



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

Commissioners' E-Alert
December 2009

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Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

Commission Highlights - This E-Alert brings highlights from the December meeting.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) meets each month on the first Thursday. This E-Alert contains highlights from the December 3rd meeting. CHE meets next on January 7th. An agenda and materials are posted online approximately one week in advance of the meeting. For copies, [CLICK HERE](#). To access CHE's website, please visit www.che.sc.gov.

**SOUTH CAROLINA COURSE ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER SYSTEM PROJECT
IMPLEMENTATION STATUS & DEMONSTRATION OF SCTRAC.ORG**

Vice-President and General Manager of AcademyOne, Inc., Karen Todd, presented on the status of the online, web-based South Carolina Course Articulation and Transfer System. When fully implemented, this exciting new system will provide our state's students with a much needed tool to assist them in effectively and efficiently navigating across higher education programs in South Carolina. The project is being developed in response to the Education Economic Development Act in order to provide for seamless transitions for students from high school to college and across colleges.

Work on the project began this past January. Ms. Todd provided Commissioners with a project update by describing activity to date on the project's three overlapping phases for full implementation: tool implementation (phase 1); custom web portal development (phase 2); and institutional systems interface implementation (phase 3). Project development is on schedule and 30 of the state's 33 public colleges and universities have fully implemented the software tools needed to easily update and maintain course articulation and transfer information. The web portal for the system, SCTRAC.org, is in its review stage and is expected to launch in early 2010. In addition, nine of the public colleges and universities have implemented the interfaces that will connect their student information systems to SCTRAC.org. Ms. Todd discussed with the Commission how these automated connections will help students and institutions by saving time and effort while ensuring timeliness and accuracy of information.

A good deal of Ms. Todd's presentation was dedicated to a demonstration of functionality of the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SCTRAC) web portal. SCTRAC.org will serve as the student interface for the South Carolina Course Articulation and Transfer System and is an integrated, web-based solution designed to meet the needs of the state's colleges and universities and their students. SCTRAC.org is designed to help students make better choices and avoid taking courses which will not count toward their degree. The site and its associated tools also allow institutional autonomy, flexibility, and individual practice in serving stakeholders. During the demonstration, Ms. Todd showed how students can easily locate information related to transfer, search for course equivalencies, access transfer agreements, and much more. Ms. Todd noted that the project development is currently focused on the state's public colleges and universities. However, as the project moves forward, there are plans to add information from South Carolina's independent colleges and universities.

For a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, "Project Status and Custom Portal Demonstration", [CLICK HERE](#).

CALL TO INFORM AND WORK TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

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

CONTACT: Rita Allison, Director of Communications, (803-767-8352 / rallison@che.sc.gov)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Ken Wingate reported visiting with members of the SC House of Representatives, colleges and universities, the South Carolina Chamber Summit, and the Hartsville Rotary Club.

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Garrison Walters, CHE's Executive Director, reported on his continued travels and presentations to talk to communities about the importance of higher education and its role in ensuring the state's competitiveness.

He offered **kudos this month to Clemson University** for receiving a large U.S. Department of Energy grant to advance wind energy research and development. To learn more about this great news for Clemson and the state, visit Clemson's website, www.clemson.edu, or [CLICK HERE](#) for a copy of the announcement. For an AP story that ran on the announcement, "**Clemson to get \$98M for wind energy test facility**", [CLICK HERE](#).

Dr. Walters also talked briefly with Commissioners about the impact of recent and anticipated budget cuts. He noted staffing vacancies last year and in the current year that are going unfilled, coupled with other implemented efficiencies, have enabled the agency to deal with the significant reductions that have been experienced since July 2008 without layoffs or furloughs. However, he explained that the lowered staffing levels have not come without cost and are resulting in lost opportunities and delays in making desired progress in implementing the Action Plan recommendations.

Dr. Walters then provided an overview of the most recent activities of the Higher Education Action Plan and the work of the ad hoc committee. Chairman Wingate expressed the desire to continue this type of review every couple of months. For a copy of the updated activities report, [CLICK HERE](#). **To learn more about the Action Plan, [CLICK HERE](#).**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Executive Committee: Minutes from the Committee's monthly meeting to review the upcoming CHE meeting agenda were shared for information.

Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing: There was no report from this Committee which will bring forward recommendations at the January CHE meeting.

Report of the Committee on Finance & Facilities: Commissioner Jim Sanders, Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee, brought forward recommendations for the approval of several interim capital projects. The recommended projects were approved by CHE and included:

- Approval for an interim capital project for Piedmont Technical College for phase 1 of the Newberry County Center Project to establish pre-design.
- Approval for Clemson University to sublease from Clemson University Foundation, at 55 Camperdown Way in Greenville, S.C. The space will house Clemson's Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program and Small Business Development Center and will further accommodate Professional and Continuing Education Programs.

The Committee also presented to CHE as information the monthly activity report for November on staff-level capital project and lease approvals. For additional details, [CLICK HERE](#).

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Sanders noted the recent success in working with the Joint Bond Review Committee to expedite projects being funded with stimulus money. Two higher education projects were able to move forward as a result of collaboration of staff from JBRC, CHE, and colleges and universities. Mr. Sanders was commended for his work in spearheading the effort. CHE voted to advance a resolution thanking those involved.

Report of the Committee on Student Services and Access and Equity: Commissioner Cyndi Mosteller made a presentation on *College Application Week* activities. This exciting project is making a difference in preparing our students to access colleges and universities. For a copy of the presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wishes You a Joyous and Safe Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

As a reminder, State Offices will be closed for the holidays on December 24, 25, & 28 and on January 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL for NOMINATIONS
2010 Higher Education Hall of Fame Laureate
Deadline for Submission is December 15, 2009

The Harry M. Lightsey Jr. Society of the South Carolina Higher Education Foundation is seeking nominations for 2010 inductions into the SC Higher Education Hall of Fame. Nominations will be accepted through December 15, 2009, for consideration for the 2010 laureate.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor worthy individuals for outstanding achievement on behalf of higher education in South Carolina. By recognizing these individuals, the Lightsey Society hopes to inspire others to excel in their efforts to advance higher education.

For a copy of the selection criteria and nominating form, please visit www.schighered-foundation.org. The Foundation hopes you will consider nominating someone for this prestigious honor. Should you have questions about the process, please call (803) 737-2275.



Don't Miss Out....Register Now!

*11th Annual South Carolina
 Linda B. Floyd Campus Safety Conference*

"Diverse Perspectives: Awareness, Education and Prevention"

February 17-19, 2010

Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina

*To Learn More and for Registration Information, [CLICK HERE](#)**

The South Carolina Higher Education Foundation proudly sponsors the 2010 S.C. Linda B. Floyd Campus Safety Conference, hosted by the Medical University of South Carolina.

About the Conference

Since 1999, the Commission and the SC Higher Education Foundation have sponsored this event to ensure every effort is made to raise public awareness about campus safety. The goal of this year's Campus Safety Conference is to expand the network of cooperation among the many different areas involved in campus safety including wellness.

Who Should Attend

This year's theme, "Diverse Perspectives: Awareness, Education and Prevention", captures the variety of issues and concerns surrounding campus safety. The Southeast Region of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators will hold its annual meeting at this conference, and the SC Campus Law Enforcement Association will also convene its state meeting at this conference.

Student health and wellness professionals, student personnel and judicial affairs professionals, housing/residence officers, campus and hospital law enforcement and safety officers, college and university administrators, faculty, students, parents and other interested members of the campus community are welcome to attend.

**NOTE: The direct link to information about the Conference is <http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/conference/index.htm>.*