibility for the scholarship will be reviewed at the end of the following spring term.

1. A PFS recipient who does not meet the PFS continued eligibility requirements at the end of spring term who is LIFE Scholarship eligible and elects to receive LIFE Scholarship funds for the summer term is no longer eligible for the PFS moving forward.

D. For participating students enrolled in a two-year institution who have been awarded LIFE in the summer and who have exhausted the maximum allowable terms for LIFE are not eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship in their fifth term of enrollment at an eligible two-year institution. The maximum allowable terms for LIFE will be in keeping with State Regulation 62-1200.20. Likewise in accordance with State Regulation 62-900.165 students are not eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance within in the same academic year.

III. Procedures for Awarding and Disbursement of Summer Funds

A. The student must be enrolled at an eligible South Carolina institution for the summer term(s).

1. A PFS student must be verified as a full-time enrolled student over the course of the entire summer term at the home institution of the eligible four-year college/university.
2. A LIFE Scholarship recipient must be verified as a full-time enrolled student over the course of the entire summer term at the home institution of an eligible two-year or four-year college/university.
3. Enrollment verification shall be determined no later than the last day to drop/add a course in for the last summer term in which the student is enrolled at the home institution.

B. The institution will identify award amounts. The total summer award amounts per student, to include the PFS Enhancement, may not exceed half of the annual allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance for the summer term(s).

1. Students must be enrolled and verified as meeting the Enhancement eligibility requirements and be considered in an eligible Enhancement degree program at the start of the summer term.
2. Awards must be reimbursed for those students who have not completed by the end of the summer term at least twelve hours for academic credit. For purposes of this program, completed is defined as attempted hours.

C. Submission of invoices for summer term award disbursements can be made on or before July 31st.

1. Invoices and supporting documentation should be submitted for the summer term to the CHE Finance Office. *The CHEMIS scholarship data that is submitted on August 15th should match the invoices submitted to the CHE finance office.*
2. Summer term disbursement information will be made available by accessing CHEMIS at the close of the subsequent fall semester.
3. Adjustments to a summer award can be included with subsequent data submissions.

D. The institution must retain a signed Affidavit/Certification Form indicating that the student is not in default of any student loans and has not been convicted of any felonies or any second or subsequent alcohol/drug-related offenses. The Affidavit/Certification form shall be amended to include the following additional certification:

1. The student provides authorization to have their summer scholarship information made available to institutions for determination of continued eligibility.

IV. Student Awareness

- A. Institutions will be responsible for establishing a means of certification from the student that acknowledges the following stipulations:
1. Students awarded summer scholarships shall acknowledge through an established institutional process that acceptance of a summer award disbursement will count against the maximum terms of eligibility and may not lead to early graduation. Participation in summer enrollment opportunities that use scholarship award disbursement(s) for any purpose (academic program, major/minor courses, general education or elective courses,

etc.) will count against the maximum terms of eligibility. Any grades/credit hours will be used to determine continued eligibility.

2. The student has been notified of the continued eligibility requirements for scholarship renewal.

**Consideration of College Transition Program Policy Guidelines
for the 2014-15 Academic Year**

April 2, 2015

Background

The General Assembly included Proviso 11.19 in the FY2013-14 Appropriations Act to enable funds appropriated to the College Transition Connection be redirected through the need-based grant program to be available as need-based grants for student enrolled in recognized College Transition Programs (CTP) at South Carolina institutions as of spring 2015 includes: Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, University of South Carolina, and effective spring 2015 Winthrop University.

Analysis

The U.S. Department of Education offers financial aid to those students enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a [comprehensive transition and postsecondary program](#) for students with intellectual disabilities at post-secondary institution that participates in the *federal student aid programs*. *Institutions must participate in a federal approval process in order to provide federal funds to students enrolled in these programs. As of July 1, 2014 there were 34 approved programs with South Carolina being home to four of those programs. A fifth program had been initiated and in spring 2015 was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.*

Initial efforts to assist intellectually disabled students were directed by the College Transition Connection (CTC).^{*} During the FY2013-14, CTC works with select colleges and universities in South Carolina to design, create and fund transition and post-secondary opportunities for young adults with intellectual disabilities. The CTC worked with the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) in an effort to redirect funds for the purposes of creating a state based program to provide additional financial assistance to students who enroll in these programs in South Carolina.

In working with CHE, CTC helped to identify the eligible South Carolina CTP's. The CTP serves students with intellectual disabilities who demonstrate financial need. These programs allow for students to attend a four-year institution and engage in academics, independent living environments, employment/career opportunities, and socialization. These programs are non-degree seeking and successful completion of these programs allows for students to receive a non-degree certificate of post-secondary education.

Proviso 11.16 in the FY2013-2014 Appropriations Act went into effect July 1, 2013.

11.16 College Transition Connection Need-Based Grants: Funds appropriated for the College Transition Connection shall be transferred to the Commission on Higher Education Need-Based Grant program. These funds shall be used to provide need-based grants to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established college transition program that serves students with intellectual disabilities. The Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with College Transition Connection, shall develop guidelines for awarding these need-based grants and shall allocate the available funds to eligible institutions on the basis of student need and enrollment in the established college transition programs. All other grants and gift aid for which these students are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for an eligible student is met with all other grants and gift aid, the need-based grant shall not be used. The participating institutions, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education and College Transition Connection, shall track the number of grant recipients and other information determined necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of these

grants in assisting students with intellectual disabilities in college transition programs. No more than the amount transferred in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 for College Transition Connection may be expended from currently appropriated Commission on Higher Education Need-Based Grant funding for grants for students in college transition programs.

The Proviso transfers and dedicates recurring funds provided to CTP for the purpose of need-based student grants. The guidelines developed provide for eligibility consistent with eligibility with the financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Participants of this program are required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and demonstrate financial “need,” as well as meet the established South Carolina residency requirements in order to receive funding. The redirected funds totaled \$179,178 FY 2013-14. Funding is limited to the level of FY2013-14 and FY2014-15 appropriations remain at \$179,178. All eligible students that demonstrated financial need were awarded during the 2013-14 academic year. CHE staff met with key personnel from each of the five eligible institutions to engage in discussions as to how to best move forward in identifying and awarding eligible students. As tasked, CHE staff in collaboration with CTP personnel, the attached guidelines have been developed as a result of discussions, suggestions, and insight from CTP personnel and CHE staff.

(Attachment I)

Below is a brief overview of the South Carolina CTP programs and disbursements.

Institution	Length of Program (All programs offer on and off campus housing)	Certification Awarded	Total Participants 2013-14	Participants Fall 2014 Only (Spring 2015 pending)
Clemson University	2 Years An optional 3 rd year is available for select students	Certificate of Postsecondary Education upon completion of 2-year program	1	2
Coastal Carolina University	4 Years	University Certificate of Completion	8	9
College of Charleston	4 Years	Certificate of Completion	3	0
University of South Carolina	Students have the option to enroll in a 2, 3, or 4 Year program	Certificate of Completion	8	7
Winthrop University*	2 Years	Letter of Completion	N/A	Pending

Institution	Award Disbursement 2013-14 Academic Year	Award Disbursement Fall 2014 ONLY
Clemson University	\$6,300	\$6,670
Coastal Carolina University	\$55,736	\$29,750
College of Charleston	\$21,000	\$0
University of South Carolina	\$56,000	\$24,500
Winthrop University*	N/A	Pending

**Effective Spring 2015 Winthrop University's CTP program received final federal approval required for their program implementation. Winthrop University is currently operational with enrollment for this Spring 2015 term and moving forward.*

Collaboration and development of the CTP programs have resulted in the following outcomes:

1. Guidelines for determining eligibility for a student enrolled in an eligible CTP program.
2. Process for grant award disbursement and requesting funds from CHE.

Because CTP is directed by a temporary one-year budget proviso, considerations for the program in future years will be subject to any statutory or regulatory changes that may occur during the upcoming 2015 Session of the General Assembly or renewal of the budget proviso for FY2015-16.

Recommendation

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services commends favorably to the Commission approval of the proposed College Transition Program Policy Guidelines for dissemination to five eligible College Transition Programs.

