

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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2007 Conference for College and University Trustees

On Thursday, April 26, 2007, college and university trustees and officials came together from around the state for the 2007 Conference for College and University Trustees. The S.C. Commission on Higher Education with support from the S.C. Higher Education Foundation sponsored this event which was held in Columbia at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in the Vista. The conference provided a forum for trustees and college officials to discuss national and state issues critical to higher education today.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Eugene Tobin, Program Officer for the Liberal Arts Colleges Program at The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Ms. Kristin Conklin, Senior Counselor to the Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Tobin shared data from a recent book he co-authored with William G. Bowen and Martin A. Kurzweil, "*Equity and Excellence in American Higher Education*." Ms. Conklin addressed the group on the recent report released to the U.S. Secretary of Education in fall 2006, "*A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of U.S. Higher Education*." At the end of the day, Ms. Conklin held a session to discuss available resources for carrying out recommendations of this national report. Conference attendees participated in small group discussions to examine further issues raised by the speakers.

In addition to the keynote speakers, trustees and college officials listened to a luncheon panel focused on the importance of service learning in enhancing access and excellence. The panel speakers included Dr. Nancy Dunlap of the Eugene T. Moore School of Education at Clemson University, who served as moderator; Mr. David Carter, Midlands Technical College and Project Director for Marketing Plan for the Village of Hope Community; Ms. Tondaleya Jackson, Benedict College and Project Director for PLUS (Preparation for Leadership and Unity through Service) Day; and Dr. Emma Savage-Davis, Coastal Carolina University and Project Director for The Dalton and Linda Floyd Family Mentoring Program.

Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Interim Executive Director of the S.C. Commission on Higher Education remarked: "The South Carolina Trustees Conference provides an invaluable professional development opportunity for our college and university officials to share information and ideas across campuses. We were fortunate to have had such high-caliber national speakers address our trustees and college officials on critical topics affecting all of our colleges and universities."