



The S.C. Commission on Higher Education

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State's Education Agency Heads Form New Collaboration

Leaders of six state agencies and organizations involved with education from early childhood through workplace training in South Carolina today held the first meeting of a new voluntary collaborative that they have jointly formed.

The new South Carolina Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads is intended to encourage collaboration in order to increase student success and academic achievement throughout the state.

Council members include Ms. Susan DeVenny (Director, First Steps to School Readiness), The Honorable Mitchell M. Zais (Superintendent, Department of Education), Ms. Melanie Barton (Executive Director, Education Oversight Committee), Dr. James C. Williamson (President, State Technical College System), Dr. Richard C. Sutton (Executive Director, Commission on Higher Education), and Ms. Cheryl M. Stanton (Executive Director, Department of Employment and Workforce).

The Council brings together a range of key stakeholders across the education continuum who can recommend policies and encourage innovative programs to prepare students for success in the twenty-first century.

Among the topics considered by the Council at its first meeting were college and career readiness, teacher preparation, and longitudinal data systems.

Sutton, who was elected chair of the Council for 2014-15, noted that Council members are committed to long-term transformational change and will integrate existing reform efforts with new, sustainable educational initiatives.

"This creates an opportunity to increase dialog among our agencies and consider policies to advance education at all levels," he said.



Members of the new Council of P-20 Education Agency Heads are (left to right): DeVenny, Stanton, Sutton, Zais, Barton, and Dr. Hope Rivers (participating in the inaugural meeting for Williamson)