Attachment I: CTP Policy Guideline 3/2/15

South Carolina Need-based Grant for the College Transition Programs
Policy Guideline as of June 2014

Purpose

The South Carolina General Assembly included a provision in the FY 2013-14 Appropriations Act to initiate need-based grants for students in College Transition Programs (CTP). The proviso¹ directed funds totaling \$179,178 that had appropriated in the prior year for the College Transition Connection Program, a non-profit organization, to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Need-based Grant Program. The budget proviso dedicated the transferred funds to provide need-based grants to South Carolina resident students enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an established CTP that serves students with intellectual disabilities.

As of FY 2013-14 proviso and subject to annual continuation of the budget proviso and program funding, eligible students have an opportunity to enroll in an eligible CTP at a South Carolina post-secondary institution as a non-degree seeking student and receive need-based grant funds. The eligible CTPs that participate are as follows: Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, University of South Carolina, and effective spring 2015 Winthrop University. CTP institutional personnel are responsible for identifying and verifying program participants' eligibility and administering the grants per the outlined guidelines established by CHE in coordination with the College Transition Connection and institutions with the CTPs.

I. General Eligibility Requirements

A. CTP students will need to be verified for U.S. Citizenship or legal permanent residency and South Carolina residency (SC Code § 59-101-430)

B. A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will need to be completed and submitted by each eligible student and determined "needy" as defined under Title IV Regulations for determining Federal Student Aid.

C. The FAFSA application is to be completed and submitted each academic year in which the CTP student plans to enroll. The financial aid office at the institution will review the FAFSA results, determine eligibility, and conduct any essential follow up with the student(s) for additional required documentation requests.

D. A student must be verified as an enrolled student in an eligible CTP during a fall or spring term.

¹FY 2013-14 Appropriation Act Part IB Proviso 11.19 initiated this program. The provision is continued in FY 2014-15 per Proviso 11.16 (CHE: College Transition Need-based Grants). A copy is accessible at http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/appropriations2014/ta14ndx.php.

Attachment I: CTP Policy Guideline 3/2/15

II. Continued Eligibility Requirements

A. The CTP student must be an enrolled student in an eligible CTP at an eligible institution during a fall or spring term.

B. The CTP student must be in compliance with Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by Title IV Regulation, as well as demonstrate that they are in good standing with the eligible CTP and the eligible CTP home institution.

III. Procedures for Awarding and Disbursement of Funds

A. Each year CHE will determine an annual award amount per student based on the continuation of the program as directed by the South Carolina General Assembly the total funds made available, and anticipated number of eligible students.

B. The maximum established award amount for the 2013-14 academic year is \$7,000.

C. A student's CTP Need-based Grant award may not exceed the student's cost of attendance as established by Title IV Regulation.

D. All other grants and gift aid for which these students are eligible, including Federal, State, private and institutional funds must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the CTP Need-based Grant funding. If the cost of attendance for an eligible student is met with all other grants and gift aid, the CTP Need-based Grant shall not be used.

E. Half of the CTP Need-based Grant shall be awarded during the fall term and half shall be awarded during the spring term. There are no summer disbursements. The CTP Need-based Grant may be renewed for up to a maximum of eight terms.

F. Each CTP will provide to CHE by October 15th each fall term and March 15th each spring term an invoice to include eligible CTP student identifiers and an Inter-Departmental Transfer (IDT). Invoices provided on eligible CTP students to CHE after the aforementioned dates will still be eligible to receive an award, but will be disbursed in accordance with CHE policies. Spring invoices that include both the spring and fall terms must designate the requested amount for each eligible student for the fall and spring terms.

1. Invoices and IDTs will be provided to Student Financial Support at CHE by the established date for each fall and spring term. Included on the submitted invoice will be a signature from CTP personnel certifying verification of eligibility in the CTP program and a signature from financial aid personnel at the eligible institution verifying the determination of "needy."

Attachment I: CTP Policy Guideline 3/2/15

IV. Appeals Procedure

A. Students who are in good standing as defined by the eligible institution, but are not meeting SAP standards have an option to appeal the loss of CTP funds. Should the student need to file an appeal for loss of CTP funds, the student will follow the established institutional and/or CTP program appeals process.

An Overview and Data Report on College Application Month (CAM) 2014

Background

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC), launched by the American Council on Education (ACE), is a national effort implemented in 50 states whose primary focus is to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students who pursue a postsecondary education. ACAC highlighted research studies that found students are either not applying to college or not applying early enough in their senior year, not applying to colleges that are a good fit, and are not applying to enough colleges. Findings included: a) positive correlations between the number of colleges high school students apply and their likelihood of four-year college enrollment (*College Board Advocacy and Policy Center Research Brief, October 2011*); and 2) only a small number of high-achieving, low-income students apply to colleges that resemble their achievement's like their counterparts (*Hoxby & Turner, 2013*). Also, the research indicated that providing college application "coaching" to high school seniors increased postsecondary enrollment (*Carrell & Sacerdote, 2013*), and the decision to not apply to college suggests that decisions are made before high school graduation (*Hahb & Price, 2008*).

As a proactive response to the findings, the national effort aims to assist high school seniors in navigating the college admissions process and to ensure that each participating student submits at least one college admissions application.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) staff, in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Education, met with North Carolina/GEAR UP in 2009 to study the College Application Day model and possibly implement a program in South Carolina. SC joined ACE in 2009 as the fifth state to implement CAM events statewide. With additional support from community and business leaders, volunteers and college admission professionals, CAM has transitioned from a month into a "season" which includes September, October, and November each year. South Carolina is among 50 states that actively participate in the national college application effort.

Program Model: College Application Month

In 2014, 214 high schools across the state hosted College Application events in the fall (September – November) during regular school business hours in academic spaces such as computer labs or classrooms utilizing laptops/desktops/tablets. Depending on the needs/space/time available at the individual high school, events were held during a full class period, full day, two-day or for an entire month to allow for flex-scheduling for appointments with seniors by the school counselor. During these events, high school seniors were provided with the opportunity to receive one-on-one college application assistance from the community, school volunteers and college admissions professionals. In addition to the assistance received, many college admission professionals, as approved by their respective institution, provided application fee waivers to students to be validated either on that specific event day or during the length of CAM. This is one of many efforts the CAM events provide to alleviate reported common barriers of applying and accessing college in SC. **(Attachment I)**

Sustainability

CAM 2009-2014 was funded by the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the CACG grant was to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Due to the inability to meet the maintenance of effort requirement from the State to fund higher education, which was a required component of CACG, grant funding was not

awarded in FY 2015. CHE staff created a pilot sustainability year before the grant closeout date in August 2014. With the additional assistance of an eight member College Application Month Sustainability Committee which consisted of college admissions officers and high school counselors, CHE staff created interactive materials that were made available online via www.sccango.org, such as the Site Coordinator Toolkit, Student Resource Manual, CAM flyer and poster templates, and the “Step 1 Step 2 College” brochures. Each of the items are available on the website and are print and email responsive. After careful evaluation of the program, estimated costs to host basic CAM events statewide, is approximately \$5,500. Current partners of CAM events consist of CHE, SC Department of Education and the SC Chamber of Commerce.

