



LANDER UNIVERSITY

Priorities for FY 2008-2009

July 25, 2008

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President**

LANDER UNIVERSITY

Presentation to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
by
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21 August 2008

Overall Priorities for 2008-2009

A. Implement Our New (Tourism Friendly) Calendar

- A. Classes begin after Labor Day
- B. Classes end by May 1st
- C. And Two weeks of additional instruction time have been added to the academic calendar

B. Expand the Lander University Health and Wellness Initiative

- A. Monitor our second year as a tobacco free campus--both indoors and outdoors
- B. Partner with Self Regional Health Care regarding reducing obesity in our young people
- C. Continuous improvement of our dining hall menus; make dining a health education opportunity
- D. Continue work making Lander University a “pedestrian campus”
- E. Break ground on our Health, Recreation and Wellness Complex
- F. Double the number of graduates in nursing (from 40+ to 80+)

For three years, Lander University has requested funding for this need, without success. Increasing the number of nurses for South Carolina is on everyone’s priority list. To witness the startup of new nursing programs in South Carolina costing millions of dollars, is a bit disheartening, when Lander University’s outstanding program for more than 50 years has been denied. **Our average NCLEX pass rate for the past five years is 95%. This year’s pass rate is 100%. Arguably, Lander University has the finest nursing program in the state of South Carolina.**

For \$850,000 Lander will produce 40+ additional BSN nurses for the workforce **each year**. Cost efficiency of such a request should not be overlooked.

C. Expand our Montessori Teacher Education Program (new Master’s degree just approved)

- A. Meet requested need in Greenville
- B. Meet requested need in Charleston

Listing and Description of Budget Requests

FY 2009-2010

1. \$850,000. To increase the number of BSN graduates from 40+ to 80 annually

We request \$850,000 to expand our nursing program in an effort to meet the needs and demands placed upon our existing program. \$550,000 in recurring funds and \$300,000 in non-recurring funds are required to accomplish this expansion plan. Our request is being driven by an annually increasing number of students coming to the university with nursing as their intended major, both in freshmen and transfer students, and the growing shortage of nurses across the country. The \$300,000 will be used to start a state of the art simulation laboratory and upgrade the department's existing facilities. The simulation apparatus will not only offer our students experience with the latest technologies, but will expand our offerings of clinical settings, which has long been a limiting factor of our program. The balance will be used to increase the number of

faculty by 4 FTE. The additional faculty will further expand the program components each semester by increasing the number of nursing course sections being offered and thus allowing the university to increase the number of on-ground BSN graduates from 40+ to 80+ annually.

More than one million new or replacement nurses will be needed across the country by 2012. It is recognized that colleges and universities are not graduating enough qualified nurses to meet the needs of the health fields. At a time where the demand for nurses and the average age of practicing nurses are climbing, the population of registered nurses is growing at the slowest rate in 20 years.

Lander University has already successfully pioneered two efforts to produce more qualified nurses. We have implemented the first online RN-to-BSN program in the state, and we are one of a few programs in the country to offer an accelerated option for students to complete a BSN in three years. Over the last four years, Lander graduates have been nearly 100% successful at their first sitting of the national certification exam, and **several times over the last few years, we were the only public baccalaureate program in the state to boast a 100% pass rate.**

We have recently started accepting and graduating a class of nursing students each semester, as opposed to the traditional once-per-year system.

Rather than simply raising class enrollments and pushing the legal limits on clinical sizes, our plan involves offering expanded program components across the curriculum while maintaining our high academic standards. While this plan to produce more qualified nurses will require additional faculty and more work from existing faculty, we are convinced it is the only way to maintain our program excellence, while addressing the national and state need.

2. Montessori

We request \$150,000 in recurring funds to establish the Lander University Montessori Education Clearinghouse for the State of South Carolina. Funding will support the dissemination of information on Montessori education to secondary school teacher cadet programs, PTA's, School Boards and community groups. An informational video will be produced, in conjunction with the creation of a speaker's bureau. A summer Administrator's workshop for school leaders interested in starting Montessori programs in their districts will be presented each summer.

Montessori programs have proven to be popular programs of choice for parents throughout the state and country. As a publicly funded institution, with a strong commitment to teacher education, Lander recognizes the need within the State to support Montessori programs. **Lander University has the only Montessori accredited teacher education program in the state and only one of a handful in the nation housed at state assisted institution.**

Montessori Education is one of the early learning programs supported by the South Carolina Department of Education. Lander University has offered Montessori Teacher Education classes since 1998. In 2002 its program affiliated with the American Montessori Society, the world's largest Montessori organization and became accredited by the Montessori Commission on Teacher Education, a USDE recognized accrediting agency. The Self Family Foundation provided funding for Lander's early Montessori initiatives, including development of an on-campus Montessori preschool program and tuition assistance for teachers enrolled in Lander Montessori courses. In 2004 Lander received a \$248,600 congressionally-directed federal grant to underwrite the cost of adding an elementary certification level to its existing Montessori program, provide scholarships for community children attending our preschool program and conduct research.

This project creates the State-wide clearinghouse for Montessori Education. Montessori Education is one of the early childhood education models promoted by the South Carolina Department of Education and has an exemplary track record as a 'school choice' option for many parents in South Carolina.

This project will provide parents and educators with assistance in establishing Montessori schools in their communities. The project will also provide support to Montessori teachers and the many Montessori schools operating in the State. The requested funding will allow the University to expand its services to the broader educational community.

