



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Interim Executive Director

**TO:** Presidents, Chancellors, and Deans, Public Colleges and Universities and  
President, South Carolina Technical College System

**FROM:** Gary S. Glenn, Interim Executive Director *GSG*

**SUBJECT:** 2015-16 Sister-State Agreements

**DATE:** September 8, 2015

Section 59-112-70(B) of the SC Code of Laws authorizes the Boards of Trustees of public institutions to provide fee waivers for students participating in an international Sister-State agreement program which the Governor and General Assembly have entered to promote the economic development of South Carolina. Per the statute, the Commission on Higher Education, through coordination with the State Budget and Control Board, is required to notify institutions annually of the current Sister-State agreements that provide eligible students with the non-resident fee waiver. CHE has also coordinated in recent years with the SC Department of Commerce regarding the annual affirmation of the Sister-State relationships eligible per 59-112-70(B).

Accordingly, this memorandum serves as the Commission's annual notification for academic year 2015-16 of the continuation of the Sister-State agreements honored in 2014-15 and prior academic years. The recognized Sister-States include:

State of Rhineland-Palatinate/Rhineland Pfalz, Germany  
State of Thuringen, Germany  
State of Brandenburg, Germany  
State of Queensland, Australia  
Province of Taiwan, Republic of China

As additional information, please know that we have received inquiries regarding the addition of Aruba to the list of Sister-States for the purposes of 59-112-70(B). With the assistance of representatives from the State Fiscal Accountability Authority and the Governor's office, we have confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in October, 2014, by Governor Haley and the Prime Minister of Aruba was not intended to establish a new Sister-State relationship.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [gglenn@che.sc.gov](mailto:gglenn@che.sc.gov) or (803) 737-2155 if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

**C:** College and University Business Officers  
Ms. Swati Patel, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Marcia Adams, Executive Director, Department of Administration  
Mr. David Avant, State Fiscal Accountability Authority  
Mr. Clarke Thompson, Senior International Trade Manager, SC Dept. of Commerce