Evaluation of the Data

In 2014, 214 South Carolina high schools (public, charter, virtual and adult education centers) participated in CAM events. These high schools consisted of approximately 43,931 high school seniors who had the opportunity to participate in a CAM event at their respective high schools. Of the total number of high school seniors, 20,416 (46%) signed-in to a CAM event. 8,505 (42%) of the signed-in high school seniors completed and submitted an online student survey during an event. As reported from the student responses, 26,907 college applications were completed and submitted by the high school seniors. Based on these numbers, an estimated 64,598 college applications were completed and submitted by all high school seniors who signed-in to a CAM event. **(Attachment II)**

The online student survey (n=8,505) produced data from areas that focused on gender, race/ethnicity, first in family status, application assistance, promotional efforts (where did the student about CAM), application completion and institutions the student applied to during a CAM event. The survey presented the following results: 54% of the participating high school seniors were female and 45% were male; of the students that self-identified in a specific race/ethnicity category, 45% reported Caucasian, 43% reported Black or African American, and 7% reported Hispanic or Latino. Twenty-nine percent reported that they were the first in their family to go to college, 97% reported they learned about CAM events from their school counselor, teacher or friend, and 86% reported they received college application assistance mainly from their school counselor and a college representative. Fifty-one percent of the students completed one college application, 21% completed two, 16% completed three or more and 13% reported they did not complete a college application during CAM. Lastly, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, and Winthrop University received the highest number of applications as reported by the students who participated in the student survey. **(Attachment III)**

One Step – Two Step Process

Once high school seniors complete and submit college applications during CAM (Step 1), the second step for high school seniors is to seek sources to help pay for postsecondary education. For several students in SC, timely completion and submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an essential part of this process. College Goal SC (Step 2) is funded by USA Funds, administered statewide by CHE staff and supported by the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

College Goal SC is an annual event during the month of February which provides assistance to students and families/guardians who are completing the FAFSA. Additionally, the FAFSA can be a prerequisite for qualifying for the SC Need-based Grant and private awards. Students receive professional financial aid assistance in completing and submitting the FAFSA during a College Goal SC event. Students are also provided information on state scholarship programs, as well as information about the state’s two and four-year higher education institutions.

Attachment I

College Application Month 2014 Event Sites

School	Date	Start Time	# of Signed in Students
Abbeville High School			73
AC Flora High School	10/10/2014	9:00 AM	196
Academic Magnet	9/18/2014	12:30 PM	42
Academy for Technology and Academics	9/25/2014	8:30 AM	145
Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology	10/17/2014	9:00 AM	92
Aiken High School	11/18/2014	8:30 AM	51
Airport High School	10/7/2014	9:00 AM	45
Allendale-Fairfax High School	10/15/2014	8:30 AM	50
Andrew Jackson High School	10/23/2014	9:00 AM	112
Andrews High School	11/6/2014	1:30 PM	56
Ashley Ridge High School	10/10/2014	8:00 AM	145
Aynor High School	10/2/2014	8:30 AM	67
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School	9/25/2014	8:00 AM	77
Baptist Hill Middle High School	10/22/2014	8:00 AM	37
Barnwell High School	10/24/2014	8:00 AM	19
Batesburg-Leesville High School	9/23/2014	10:00 AM	71
Battery Creek High School	9/25/2014	8:00 AM	80
Beaufort High School	9/25/2014	8:00 AM	177
Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	31
Belton Honea Path High School	10/16 & 17/2014	8:30 AM	174
Berea High School	10/28/2014	11:00 AM	156
Berkeley High School	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	83
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High School	9/26/2014	8:30 AM	31
Blacksburg High School	10/17/2014	8:00 AM	126
Blackville-Hilda High School	10/23/2014	9:00 AM	2
Blue Ridge High School	9/30/2014	9:00 AM	111
Bluffton High School	9/25/2014	8:00 AM	106
Blythewood High School	10/8/2014	8:30 AM	149
Boiling Springs High School	10/17/2014	8:30 AM	401
Branchville High School	10/10/2014	9:15 AM	27
Brashier Middle College Charter High School	10/3/2014	11:30 AM	37
Brookland Cayce High School	10/2/2014	9:00 AM	60
Broome High School	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	166
Buford High School	10/9/2014	2:00 PM	36
Burke High School	10/15/2014	9:00 AM	35

Agenda Item 6.03C

C. E. Murray High School	10/9/2014	9:00 AM	64
C.A. Johnson High School	10/15/2014	9:00 AM	85
Calhoun County High School	9/24/2014	9:00 AM	80
Calhoun Falls Charter School	10/10/2014	9:00 AM	18
Cane Bay High School	10/9/2014	8:30 AM	147
Carolina Forest High School	11/7/2015	8:00 AM	105
Carolina High School	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	66
Carvers Bay High	10/3/2014	8:00 AM	80
Chapin High School	9/15 & 16 /2014	8:30 AM	267
Chapman High School	10/16/2014	8:30 AM	108
Charleston Charter School for Math and Science	10/22/2014	9:00 AM	31
Charleston County School of the Arts	10/7/2014	11:30 AM	43
Cheraw High School	10/23/2014	8:30 AM	81
Chesnee High School	10/28/2014	8:00 AM	157
Chester High School	10/17/2014	8:00 PM	96
Chesterfield High School	10/28/2014	8:00 AM	86
Clinton High School	10/24/2014	8:30 AM	64
Clover High School	10/10/2014	10:00 AM	140
Colleton County High School	10/9/2014	8:30 AM	113
Columbia High School	9/17/2014	9:00 AM	104
Conway High School	9/18/2014	8:30 AM	112
Comenius School for Creative Leadership	10/2/2014	1:00 PM	11
Creek Bridge High School	9/26/2014	8:30 AM	50
Crescent High School	10/30/2014	8:00 AM	62
Crestwood High School	10/8/2014	9:00 AM	122
Cross High School	10/2/2014	9:00 AM	31
Darlington High School	10/22/2014	8:00 AM	179
Denmark-Olar High School	9/26/2014	8:30 AM	32
Dillon High School	10/14/2014	9:00 AM	172
Dixie High School	10/6/2014	8:00 AM	73
Dreher High School	10/15/2014	8:00 AM	149
Easley High School	10/23/2014	9:00 AM	33
East Clarendon High School	10/17/2014	8:30 AM	55
Eastside High School	10/15/2014	8:45 AM	170
Eau Claire High School	9/25/2014	8:30 AM	110
Edisto High School	10/3/2014	8:00 AM	119
Emerald High School	9/19/2014	9:00 AM	84
Estill High School	10/3/2014	8:00 AM	43
F.E. DuBose Career Center	10/16/2014	12:00 PM	15
Fairfield Central High School	9/5/2014	9:00 AM	167
Fort Dorchester High School	10/15/2014	7:30 AM	219

Agenda Item 6.03C

Fort Mill High School	10/2/2014	8:30 AM	122
Fox Creek High School	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	83
Gaffney High School	9/19/2014	8:00 AM	301
Garrett Academy of Technology	10/7/2014	9:00 AM	39
Georgetown High	10/23/2014	11:00 AM	80
Gilbert High School	10/23/2014	8:30 AM	42
Goose Creek High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	140
Great Falls High School	10/16/2014	12:00 PM	51
Green Sea Floyds High School	11/5/2014	8:00 AM	47
Greenville High School	10/9/2014	11:30 AM	106
Greenville Tech Charter High School	10/24/2014	10:00 AM	23
Greenwood High School	9/23/2014	8:30 AM	163
Greer High School	10/29/2014	10:15 AM	129
Greg Mathis Charter High School	9/5/2014	9:00 AM	14
Hamilton Career Center	10/1/2014	8:30 AM	37
Hanahan High School	10/10/2014	8:30 AM	70
Hannah-Pamplico High School	10/1/2014	8:00 AM	85
Hartsville High School	10/2/2014	8:00 AM	243
HCS Early College High School	9/24 & 25/2014	8:00 - 2:00 (24th) 11- 2:20 (25th)	70
HCS Scholars Academy	10/1/2014	12:00 PM	15
Hemingway High School	10/8/2014	8:30 AM	63
Heyward Career and Technology	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	45
Hillcrest High School	10/15/2014	9:30 AM	140
Hilton Head Island High School	9/25/2014	8:00 AM	104
		10:00:00	69
Horry County Schools Adult Ed - Conway Education Center	10/23/2014	AM	
Horry County Schools Adult Ed - Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center	10/22/2014	9:00:00 AM	40
Howard Adult Center	10/21/2014	10:00 AM	20
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School	9/24/2014	9:30 AM	35
Indian Land High School	10/8/2014	9:00 AM	62
Irmo High School	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	172
J.L. Mann High School	10/3/2014	8:45 AM	179
James F Byrnes High School	10/1/2014	8:00 AM	379
James Island Charter High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	87
Kingstree Senior High School	10/21/2014	8:30 AM	111
Lake City College Prep Academy	10/15/2014	1:30 PM	2
Lake City High School	10/9/2014	8:15 AM	127
Lake Marion High School and Technology Center	10/24/2014	9:00 AM	122
Lakewood High School	9/10/2014	9:00 AM	193
Lamar High School	9/16/2014	8:00 AM	68

