



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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Governor Mark Sanford announced that he has appointed Columbia attorney, Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate, as Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for a four-year term. Mr. Wingate, whose appointment must be confirmed by the Senate in the upcoming legislative session, succeeds Dr. Layton McCurdy of Charleston who resigned earlier this month after completing his term.

Dr. McCurdy praised Wingate's appointment: *"I am absolutely delighted that the Governor has chosen Ken Wingate to lead the Commission on Higher Education. Ken has been an outstanding Commissioner and he has the experience, the energy and the vision to help move South Carolina's higher education system forward in this critical time."*

Support for Wingate's appointment has also come from the business community. Otis Rawl, President and CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, observed, *"A stronger system of higher education is crucial to the state's economic future. I've known Ken Wingate for a long time and he is an ideal person to help us become more competitive with the leading states and nations in leveraging this powerful resource."* Similarly, Columbia businessman Jim Reynolds, President of Total Comfort Service Center and Chair of New Carolina's Workforce and Education Committee, noted, *"Ken is a real leader. He understands the connection between higher education and the state's prosperity and will help our citizens better appreciate the value of higher education for our economy and quality of life."*

CHE is the state's coordinating board for higher education. The board is made up of 14 members from across South Carolina including: one member from each of the six congressional districts; four at-large members appointed by the Governor, including the Chairman; three members each representing one of the public higher education sectors, Research Institutions, Four-year Colleges and Universities, and Technical Colleges; and one member, an Independent College President, representing the state's Independent Colleges.

Mr. Wingate begins his tenure as Chairman as CHE works on an action plan for higher education. A legislatively appointed Higher Education Study Committee staffed by CHE recently released a framework for an action plan that sets three major goals including: 1) making South Carolina one of the most educated states, 2) increasing levels of research and innovation, and 3) increasing levels of workforce training and educational services. A fourth goal focused on resources and effectiveness for higher education has also been identified. The Study Committee is presently gathering input on implementation recommendations. Additional information is available at <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/HiEdStudyComm.htm>.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Wingate has served on the Commission as an at-large Governor's appointee since 2006. Mr. Wingate is a graduate of Clemson University and the U.S.C. School of Law and is a founding partner of the Sweeney, Wingate & Barrow law firm. He is a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate Law, a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, a member of the American Bar Association, and is enrolled to practice before the U.S. Tax Court. Mr. Wingate is an active community participant through his present and past service on a variety of boards. He was Governor Sanford's Transition Team Leader, Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Management, Accountability and Performance and recently served as interim State Treasurer. He and his wife, Catharine Edwards Wingate, are the parents of three children.

For additional information about CHE, please visit our website at www.che.sc.gov.