

**Consideration of Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program
Panel Recommendations**

During the 2003 Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed Act. 24, creating the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program. At the April Commission meeting, the proposed regulations for that program were approved. Those proposed regulations are currently proceeding through the Legislative approval process. In an effort to expedite the implementation of that program, the Commission staff has convened the review panel called for in the regulations process.

The panel will be meeting on Thursday April 29, 2004 to develop its recommendations. The panel will be considering a total of seven proposals received from five institutions. The relative merits of each proposal will be considered in developing recommendations to be presented to the Committee for consideration. The recommendations will be distributed to Committee and Commission members upon completion, and also posted on the Commission's webpage for public review.

The panel's recommendations will be presented to the Committee and Commission for consideration during their respective May 6, 2004 meetings. Any action by the Commission will be contingent upon final approval of the proposed regulations by the General Assembly, if such action has not occurred prior to the Commission meeting.



April 30, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rosemary Byerly, Chair, and
Members, Committee on Finance and Facilities
Members, Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Charles D. FitzSimons, Director
Finance, Facilities, and MIS

The Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program Review Panel met on the afternoon of April 29, 2004. Panel members were selected based on nominations from institutions or professional experience in one of the areas of need provided in the Legislation. The panel members included:

Mr. Darryl Caldwell
Mr. Walter Hardin
Mr. Bob Humphreys
Mr. Damon Jeter
Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr.
Mr. Richard Williams
Dr. Sabrina Moore
Ms. Rachel Phelps
Dr. Dill Gamble

Of the \$3,000,000 appropriated for the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program, \$1,500,000 was designated for distribution based on merit. The purpose of the Panel was to review the following proposals submitted by institutions for consideration and develop a recommendation for funding levels:

Submitted Proposals:

Allen University	Capital Improvements	\$ 913,926
Benedict College	Capital Improvements	250,000
Claflin University	Tutoring & Counseling	300,000
Claflin University	Equipment for Science & Research	100,000
Claflin University	Services for "At-Risk" Students	259,203
Morris College	Endowed Faculty	250,000
Vorhees College	Capital Improvements	<u>500,000</u>
		\$ 2,573,129

The Panel members reviewed each of the submitted proposals, discussing the merits and implications of each. The Panel unanimously expressed its support for all of the proposals, and stated that all were worthy of funding. Their desire was to fully fund all submitted proposals, but in consideration of the limited availability of funds, were not able to do so. After thorough discussion, the Panel, by a majority vote, recommended that the following proposals be funded in the amounts noted:

Allen University	Capital Improvements	\$ 534,704
Benedict College	Capital Improvements	151,334
Claflin University	Tutoring & Counseling	196,807
Claflin University	Equipment for Science & Research	68,571
Claflin University	Services for "At-Risk" Students	150,336
Morris College	Endowed Faculty	140,473
Vorhees College	Capital Improvements	<u>257,775</u>
		\$ 1,500,000

Recommendation:

The staff recommends approval of the Panel recommendation.