Agenda Item 6.03C

Lancaster High School	11/20/2014	8:30 AM	1
Landrum High School	9/26/2014	8:30 AM	115
Latta High School	10/7/2014	8:00 AM	72
Laurens District 55 HS	10/27/2014	9:00 AM	122
Lee Central High School	10/9/2014	8:30 AM	112
Legacy Charter School	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	20
Lewisville High School	10/10/2014	8:15 AM	80
Lexington High School	10/21/2014	9:00 AM	47
Liberty High School	10/8/2014	8:00 AM	67
Lincoln Middle High School	10/15/2014	9:00 AM	*
Loris High School	9/30/2014	10:00 AM	124
Lower Richland High School	10/15/2014	8:30 AM	180
Manning High School	10/23/2014	8:30 AM	134
Marion High School	10/29 and 30 2014	8:30 AM	139
Marlboro County High School	10/8/2014	8:30 AM	161
Mauldin High School	10/30/2014	9:00 AM	150
McBee High School	11/12/2014	9:50 AM - 2:15 PM	46
McCormick High School	10/24/2014	12:30 PM	28
Mid Carolina High School	9/29/2014	8:30 AM	79
Midland Valley High School	11/3/2014	8:00 AM	65
Midlands Middle College	10/9/2014	12:30 PM	40
Midlands Technical College TRIO Program	11/1/2014	9:00 AM	30
Military Magnet	10/3/2014	9:00 AM	*
Mullins High School	10/21/2014	8:30 AM	94
Myrtle Beach High School	9/23/2014	6:00 PM	100
Nation Ford High School	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	131
Newberry High School	10/10/2014	8:30 AM	43
Ninety-Six High School	9/26/2014	8:25 AM	81
North Augusta High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	84
North Charleston High School	10/29/2014	9:00 AM	50
North Middle High School	9/25/2014	10:00 AM	40
North Myrtle Beach High	10/31/2014	8:25 AM	159
Northwestern High School	9/24/2014	11:30 AM	64
Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School	10/22/2014	8:00 AM	181
Palmetto High School	9/30/2014	8:30 AM	*
Paul M. Dorman High School	10/29/2014	7:45 AM	211
Pelion High School	10/3/2014	8:00 AM	54
Pendleton High School	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	97
Pickens County Career & Technology Center	10/9/2014	12:00 PM	140
Pickens High School	10/9/2014	8:30 AM	120
Powersville High School	10/28/2014	8:00 AM	76

Agenda Item 6.03C

Provost Academy	9/12/2014	9:00 AM	26
RB Stall High School	10/30/2014	9:00 AM	112
Richland Northeast High School	10/7/2014	9:00 AM	171
Richland One Middle College	10/30/2014	6:00 PM	13
Ridge Spring-Monetta High School	9/19/2014	9:00 AM	33
Ridge View High School	9/15/2014	9:00 AM	142
Ridgeland Hardeeville High School	10/16/2014	8:30 AM	114
River Bluff High School	10/21/2014	9:00 AM	*
Riverside High School	10/2/2014	9:00 AM	38
Rock Hill High School	10/3/2014	12:00pm - 5:00pm	48
Saluda High School	10/29/2014	8:00 AM	56
Scott's Branch HS	10/7/2014	10:00 AM	43
Seneca High School	Entire Month of October		210
Silver Bluff High School	9/18/2014	9:00 AM	61
Socastee High School	10/1/2014	8:30 AM	125
South Aiken High School	9/25/2014	8:15 AM	*
South Pointe High School	10/21/2014	4:30 PM	225
Southside High School	9/25/2014	9:00 AM	94
Spartanburg High School	10/23/2014	8:00 AM	259
Spring Valley High School	10/9/2014	10:00 AM	85
St James High School	9/26/2014	8:30 AM	203
St. John's High School	9/18/2014	8:30 AM	46
Stratford High School	10/2/2014	8:30 AM	92
Strom Thurmond High School	11/20/2014	9:25 AM	29
Sumter County Adult Education	10/9/2014	10:00 AM	17
Sumter High School	10/15/2014	9:00 AM	207
Swansea High School	9/12/2014	8:40 AM	74
Tamasee-Salem High School	10/20/2014	8:00 AM	35
Timberland High School	10/14/2014	9:00 AM	70
Timmonsville High School	10/1/2014	8:30 AM	22
TL Hanna High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	119
Travelers Rest High School	10/10/2014	8:45 AM	48
Union County High School	10/8/2014	8:00 AM	165
W. J. Keenan High School	10/15/2014	8:30 AM	120
Waccamaw High School	9/26/2014	9:00 AM	90
Wade Hampton High School (Greenville)	9/26/2014	8:00 AM	200
Wade Hampton High School (Varnville)	10/10/2014	8:45 AM	125
Wagener Salley High School	9/23/2014	9:00 AM	32
Walhalla High School	10/23/2014	8:00 AM	75
Wando High School	10/16/2014	9:00 AM	250
Ware Shoals High School	10/8/2014	9:00 AM	44

Agenda Item 6.03C

West Ashley High School	10/22/2014	8:00 AM	220
West Florence High School	10/15/2014	9:00 AM	187
West-Oak High School	10/8 - 11/2014	8:30 AM	143
Westside High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	241
Westwood High School	10/7/2014	8:30 AM	195
Whale Branch Early College High School	9/25/2014	9:15 AM	76
White Knoll High School	10/23/2014	9:00 AM	68
Whitmire Community School	10/17/2014	9:40 AM	27
Williamsburg Adult Education			0*
Williston-Elko High School	10/3/2014	8:30 AM	60
Wilson High School	10/2/2014	8:30 AM	178
Woodland High School	10/16/2014	8:30 AM	95
Woodmont High School	11/13/2014	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	111
Woodruff High School	9/18/2014	11:00 AM	100
Wren High School	9/24/2014	8:45 AM	88
York Comprehensive High School	10/01.2014	8:45 AM	*
York Preparatory Academy	10/1/2014	9:00 AM	22
Other			63
TOTAL			20,416

** Final End of Event Reports for these College Application Month events were not submitted by the site coordinator by the deadline 1/30/15.*

Attachment II

Results of CAM 2009-2014

N/A = information was either not collected or requested by ACE during that specific program year

**There are ~293 public high schools and ~207 private high schools in South Carolina*

***201 out of 214 End of Event reports were submitted to CHE following CAM events by the deadline (1/30/15)*

****Total # of high school seniors who signed-in to a CAM event divided by # of signed-in high school seniors who completed the Student Survey multiplied by the # of completed college applications reported by high school seniors who completed the Student Survey/sign in sheet.*

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total # of Participating High Schools	12	57	121	152	186	214*
Total # of high school seniors reported by site coordinators	1,000	15,000	20,820	32,178	39,358	43,931
Total # of volunteers and college representatives who assisted with CAM events.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,763	2,240
# of high school seniors who signed into a CAM event	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,262	20,416**
# of signed in high school seniors that completed the Student Survey	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,958	8,302	8,505
# of students who completed the Student Survey self-reported as "First in Family"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,475
# of completed college applications reported from high school seniors who completed the Student Survey/sign in sheet	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,638	14,497	26,907
Estimated # of completed college applications for all high school seniors who signed into a CAM event	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,382	64,598***

Attachment III

Student Survey Results (n=8,505) from College Application Month 2014

1. **Gender:** 54% (female), 46% (male)
2. **Race/Ethnicity:** 45% (white), 43% (Black or AA), 7% (Hispanic or Latino), 2.0% (other - included two or more races), 1% (Asian), .1% (American Indian or Alaska Native), and .5% (Native Hawaii or other Pacific Islander).
3. **First in Family:** 29% (Yes), 71% (No)
4. **Application Assistance:** 58% (School Counselor), 28% (College Representative), 8% (Other), 4% (Teacher), 1% (Community Volunteer), .8% (Parent), .2% (Business Leader), and .09% (Principal).
5. **Promotional Effort:** 68% (School Counselor), 15% (Teacher), 14% (Friend), 1% (Parent), .9% (Other), .7% (Flyers/Posters), .2% (News/Media), .2% (Social Media).
6. **Completion of Applications:** 51% (one), 21% (two), 9% (three), 6.0% (four or more), and 13% (Did not complete an application).
7. **Top 10 Applications:** Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Winthrop University, University of South Carolina/Columbia, Francis Marion University, Greenville Technical College, University of South Carolina/Upstate, Clemson University, South Carolina State University, and Charleston Southern University.

