



**Commission on  
Higher Education**

November 13, 2003

Dr. Conrad Festa  
Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chair, and Members  
Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Susan Cole, Chair, and Members,  
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

**2002-2003 LIFE Scholarship Program**

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship was established by the General Assembly during the 1998 legislative session and was signed into law on June 19, 1998. The LIFE Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship designed to increase access to higher education, improve the employability of South Carolina students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, improve SAT scores, and encourage students to graduate from college on time.

During the 2002 legislative session, the General Assembly approved an increase in the award amount of the LIFE Scholarship Program. Forty million was allocated from the proceeds generated by the S.C. Education Lottery. Students attending a four-year public or independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition, not to exceed \$4,700, plus a \$300 book allowance, while students attending a two-year public or technical institution received up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance. In addition, students attending the two-year independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition at the two-year regional campuses plus a \$300 book allowance.

In addition to the increased award amount, the General Assembly also amended the initial eligibility criteria. Effective Fall 2002, in order to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship students were required to meet two of the following three criteria: 1) earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, 2) earn a minimum score of 1100 on the SAT (24 ACT), 3) rank in the top 30% of the graduating class. The average SAT score for first-time entering freshmen in 2002 was 1160 (ACT scores were converted to SAT).

To earn or renew scholarship eligibility, the student is required to 1) meet all general eligibility criteria; 2) earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year (fall, spring, summer); and 3) earn an average of 30 credit hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours if a rising sophomore, 60 credit hours if a rising junior, or 90 credit hours if a rising senior.

As of August 31, 2003, the Commission on Higher Education awarded 24,502 students, totaling \$106.5 million for the 2002-2003 academic year. This is a 17% increase of the number of students awarded in 2001-02. The following reports provide additional information regarding the 2002-2003 LIFE Scholarship recipients including: number of students awarded and the amount disbursed by institution; recipients by classification; Fall 2002 retention; recipients by ethnicity; recipients by gender; first-time entering freshman by county of origin; and recipients by county of origin. These reports may also be found on the Commission's Website at [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov).

| 2002-2003 Number of LIFE Recipients and Amount Disbursed by Institution |                 |                      |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| as of August 31, 2003   |                 |                      |
|   | # of Recipients | Amount Disbursed     |
| <b>Four-year Public Institutions:</b>                                   |                 |                      |
| The Citadel   | 242             | 1,030,617            |
| Clemson University  | 3761            | 17,998,588           |
| Coastal Carolina University   | 602             | 2,576,996            |
| College of Charleston   | 2023            | 9,478,440            |
| Francis Marion University   | 649             | 2,826,217            |
| Lander University   | 532             | 2,544,044            |
| Medical University of South Carolina                                    | 71              | 352,500              |
| South Carolina State University   | 314             | 1,509,148            |
| U.S.C. - Aiken  | 611             | 2,733,542            |
| U.S.C. - Beaufort   | 72              | 218,070              |
| U.S.C. - Columbia   | 5125            | 24,745,042           |
| U.S.C. - Spartanburg  | 619             | 2,876,710            |
| Winthrop University   | 1448            | 7,016,905            |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>  | <b>14,155</b>   | <b>\$75,905,518</b>  |
| <b>Two-year Regional Campuses:</b>                                      |                 |                      |
| U.S.C. - Lancaster  | 205             | 629,298              |
| U.S.C. - Salkehatchie   | 95              | 286,621              |
| U.S.C. - Sumter   | 182             | 570,999              |
| U.S.C. - Union  | 41              | 129,930              |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>  | <b>523</b>      | <b>\$1,616,848</b>   |
| <b>Technical Institutions:</b>  |                 |                      |
| Aiken Technical College   | 62              | 132,425              |
| Central Carolina Technical College                                      | 68              | 128,067              |
| Denmark Technical College   | 44              | 90,134               |
| Florence-Darlington Technical College                                   | 144             | 318,509              |
| Greenville Technical College  | 436             | 928,960              |
| Horry-Georgetown Technical College                                      | 168             | 321,822              |
| Midlands Technical College  | 410             | 923,828              |
| Northeastern Technical College  | 96              | 215,706              |
| Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College                                    | 111             | 238,320              |
| Piedmont Technical College  | 238             | 537,891              |
| Spartanburg Technical College   | 310             | 656,828              |
| Technical College of the Low Country                                    | 14              | 30,525               |
| Tri-County Technical College  | 441             | 925,077              |
| Trident Technical College   | 280             | 585,019              |
| Williamsburg Technical College  | 10              | 20,502               |
| York Technical College  | 140             | 308,246              |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>  | <b>2,972</b>    | <b>\$15,001,658</b>  |
| <b>Four-year Independent Institutions:</b>                              |                 |                      |
| Allen University  | 21              | 90,000               |
| Anderson College  | 380             | 1,853,000            |
| Benedict College  | 323             | 982,500              |
| Bob Jones University  | 373             | 1,805,158            |
| Charleston Southern University  | 438             | 2,088,000            |
| Clafin University   | 287             | 1,427,000            |
| Coker College   | 147             | 690,490              |
| Columbia College  | 322             | 1,462,510            |
| Columbia International University                                       | 97              | 362,500              |
| Converse College  | 214             | 1,037,500            |
| Erskine College   | 196             | 947,500              |
| Furman University   | 350             | 1,722,119            |
| Johnson and Wales University  | 89              | 301,564              |
| Limestone College   | 72              | 355,000              |
| Morris College  | 62              | 260,587              |
| Newberry College  | 197             | 967,500              |
| North Greenville College  | 404             | 1,896,187            |
| Presbyterian College  | 317             | 1,552,500            |
| Southern Wesleyan University  | 88              | 431,875              |
| Voorhees College  | 34              | 142,500              |
| Wofford College   | 339             | 1,682,500            |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>  | <b>4,750</b>    | <b>\$22,052,400</b>  |
| <b>Two-year Independent Institution:</b>                                |                 |                      |
| Spartanburg Methodist College   | 188             | 598,902              |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>  | <b>188</b>      | <b>\$598,902</b>     |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>  | <b>24,502</b>   | <b>\$106,542,918</b> |

### Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity

The table below shows a break down of the Fall 2002 recipients by ethnicity. It also shows a comparison by ethnicity for Fall 2001 and Fall 2002. There was an increase in the number of minority recipients due to the new eligibility criteria.

| Ethnicity                               | Recipients    |               | Fall 2002 Percentage of Total Recipients |
|---|---------------|---------------|--|
|   | Fall 2002     | Fall 2001     |  |
| <b>Black/African-American</b>           | 3,636         | 2,151         | <b>15.6%</b>                             |
| <b>American Indian/Alaskan National</b> | 68            | 37            | <b>0.3%</b>                              |
| <b>Asian/Pacific Island</b>             | 425           | 352           | <b>1.8%</b>                              |
| <b>Hispanic</b>                         | 241           | 166           | <b>1%</b>                                |
| <b>White/Non-Hispanic</b>               | 18,278        | 15,046        | <b>78.4%</b>                             |
| <b>Unknown</b>                          | 678           | 1,596         | <b>2.9%</b>                              |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>23,326</b> | <b>19,348</b> | <b>100%</b>                              |

### Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Gender

| Gender         | Students      | Percentage   |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Male</b>    | 8,508         | <b>36.5%</b> |
| <b>Female</b>  | 14,752        | <b>63.2%</b> |
| <b>Unknown</b> | 66            | <b>0.3%</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>23,326</b> | <b>100%</b>  |

### Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Classification

Compared to Fall 2001, the number of freshmen recipients increased 22.2%. The percentage of upper classmen remained the same.

| Classification                    | Fall 2002     |             |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                                   | # of Students | Percentage  |
| <b>Freshmen</b>                   | 9,959         | 42.7%       |
| <b>Sophomores</b>                 | 5,787         | 24.8%       |
| <b>Juniors</b>                    | 3,800         | 16.3%       |
| <b>Seniors</b>                    | 3,643         | 15.6%       |
| <b>Unclassified Undergraduate</b> | 4             | .02%        |
| <b>Unknown</b>                    | 133           | .57%        |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>23,326</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Retention

Students receiving the scholarship in Fall 2001 retained the scholarship in Fall 2002 at a rate of 68%. First-time entering freshman in Fall 2001 retained the scholarship in Fall 2002 at a rate of 51% as compared to sophomores, 87% and juniors, 85%. Data shows that since 1998 the retention numbers have steadily increased each year.

| Institution   | Retained at Same Institution |            |            |            |
|---|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|   | Freshman                     | Sophomore  | Junior     | Total      |
| <b>Senior Public</b>  | 51%                          | 77%        | 84%        | <b>67%</b> |
| <b>Two-Year Regional of USC</b>   | 32%                          | 0          | 0          | <b>32%</b> |
| <b>Technical</b>  | 24%                          | 0          | 0          | <b>24%</b> |
| <b>Senior Independent</b>   | 50%                          | 78%        | 85%        | <b>68%</b> |
| <b>Two-Year Independent</b>   | 33%                          | 0          | 0          | <b>33%</b> |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>  | 46%                          | 77%        | 84%        | <b>63%</b> |
| <b>Including students who transferred from originating institution to another institution in the State and retained LIFE. The Grand Total is:</b> | <b>51%</b>                   | <b>87%</b> | <b>85%</b> | <b>68%</b> |