



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Mr. Kenneth B. Wingate, Chair
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Vice Chair
Douglas R. Forbes, D.M.D.
Mr. Kenneth W. Jackson
Dr. Raghu Korrapati
Ms. Cynthia C. Mosteller
Mr. James R. Sanders
Mr. Y. W. Scarborough, III
Mr. Charles L. Talbert, III, CPA
Mr. Guy C. Tarrant, CCIM
Mr. Hood Temple
Charles B. Thomas, Jr., M.D.
Mr. Neal J. Workman, Jr.

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2011

Contact: Julie Carullo
Director of Governmental Affairs
803-737-2292

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) announced at its monthly meeting last week that the state's public colleges and universities are withdrawing far more academic degree programs than they are adding. Over the last 18 months, twice as many academic programs were terminated (56) as were created (28).

In many cases, institutions ended academic degree programs in subjects that no longer attract sufficient numbers of students while adding new programs strategically in emerging fields. Other terminated programs were in majors (for example, Education) in which new or changed accreditation standards required the elimination of programs or the combination of two or more existing programs into a single new program.

"This is another sign that our colleges and universities are responding thoughtfully and prudently to changing circumstances," said CHE Chairman Ken Wingate. "There's always a need for new programs to prepare students for a changing job market," Wingate said, "but these numbers show that the institutions are also making the difficult decisions to withdraw programs that have low or diminishing demand."

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education serves as the state's coordinating board for higher education. Its mission is to promote quality and efficiency in the state system of higher education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina. Information about current activities of the Commission and higher education in South Carolina can be found on the agency's web site,

www.che.sc.gov.