Student Comments from the 2014 Student Survey (n=8,505)

Students were asked to comment on their experiences and provide insight on improvements during CAM. Students felt that “more time” was needed to complete their college applications during CAM. “More time” was categorized in two ways: longer class time during the event or allow for multiple days to host the event. Two additional areas that were recommended were: 1) provide more fee waivers; and 2) create easier applications. Several colleges provided fee waivers during the event but did not provide information prior to the start of CAM 2014 via CACRAO’s registration process. This area will be listed along with a review of the student comments provided in the survey as an action item when collaborating with CACRAO to plan for CAM 2015. Overall, students felt that CAM was extremely beneficial, successful and appreciated the assistance they received regarding the college access process.

College Application Month

South Carolina

Student Services

SC Commission on Higher Education

American College Application Campaign

Overview:

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC), launched by the American Council on Education (ACE), is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation and low-income students who pursue a postsecondary education.

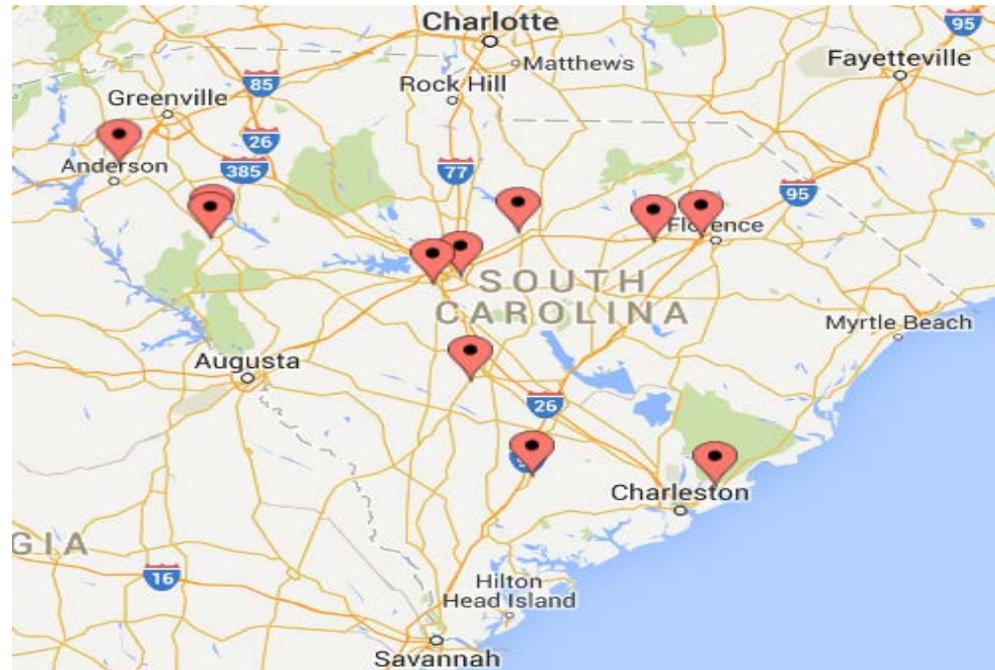
Purpose:

Help high school seniors navigate the college admissions process and ensure that each participating student submits at least one admissions application.

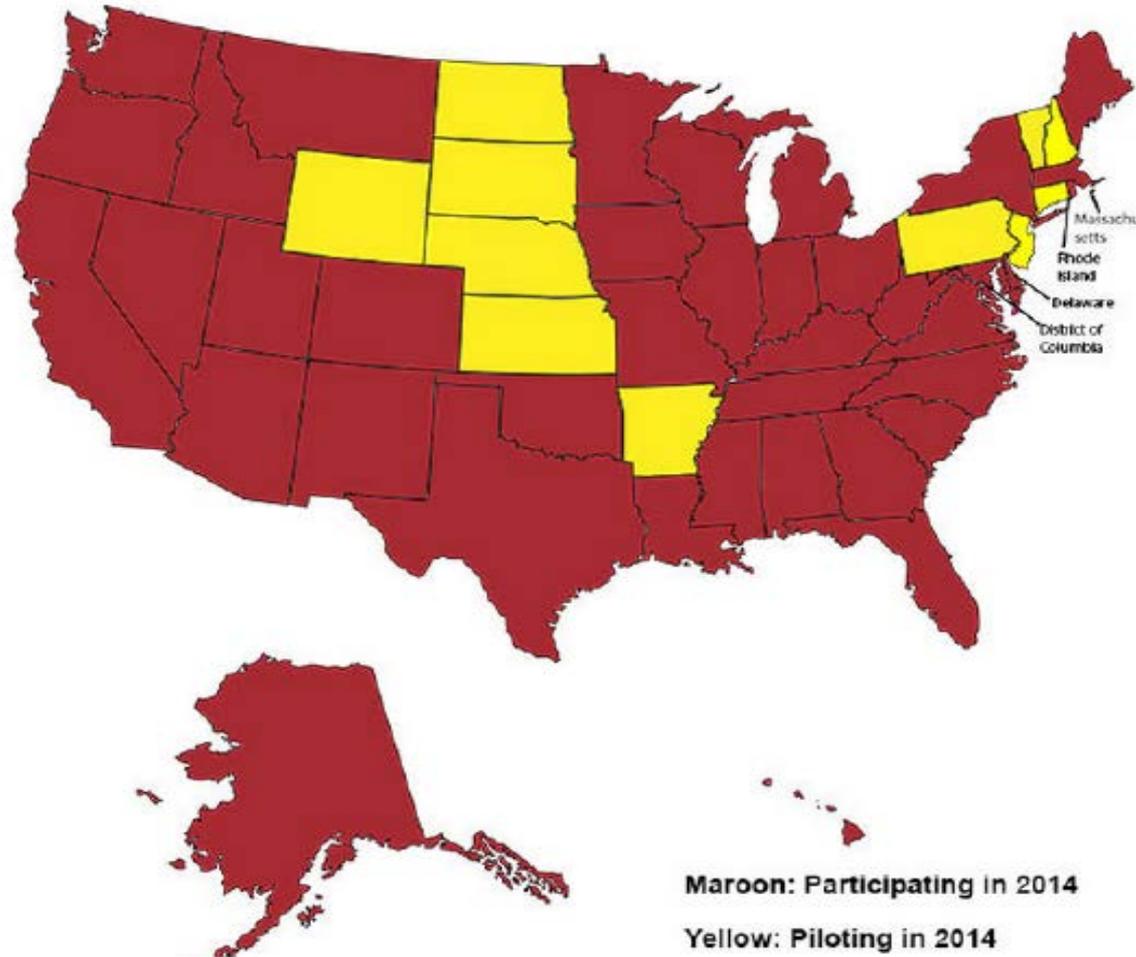
American College Application Campaign

South Carolina:

CHE, in collaboration with the SC Department of Education, met with North Carolina/GEAR UP in 2009 to study the College Application Day model. SC then joined ACE in 2009 as the fifth program cohort to implement College Application Month events statewide.



