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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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S.C. Commission on Higher Education Releases Guidance for Spring 2020 Student Fees

Columbia, SC—In collaboration with the state’s public higher education institutions, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) announced today guidelines for public institutions of higher education when remitting fees to students dislocated by the COVID-19 outbreak and the state’s response.

The state’s public colleges and universities had previously announced they intended to refund or credit students’ accounts. The guidance issued by the CHE ensures all South Carolina students will be treated fairly and equitably.

Since the state’s public institutions will continue to provide educational and student services online, tuition and other academic/student service fees will not be refunded or credited. The CHE’s guidance focuses on auxiliary or self-supporting services that will no longer be provided to students as a result of the Governor’s Executive Orders directing public institutions to provide virtual learning instruction for the remainder of the spring academic semester.

Each institution will determine whether to refund or credit to the student’s account for housing, dining and other fees as deemed appropriate by the institution. Additional guidance includes:

- Students who remain enrolled for the remainder of the semester are eligible for a refund or credit. The suspension of in-person instruction does not change the student’s enrollment status for billing, financial aid, and/or reporting purposes.
- Students who remain on campus for the remainder of the semester will not be eligible for refunded or credited services.
- Refunds or credits should be prorated based on the number of days for which the service will not be provided to the student(s). Individual institutions will calculate the amount to be refunded or credited. Further, whether refund or credit, any remittance should first be applied to any remaining current charges.
- Refunds or credits for eligible students should be processed by an institution at the earliest possible time based on a schedule determined by the institution.

Institutions will provide information regarding specific fees that will be refunded or credited and the timeline for receipt of refunds or credits for unused services. The CHE’s guidance is on its website at www.che.sc.gov.

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About CHE

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), established in 1967, serves as the coordinating board for South Carolina’s 33 public institutions of higher learning. It acts both as an oversight agency on behalf of the General Assembly and as an advocate for higher education. The CHE is responsible for assuring a balance between student and taxpayer interests and institutional policies, aspirations, and needs. The CHE is committed to access, affordability, and quality in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly.

