

Developing a Public Agenda for South Carolina

South Carolina Commission on
Higher Education
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Summary Statistics

- 65 % of new jobs will require postsecondary credentials by 2020. (62% in SC)
- 40 % of U.S. working age adults have at least an Associate Degree.
- 37% of S.C. working age adults have at least an Associate Degree.
- 22% of S.C. working age adults have at least some college but no degree (550,000 +).

Definition of a Public Agenda

- A “public agenda” is a generic term for a plan that addresses how a state’s higher education system can help meet long term state needs.
- The central components of a “public agenda” are goals (especially educational attainment), strategies, and performance metrics based on data analyses.

Developing a Public Agenda

- The starting point in developing a “public agenda” is developing an educational attainment goal.
- The goal should be quantifiable, challenging, long term, address educational gaps, and be in statute or a state plan.
- Currently, the Lumina Foundation reports that 26 states have such a plan, including 9 of the 16 SREB states.
- The most recent SC initiative was the plan developed by the Higher Education Study Committee (HESC).

Higher Education Study Committee

- HESC was comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders.
- HESC produced two reports, an Action Plan Framework in 2008 and an Action Plan Implementation in 2009 - “Leveraging Higher Education for a Stronger South Carolina.”
- The HESC plan envisioned an initial six year timeframe (2009-2015)
- CHE was assigned responsibility for coordinating implementation of the plan.

HESC

- The HESC report proclaimed that a “focused, action-oriented statewide higher education plan” is essential to SC’s economic future and its quality of life.
- The HESC implementation plan included four goals, 15 objectives, and 106 recommendations. It did not contain performance metrics.
- CHE prepared three follow-up reports on the status of HESC recommendations, the last in 2012.

HESC GOALS

- Goal 1: Making South Carolina One of the Most Educated States.
- Goal 2: Increasing Research and Innovation in South Carolina.
- Goal 3: Increasing Workforce Training and Educational Services for South Carolina.
- Goal 4: Realizing South Carolina's Potential-Resources and Effectiveness.

Recommendations

- Use the HESC report as the basis for developing a “public agenda” for 2017-2022.
- Build on what has already been done by identifying that which is still relevant, modifying or clarifying goals as necessary, developing a more challenging educational attainment goal, and developing metrics to measure progress toward the goals.
- Begin work on a draft for consideration by CHE.
- Develop a timeline and process for completion and approval of a 2017-2022 “public agenda.”