Connecting to State ACAC Programs



College Application Month

Format Examples



Carvers Bay High School

- Event held for one **day**
- Whole day during regular school hours: *90 min sessions arranged by alphabet*
- Included school counselors, teachers, principal, and 4 college representatives
- 100 students in senior class



Hannah-Pamplico High School

- Event held for one **week**
- Half day during regular school hours: *8:00am – 11:00am*
- Included school counselors, teachers, and 6 college admissions representatives
- 85 students in the senior class



Seneca High School

- Event held for one **month**
- During regular school hours: *by appointment*
- Arranged for one college representative per day to speak with seniors
- Included school counselors, teachers and 15 college representatives
- 250 students in senior class

RESULTS

- 80% of senior class participated
- 233 college applications were completed

- 100% of senior class participated
- 128 college applications were completed

- 84% of senior class participated
- 325 college applications were completed

College Application Month Data

South Carolina

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total # of Participating High Schools	12	57	121	152	186	214*
Total # of high school seniors reported by site coordinators	1,000	15,000	20,820	32,178	39,358	43,931
Total # of volunteers and college representatives who assisted with CAM events.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,763	2,240
# of high school seniors who signed into a CAM event	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,262	20,416**
# of signed in high school seniors that completed the Student Survey	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,958	8,302	8,505
# of students who completed the Student Survey self-reported as "First in Family"	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,475
# of completed college applications reported from high school seniors who completed the Student Survey/sign in sheet	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,638	14,497	26,907
Estimated # of completed college applications for all high school seniors who signed into a CAM event	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,382	64,598***

N/A = information was either not collected or requested by ACE during that specific program year

**There are ~293 public high schools and ~207 private high schools in South Carolina*

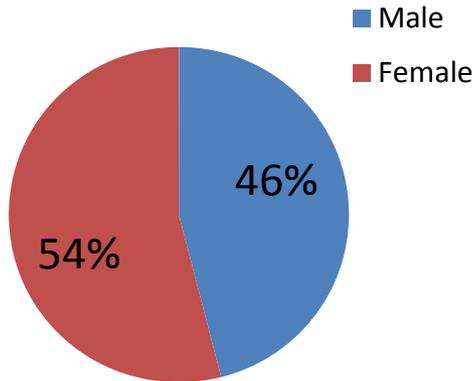
***201 out of 214 End of Event reports were submitted to CHE following CAM events by the deadline (1/30/15)*

****Total # of high school seniors who signed-in to a CAM event divided by # of signed-in high school seniors who completed the Student Survey multiplied by the # of completed college applications reported by high school seniors who completed the Student Survey/sign in sheet.*

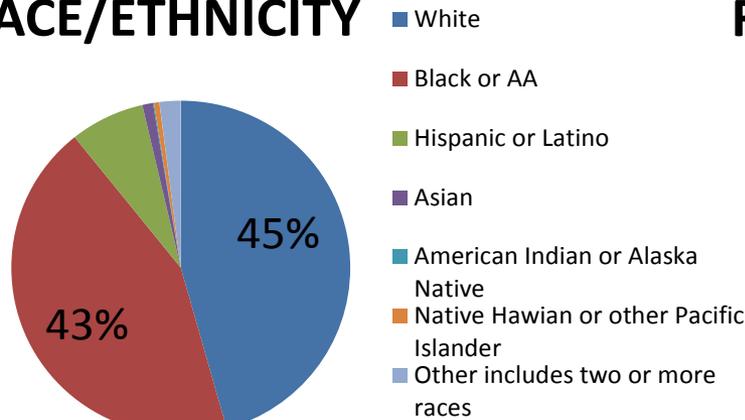
College Application Month Survey

n=8,505

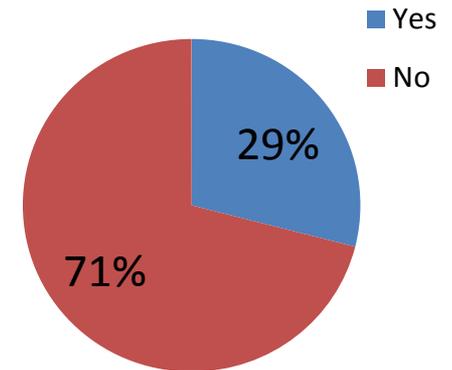
GENDER



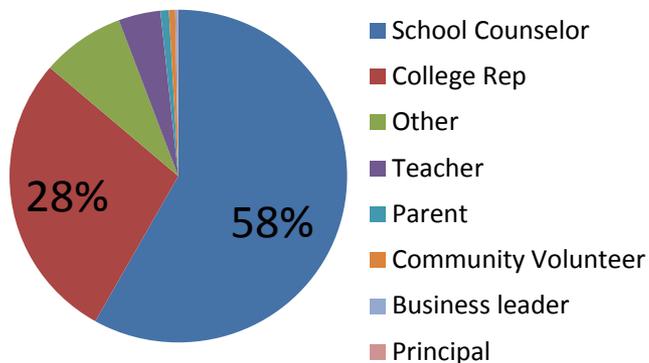
RACE/ETHNICITY



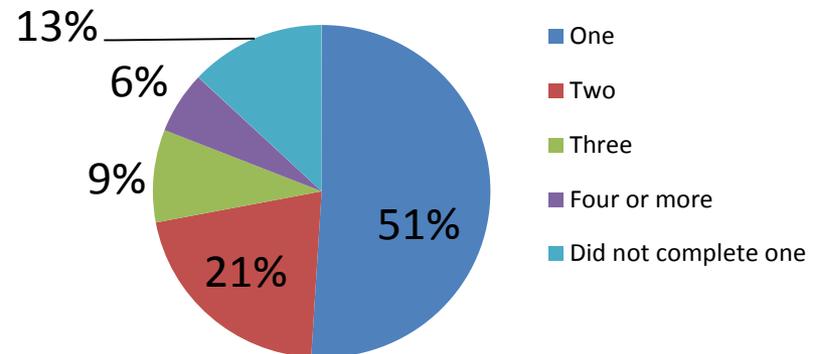
FIRST IN FAMILY



APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

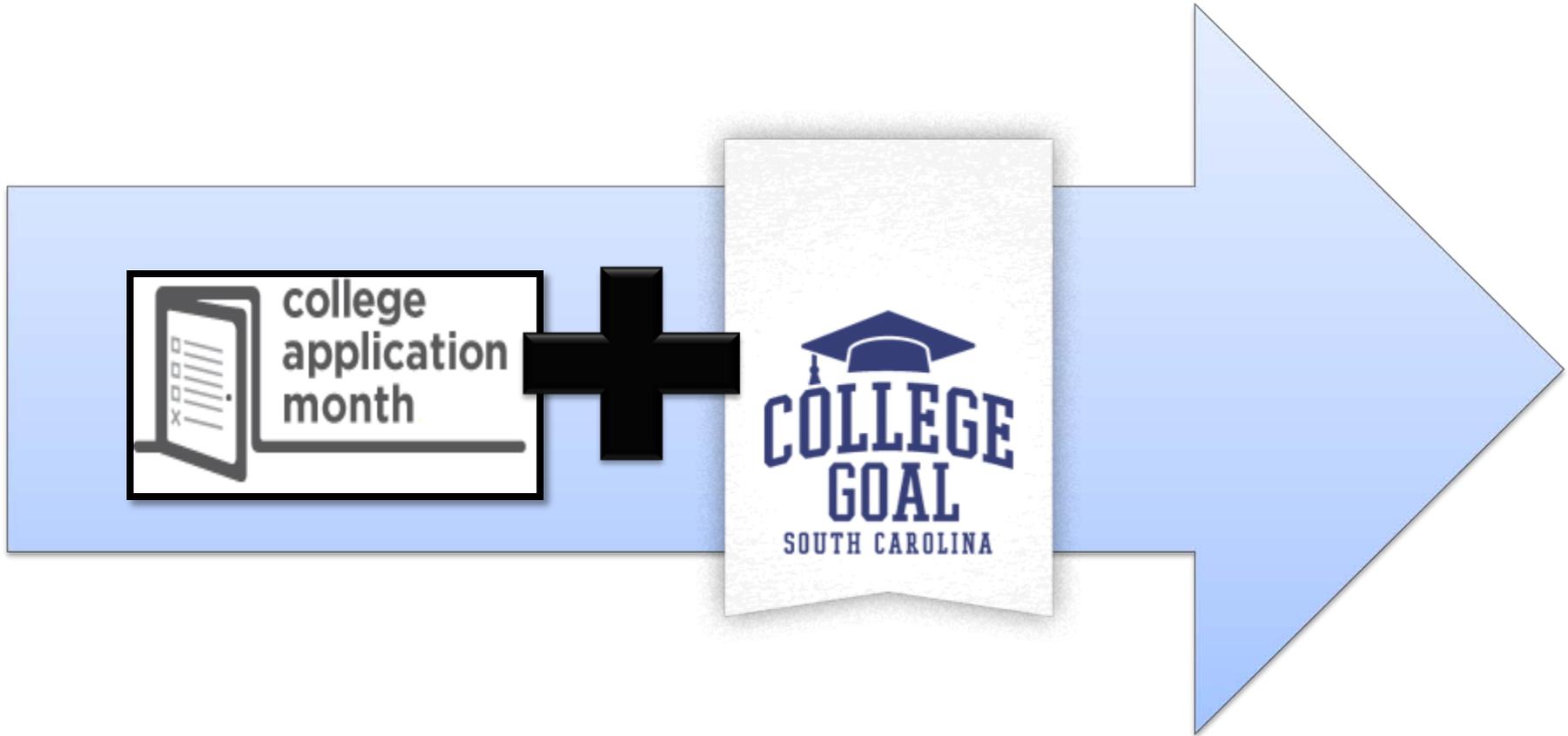


COMPLETION OF APPLICATIONS



Making the Connection

One-Step Two-Step Process



Update on the Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act of 2014

Background

In August 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”) was signed into law. Section 702 of the Choice Act requires the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disapprove programs of education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) at public institutions of higher learning if the school charges qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015 (**Attachment**).

