



Lowcountry  
Graduate  
Center

Update  
SC Commission on  
Higher Education  
February 6, 2014  
Columbia

Presenter:

Nancy Muller, PhD, MBA  
Director and Associate Dean

# The Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC)

## Our History and Enduring Mission

- Created in 2001, at the urging of the Charleston Legislative Delegation and business leaders
- A consortium of the state-owned institutions of higher learning in the region
- To provide advanced education for professionals in the workforce in support of the region's employers
- To boost economic development



# LGC Accomplishments to Date.....

Over 300 graduates with Master's Degree

- Communications (College of Charleston)
  - Computer & Information Sciences  
(The Citadel and the C of C)
  - Electrical Engineering (USC)
- Project Management (The Citadel)
  - Social Work (USC)

# Accomplishments to Date

Nearly 200 graduates of Graduate Certificate Programs

- Gifted & Talented Education – College of Charleston
- Student Affairs – The Citadel
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages – College of Charleston
- Technical Project Management – The Citadel
- Urban & Regional Planning – College of Charleston

# Latest LGC Accomplishments

In the last year alone  
(FY2012-2013):

- 3,984 credit hours of graduate level instruction towards advanced degrees
- \$1.8 million in tuition to the College of Charleston, The Citadel, and USC

Note: Half of the tuition paid by The Citadel's graduate students in courses at the LGC was paid by their employers.



# Lowcountry Employers Served by LGC Graduates.....



*Results • Access • Partnerships • Diversity*

And many more.....

## Continuing Education and Degree Completion on the North Charleston Campus.....

- Expanding! Continuing Education and Executive Development
  - Leadership seminars for community associations and NFPs
  - Continuing education courses for financial planners and accountants
  - English Language Institute
- New! Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) for degree completion, with tracks in Organizational Leadership & Management and Communication & Information Systems

# Additional Facility Usage Beyond the LGC: Higher Education on the College of Charleston's North Campus

- Special conferences, e.g., Security & Intelligence, Logistics & Global Shipping, etc.
- Student teaching and seminar courses offered periodically for the convenience of students and faculty who serve the Public School Districts in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties
- Orientation and testing by Virtual School trainers and instructors
- Training of all doctors, nurses, and staff on the new EMR system in place for use by the University Medical Associates and MUSC Hospitals



# The Fuel to Grow Established and Entrepreneurial Employers

- Charleston was ranked #3 in 2013 among 'Best Cities for Young Entrepreneurs'.
- Charleston made StateTech's 2013 list of the top twelve tech hubs in America.
- Charleston Metro is 5th nationally for high-tech employment growth 2006-2011 (BLS).

# New LGC Structure and New Leadership in North Charleston

Revised Consortium Agreement and New Board Structure in March 2012

Hiring of Godfrey Gibbison, PhD – Dean of the College of Charleston North Campus in July 2012

Hiring of Alice Hamilton, PhD – Director of the College of Charleston Center for Continuing and Professional Education (Non-Credit) in January 2013

Hiring of Nancy Muller, PhD, MBA – Director of the LGC & Associate Dean in November 2013

- With independent research, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance has identified Aerospace, Information Technology, and Advanced Security as our metro area's top immediate recruitment and business expansion opportunities.....and thus higher education priorities.
- Energy Systems (mid-term) and Biomedical (long-term) opportunities are additional top ranked priorities for the Lowcountry.



- “.....higher education is South Carolina’s best friend.”
- “.....university leaders also understand that partnerships are how they’re going to become strong and impactful in the economy.”
- “This is team South Carolina at work.”

- Gov. Nikki Haley, keynote speech, Nov. 18, 2013, SC Carolina Biotechnology Industry Organization Conference, Charleston



# New Collaborative Program Offerings 2014-2015 in Development and Discussion

- New! GRADUATE CERTIFICATE – CHILD WELLNESS & OBESITY PREVENTION (MUSC, with faculty from The Citadel and College of Charleston)
- New! MASTERS IN ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT (USC, with faculty from The Citadel)
- New! MASTERS IN SYSTEMS DESIGN & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING (USC, with faculty from The Citadel and the College of Charleston)
- New! PhDs in Education Administration & Student Affairs K-12 and Higher Education (USC)
- New! CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (The Citadel, with faculty from the College of Charleston)

# New LGC Facility: Fall 2014



# The LGC Delivers on the Promise of SC's Mandate to Higher Ed

- ☑ AFFORDABLE: State-owned rather than private tuitions
- ☑ VALUE-ADDED: Driven by growing employer demand and career advancement for the workforce
- ☑ ACCESSIBLE: Located in the heart of where people both live and work in the Lowcountry, on major arteries and with ample free parking. Increasingly online and hybrid teaching. Available to young and old, urban and rural, all races, and all social strata.

# SUMMARY

- Poised to expand and make a positive economic impact on the region
- Strategically located at 526 and I-26, in a fully recovered and growing region of SC
- With a streamlined governance structure and new management talent, bringing renewed energy under focused leadership
- Speaking a collaborative language through new program development to fill identified job opportunities with a more highly educated workforce