3. Teacher Education

We request \$275,000 in non-recurring funds to redesign our teacher education program. **The purpose of this initiative is to begin the process of eliminating the undergraduate secondary majors, and eventually ALL undergraduate teacher education majors—and replace them with a professional graduate degree, similar in concept to law, medicine, dentistry, architecture, engineering, etc.** Non-recurring appropriations are requested for this goal as there will be operating expenditures associated with the start-up of this project. After the project is established and fully implemented, student fees and general fund appropriations will adequately fund the program.

4. Capital Requests - We request \$43,954,625 for mission critical capital needs.

University Center (Multi-Purpose) Center \$28,500,000

The University is in desperate need of a new University (Multi-Purpose) Center to replace the existing Grier (Student) Center which was built in 1974. Lander has out-grown this facility and in need of a structure that will not only appeal to current and prospective students of Lander University but also fulfill the demands placed on our institution for common space including academic/classroom use, where the community as well as our students can congregate, meet and engage in living and learning together. The new University Center will house the Montessori Education Program, Student Affairs, Career Services, Health Services, Student Activities, Student Counseling, Student Body Government, Campus Bookstore, Campus Post office and the Campus Police Department.

In 1974 the current Grier Student Center was constructed for a student population of 800. Today's enrollment represents a **375%** increase over the effective design capacity of this building thus necessitating the need for a new University Center. The existing Student Center offers virtually no student organization meeting space nor does it facilitate any student social functions. Lander will incorporate a flexible floor plan into the design and utilize a flexible space design that can easily convert open meeting space into large academic class rooms. As part of the last bond bill issued in 2000, the General Assembly appropriated to Lander \$3 million dollars as part of the cost of a new "student center". These dollars have been used to expand and modernize the student dining hall in the existing student center.

Library Renovation \$7,250,000

The Jackson Library is in need of a major renovation. The facility was constructed in 1976 when our enrollment was 800 and has serviced the campus without renovation for 30 years. The concept of information access has changed dramatically in the last 30 years and due to the building limitations, commonly expected services cannot be offered to its students. The building requires a complete renovation to include the re-design of existing floor space, updating Life Safety Systems, ADA Accessibility, HVAC Mechanical systems, Electrical infrastructure, Lighting Retrofits and Interior Finishes.

We would like to incorporate a more flexible floor plan design into the renovation to include meeting space that can be easily configured into large academic rooms. This would provide a degree of flexibility above and beyond the compartmentalized floor plan design of the 1970's. The Fire Alarm Control system will be upgraded to comply with current Life Safety Codes.

The system will be microprocessor based with addressable devices equipped with manual and automatic initiation with an independent, third party system monitoring. Code Compliant ADA access is very limited. ADA improvements will include mainstreaming the student entrance through the application of automatic door opener systems, evaluating the second story egress means and upgrading the single elevator controls. The HVAC System is inefficient and does not control the space temperature adequately and has no provisions for moisture control under normal operating conditions. A new distribution system with heat and reheat capability combined with modern direct digital controls will provide code compliant as well as comfortable conditioning regardless of the season. The

electrical infrastructure will be upgraded and the interior finishing's will be improved as the renovation mandates.

Lander has been able to replace the HVAC refrigeration machine (chiller) (2000) and re-roof the building (2006) as part of the ongoing, yet limited, building infrastructure improvements.

The Library is expected to serve the campus for several decades to come, but replacement of building systems/components is necessary to extend the useful life of the building. Improved floor space utilization, improved technological library services, mainstream accessibility for all, and improved interior decor will all contribute to the library serving as the cornerstone of the campus

Life Safety, Accessibility, Stormwater Erosion and Roof Replacement and Repairs \$8,204,625

This project will address critical needs involving Roof Replacement, Life Safety Improvements, Facility Maintenance, Infrastructure, and Campus-wide ADA accessibility.

The roofing systems of the Carnell Learning Center, the Physical Education and Exercise Studies (PEES) Building and the Finis Horne Arena have surpassed their anticipated useful life and are in need of replacement. The fire alarm system in the Cultural Center is unreliable and support is no longer available. The Fire Alarm System no longer provides the level of protection desired in a large assembly occupancy.

The infrastructure portion of the project will provide repairs and upgrades to the campus storm water system. As the campus has expanded, the increasing storm water discharge has created localized ponding of water, erosion on the banks of Sample Branch and infiltration into some structures.

The accessibility portion of the project will provide automatic door openers on prioritized doors of campus buildings, provide accessible restrooms, and the repair and construction of sidewalks and ramps as needed to provide a completely accessible ADA compliant campus.

Critical maintenance items must be addressed to prevent further deterioration of existing facilities or creation of unsafe conditions. The backlog of deferred maintenance cannot be funded at one time, so we have prioritized the most pressing items for this project. Likewise, the stormwater infrastructure must be upgraded to prevent future problems caused by erosion and water intrusion. Providing accessibility for all students continues to be a priority for the administration.

Specific Request for All of Higher Education

1. Fund the Virtual Library

2. Reduce Regulation and Allow Us to Operate More Efficiently

- a. Increase the \$150,000 purchasing cap set by the Budget and Control Board by which Colleges and Universities have the ability to procure goods and services prior to using MMO for the bid process.
- b. Increase the \$500,000 capital projects cap to \$1,000,000 by which Colleges and Universities can engage in capital projects before having to receive approval from the Budget and Control Board.
- c. Eliminate Colleges and Universities from paying sales and use tax. By eliminating the payment of sales tax, colleges and universities could potentially save millions of dollars.
- d. Exempt Colleges and Universities from having to use the State Engineer for project approvals. Staff Engineers are board certified and should be able sign off on projects with the same expertise exhibited by the Budget and Control Board's State Engineer.

3. Pass a Bond Bill

Our students, across the state, are assessed higher tuition to pay for a decaying infrastructure.