Under the Choice Act, the VA must disapprove programs of education for students training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and MGIB-AD, if resident charges are not offered to all “covered individuals.” Covered individuals are persons who are receiving Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance and who either enroll within three years of discharge after serving at least 90 days on active duty or are using a transferred entitlement within three years of the transferor’s discharge after serving at least 90 days of active duty. Under this Act, covered individuals living in the state in which the institution of attendance is located, and to be covered within three years of discharge must remain continuously enrolled to qualify for in-state tuition under Section 702. Since the signing of the Choice Act, the VA has worked with states to determine intentions to comply with the Act. As of February 13, 2015, 31 states and the District of Columbia had indicated their intent to comply with Section 702 by the established July 1, 2015 deadline. South Carolina is included in this group. To date, the VA has confirmed only **two** states to be fully in compliance, Texas and Georgia. Texas has passed state legislation mirroring Section 702, allowing individuals receiving Federal education benefits to be considered eligible for in-state tuition. Georgia has issued a Board of Regents policy that incorporates provisions of Section 702 into its policies for in-state tuition benefits for military.

Certifying officials at public colleges and universities can certify covered individuals as far as 120 days in advance of the start of a term. At present, because South Carolina’s current law is not in compliance with Section 702, certifying officials have been directed to certify the tuition amount of a covered individual to be \$0.00 until South Carolina comes into compliance with Section 702. The certifying official will document the number of credit or clock hours for that covered individual, and the appropriate charges will be determined once South Carolina comes into compliance with Section 702.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education State Approving Agency (SAA) staff have been directed by the VA to review the public colleges and universities for adherence to Section 702 during compliance survey visits.

South Carolina law currently requires Veterans seeking to be considered in-state for tuition and fee purposes to establish their intent to be South Carolina residents prior to their discharge from the military. Those Veterans who do not show intent prior to their discharge would be eligible to be considered residents once they demonstrate intent become residents and then fulfill the mandatory twelve-month physical presence requirement. Because current law is inconsistent with Section 702 of the Choice Act, a change in state law will be necessary to bring South Carolina into compliance Section 702 of the Choice Act. South Carolina is not unique in its effort to become compliant with Section 702. As previously stated only Texas and Georgia are currently considered to be in compliance. Two pieces of legislation, S. 391 and H. 3037 have been introduced in the SC General Assembly relating to in-state tuition and residency of discharged Veterans.

S. 391 closely mirrors the Choice Act, allowing for covered individuals who are receiving Post-9/11 and MGIB-AD benefits to be charged in-state tuition at public higher education institutions in South Carolina. The bill is presently under discussion in the Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee.

H. 3037 is legislation that allows for a Veteran, who has established intent to be a South Carolina resident, to forego the mandatory twelve-month physical presence requirement and qualify to pay in-state rates immediately. H. 3037 has been passed by the House and is now in Senate Education. It is not consistent with Section 702 and if enacted as it is currently proposed will afford a benefit to discharged Veterans and their dependents who are presently establishing residency in SC.

CHE staff have been in contact with legislative staff regarding the proposed bills and are working with those parties as the legislation advances. Both pieces of legislation, as well as any relevant amendments being considered, have been reviewed by CHE staff and sent to the VA for review with respect to the Choice Act. The VA recently provided feedback regarding both bills, which has been provided to legislative staff and bill sponsors.

Attachment

Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014

Sec. 702. Approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans.

(a) In general.—Section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided by a public institution of higher learning to a covered individual pursuing a course of education with educational assistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living in the State in which the public institution of higher learning is located if the institution charges tuition and fees for that course for the covered individual at a rate that is higher than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State in which the institution is located, regardless of the covered individual's State of residence.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered individual is any individual as follows:

(A) A veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not fewer than 90 days of service in the active military, naval, or air service less than three years before the date of enrollment in the course concerned.

(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 3311(b)(9) or 3319 of this title by virtue of such individual's relationship to a veteran described in subparagraph (A).

(3) If after enrollment in a course of education that is subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) by reason of paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B) a covered individual pursues one or more courses of education at the same public institution of higher learning while remaining continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms) at that institution of higher learning, any course so pursued by the covered individual at that institution of higher learning while so continuously enrolled shall also be subject to disapproval under paragraph (1).

(4) It shall not be grounds to disapprove a course of education under paragraph (1) if a public institution of higher learning requires a covered individual pursuing a course of education at the institution to demonstrate an intent, by means other than satisfying a physical presence requirement, to establish residency in the State in which the institution is located, or to satisfy other requirements not relating to the establishment of residency, in order to be charged tuition and fees for that course at a rate that is equal to or less than the rate the institution charges for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the State.

(5) The Secretary may waive such requirements of paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(6) Disapproval under paragraph (1) shall apply only with respect to educational assistance under chapters 30 and 33 of this title.

(b) Effective date.— subsection (c) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), shall apply with respect to educational assistance provided for pursuit of a program of education during a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, that begins after July 1, 2015.

Schedule for FY2015-2016 Quarterly Meetings: SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) at SC State University

Background

The SC-Program for the Recruitment, Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) FY2015-16 budget submitted by South Carolina State University (SCSU) to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) on October 15, 2014 directed all funds in the amount of \$339,482 for forgivable teacher loan awards to new and current participants in the program. SCSU officials stated that the University will absorb all administration costs for SC-PRRMT to include the establishment of additional sites throughout the state. The previous FY2015-16 SC-PRRMT budget proposal* included funding for personnel costs (\$144, 342.21), other expenditures (\$9,500) and forgivable loans (\$184,239).

At its meeting on November 6, 2014, CHE) considered SC-PRRMT's revised FY2015-16 budget. CHE approved the revised FY2015-16 budget request in the amount of \$339,482 for minority teacher recruitment for one year provided that the following conditions were met:

1. All funds appropriated to SC-PRRMT in FY2015-16 are to be used to meet direct student costs. No funds shall be used for administrative oversight of the program. SCSU must submit a revised FY2015-16 budget to the Committee by no later than October 15, 2014;
2. The program, in accordance with the proviso, shall recruit minority teachers throughout the state; and
3. CHE shall retain approval for the budget and monitor the use of funds to ensure that all funds are used to meet direct student costs to promote minority teacher recruitment on a statewide basis.

According to SCSU officials, in addition to the \$339,482, loan repayment funds in the amount of \$190,830.68 were available for new and returning students for a total of \$530,313.68. There were no carried forward funds from the previous year (s). SCSU collected \$197,270.79 in loan repayments. These funds, according to SCSU, are to be used for forgivable loans. No funds, either appropriated in FY2015-16 or carried forward from FY2014-15 are to be used for administrative costs.

As of fall 2014, eight (8) freshman, ten (10) sophomores, eight (8) juniors, fifteen (15) seniors and eleven (11) graduate students are enrolled in SC PRRMT (after the official fall 2014 drop/add period). SC-PRRMT anticipates 18-20 students will graduate by the end of the 2014-15 academic year. According to SC PRRMT, eighty (80) new and participating students are projected to participate in SC-PRRMT during FY2015-16 and the average forgivable loan award per participant is anticipated to be \$4,243 (\$4,243 X 80 participants = \$339, 440).

