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HIGHLIGHTS OF CHE MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

The following information is intended to be a brief summary of Commission actions and should not be considered as any form of minutes for the referenced meeting. Blue underlined text is hyperlinked.

CHE held its strategic planning retreat on September 3 and 4. Annually the Commission holds a working session to discuss planning and goals for the upcoming year. CHE met this year on the campus of Clemson University and was welcomed by Clemson President James Clements. Over the course of the retreat, Commissioners reviewed progress of their strategic agenda that was set last year and discussed the continued importance of focusing on needs to strengthen academic planning and review, to develop new higher education funding models, to improve P-20 collaboration, and to improve the monitoring of non-public higher education providers. Commissioners also identified the need to study realignment of the state's higher education enterprise as a new priority. While no specific projects were approved, future initiatives will be informed by the retreat discussion as they come forward for CHE consideration.

CHE approved the College of Charleston's request for a change in its mission statement at its business meeting on September 4. CHE held a scheduled business meeting on Thursday to consider an agenda item brought forward by CHE's Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) to approve a request of the College of Charleston to revise its mission statement. CAAL met previously on August 7 and considered the request. The College requested changing its mission to allow the College to develop program proposals for selected doctoral programs to address area needs. In approving the change, CHE required that the College preserve its designation as a comprehensive four-year college and university, but that the University of Charleston, SC, which is designated in the College's authorizing legislation, may as a separate entity within the College function as a research institution under the provisions of SC Code of Laws 59-103-15. The Commission stipulated that the recommendation was unique to the College of Charleston; made clear that approval of doctoral programs advanced, if any, would be considered for approval on their own merit as is the case with all new programs advanced by our public colleges and universities; and that approval of a substantive change by SACS-COC, the regional accreditor, to move from a Level III to a Level V institution will be required for CHE consideration of doctoral degrees that might be advanced in the future. CHE also recognized that it should study the need to develop a separate proposal for seeking statutory change to re-define the current sector definitions for SC's public colleges and universities. **For a copy of the recommendation as approved by CHE, [CLICK HERE](#).**

Upcoming Commission Meeting: CHE's next regularly scheduled business meeting is Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 10:30 am. Committee meetings that day include Finance & Facilities at 9:30 am and Governmental & Administrative Affairs at 1:00 pm.

Other Item of Note

College Application Month, 2014: Throughout September to November, high schools, charter schools, and career and adult education centers across the state will host College Application Day events to assist students with the college application process. The goal of College Application Month is to provide a forum for all South Carolina seniors to complete and file college applications. Events are designed for one critical purpose: to make the first step, applying to college, a positive experience for South Carolina students. The initiative began as a small pilot in 2009 implemented by CHE working in collaboration with our high schools under the state's federal College Access Challenge grant. Since the initial year, the program has grown from just 12 participating high schools with 1,000 seniors completing over 2,000 applications to over 186 high schools participating with 39,000 seniors completing an estimated 63,000 applications. **To learn more and find an event near you, please visit www.sccango.org.**

ABOUT CHE: CHE serves as the coordinating board for the state's thirty-three public institutions of higher education. Our mission is to promote quality and efficiency in the state system of higher education with a goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina. For more information about CHE, please visit our website: www.che.sc.gov. CHE meets regularly during the year, typically on the first Thursday of the month. For the schedule and additional details, [Click Here](#).