(Attachment)

In addition, as SC-PRRMT is funded as a statewide recruitment program to attract minorities to the teaching profession (Part 1B Proviso 1A.9 (SDE-EIA: XII.F.2-CHE/Teacher Recruitment), the program requires stronger and more sustained partnerships with existing teacher recruitment programs throughout the state. Because the important goal is to increase the number of minority teachers throughout the state, and in an effort to serve as many eligible students as financially possible, SC-PRRMT's proposed plans to: 1) increase the number of teachers through statewide delivery of coursework to non-traditional students; and 2) increase

Agenda Item 6.03E

the program's effectiveness through the use of forgivable teacher loans to attract minority students to the teaching profession will require careful monitoring each quarter throughout the FY2015-16 year to determine its progress towards these goals.

According to SC-PRRMT's revised budget and as outlined in the Expansion plan (October 2014), recruits will be targeted from current and future sites established around the state. During fall 2014, SCSU officials stated that sites were established in Berkley County School District, Fairfield County School District and Richland County School District One. The program's projected sites for spring 2015 were Richland County School District Two, Williamsburg County School District, Georgetown County School District and Florence County School District. According to SCSU officials, SC-PRRMT shall establish sites in Clarendon, Horry, Marion and Marlboro School Districts during FY2015-16.

Proposed Quarterly Schedule

Quarterly Report Due Dates	Submission to Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services	Committee's Report to Commission
First Quarter October 15, 2015	December Committee Meeting	January Commission Meeting
Second Quarter January 15, 2016	March Committee Meeting	April Commission Meeting
Third Quarter April 15, 2016	May Committee Meeting	June Commission Meeting
Fourth Quarter June 15, 2016	July Committee Meeting	September Commission Meeting

Attachment

**SC-PRRMT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FY2015-2016
REVISED October 15, 2014**

BUDGET REQUEST \$339,482.00

Direct Student Costs/Expenditures for students currently in the pipeline, and new participants.

- **Forgivable Loan Awards**

BUDGET

Forgivable Loans

\$339,482.00

TOTAL DIRECT STUDENT COSTS/ EXPENDITURES

\$339,482.00

TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS

\$339,482.00

Explanations provided to CHE staff for the forgivable loan budget line item for direct student costs:

1.

- a) In addition to the \$339,482, what is the total amount available in FY2015-16?
\$339,482.00
- b) Including all loan repayment funds and debt amount/outstanding balances of graduates?
\$530,312.68
Seventy-Seven (77%) of the Program's graduates are still employed in South Carolina public schools.
- c) Carry over funds from previous years?
No funds carried over from previous years
- d) Amount in collections?
\$197,270.79
- e) Using the total amount, what is the available amount per student (anticipated new student and participating students) in FY2015-16? **\$339,482.00**
Projected enrollment for 2015-2016: Eighty (80) students, includes students currently in pipeline and new students
Projected # of graduates: 18-20
Projected Available amount per student: \$4,243.00

- f) For FY2015-16 the Program/SC State plans to continue to produce quality teachers for South Carolina's teaching force. To continue to address the State's Teacher shortage PRRMT plans to expand, establish and maintain Satellite Teacher Education Program (off campus) sites in the Midlands, Pee Dee and Piedmont areas. By spring 2016 the goal is to maintain and/or establish sites in the following counties: Berkeley, Columbia (Richland County), Clarendon, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg. Some counties may have combined classes.

**Sites 2014-2015
Fall 2014**

Berkeley County School District
Fairfield County School District
Richland County School District One

Projected Sites Spring 2015

Richland County School District 2—	Initial Meeting with District officials— October 21, 2014
Williamsburg County School District—	Recruitment Visit, October 23, 2014
Georgetown County School District—	Recruitment Visit, October 29, 2014
Florence County School District #3—	Recruitment Visit, November 3, 2014

2014-2015 Sites will continue through 2015-2016

Projected sites 2015-2016

(Spring 2015: PRRMT staff will contact district personnel and set-up initial visit)

Clarendon County School District
Horry County School District
Marion County School District
Marlboro County School District

SC State University will absorb the administrative costs for SC-PRRMT

Additional questions from Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, regarding PRRMT revised proposed 2015-2016 budget.

SC-PRRMT has been required to adhere as closely as possible to the original plan of expansion, to be as cost effective as possible, sites will have combined classes with nearby counties and school districts.

1. According to SC-PRRMT's proposed budget, the number of participants in SC-PRRMT is expected to increase to 80 participants. Given this funding model, please explain your plans to recruit new participants through forgivable loans.
 SC -PRRMT Enrollment:

Year	Number of Participants
FY2009-10	34
FY2010-11	28
FY2011-12	27
FY2012-13	27
FY2013-14	52

What would account for the anticipated number of SC-PRRMT participants to 80 in FY2015-16? Expanded number of sites? Please clarify your measureable objectives for expansion given the new funding model.

As part of its overall expansion initiatives PRRMT plans to expand into, establish, and maintain Satellite Teacher Education Program (off-campus) sites in the Midlands, PeeDee and Piedmont areas. By spring 2016 the goal is to maintain and/or establish sites in the following counties: Berkeley, Columbia (Richland County), Clarendon, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg. Expanding the number of sites will result in increased enrollment.

The PROJECTED enrollment

Year	PROJECTED Enrollment	Actual Enrollment
FY2013-2014	40	52
FY2014-2015	60	
FY2015-2016	80	

**PRRMT
PROPOSED BUDGET
FY 2015-2016 Additional questions
Page 2**

2. Although it is our understanding that to have an even greater impact, SC-PRRMT has decided to expand the sites by region throughout the state, it is unclear as to the number of participants anticipated per site. Please provide the projected number of participants per site.

The numbers provided are a **projected** minimum number of enrollees

SITES	<u>PROJECTED/ANTICIPATED ENROLLEES</u>
Berkeley County School District	12
Richland County School District One Richland County School District Two Fairfield County School District	12
Clarendon County School District Georgetown County School District Williamsburg County School District	12
Florence County School District #3 Marion County School District	12
Horry County School District	10
Marlboro County School District	10
SC State University Campus	12

3. The average forgivable loan award per participant is anticipated to be \$4,243 (\$4,243 X 80 participants = \$339, 440). What will be the average cost per participant in this program? According to the proposed budget, although there were no carried forward funds, SCSU collected \$197,270.79 in loan repayments. Why is this amount not included with the \$339, 482? Where do these funds go? Are the funds used for additional forgivable loans?

-What will be the average cost per participant in this program?

Currently, the average cost for non-graduating SC State students is \$11,688 per year.

- According to the proposed budget, although there were no carried forward funds, SCSU collected \$197,270.79 in loan repayments. Why is this amount not included with the \$339, 482?

Collection funds were not included in the total appropriations, if needed funds will be used for forgivable loans.

-Where do these funds go? **Forgivable Loan budget line item**

-Are the funds used for additional forgivable loans?

Yes. Collection funds are used to augment yearly appropriations in the Forgivable Loan budget line item, if needed.

4. Please provide the eligibility requirements for a forgivable loan in SC-PRRMT program. How will the eligibility requirements differ from other forgivable loan program(s) SCSU presently administers, the SC Teacher Loan Program, or other state loan forgiveness program?

Eligibility requirements for a forgivable loan in SC-PRRMT program

Participants in the program must be a resident of South Carolina; possess a high school diploma or G.E.D.; employed as academic or support staff in South Carolina’s public school system or completed an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree at one of South Carolina’s technical colleges or earned general education hours; have a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or above on a 4.0 scale; admitted to South Carolina State University; enroll in a teacher education program of study; enroll as a full-time student (12+ credit hours) or enroll as a part-time student (6+ credit hours); agree to teach in South Carolina. Master of Arts in Teaching students must be fully admitted into the M.A.T. Degree Program and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above.

Per our Financial Aid Department the SC Teachers Loan is the only other forgivable loan program SC State administers.

5. Please provide the present number of students participating in SC-PRRMT (after Fall 2014 drop/add period) per classification freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors, master’s level.

Fall 2014(Classification)	Number of Participants
Freshmen	8
Sophomores	10
Juniors	8
Seniors	15
MAT	11
TOTAL	52