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CHE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - FY 2008-09 FUNDING REQUESTS

PRIORITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

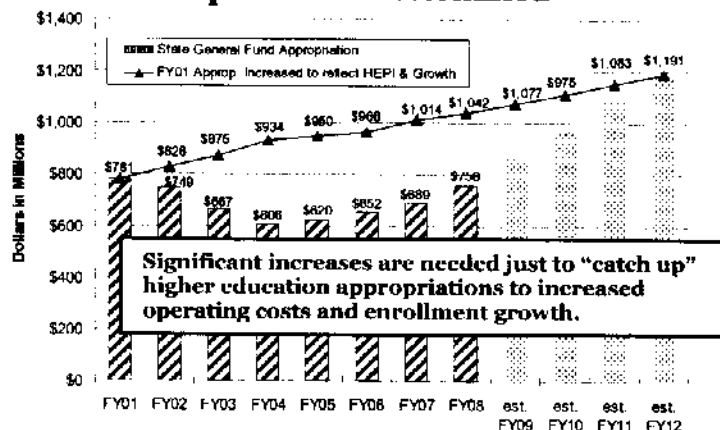
Investing in Quality Outcomes for Public Colleges & Universities

Enhancing College Access through Student Support

Improving Effectiveness through Collaboration

Core Operating Needs for Public Colleges & Universities – Request to be determined

Higher Education plays an increasingly critical role as SC competes in the new knowledge-based economy. It is clear we must enroll and graduate greater numbers to improve our competitiveness. Doing so requires accessible, affordable and accountable public higher education institutions. To maximize our ability to compete effectively, SC must move its overall investment in higher education to a level that allows our institutions to meet the increasing statewide demand for greater levels of intellectual capital. Adequate funding of core operating costs not only enhances the effectiveness and quality with which our colleges and universities deliver on these demands but also mitigates the need for increased tuition and fees.



SC's Student Financial Aid Programs

Need-based Grants – \$18,846,700 increase to bring total funding to \$42,478,266

CHE's highest priority is to ensure availability of resources for SC college students for whom college is least affordable. With increasing costs, it is becoming more difficult for these students to attend college. Of the available state student financial aid, need-based grants represent just 8%.

Lottery Tuition Assistance – \$11,000,000 in increased lottery funds to bring total to \$58,000,000

National Guard Tuition Assistance – \$3,000,000 in lottery and nonrecurring funds continued

Last year the General Assembly approved a new tuition assistance program for the SC National Guard members to replace the existing loan repayment program. Continuation of the \$1,300,000 in supplemental funds and \$1,700,000 in lottery funds received for this program is needed to maintain full program support in FY 2008-09.

Merit-based Student Aid Programs –

CHE requests continued support in general and lottery funds for merit-based undergraduate programs with increased support for program growth. Current total FY 2007-08 appropriations for these programs include:

\$40,915,490 for Palmetto Fellows, \$147,727,542 for LIFE, and \$7,767,606 for HOPE

Collaborative Statewide Higher Education Programs

Higher Education Electronic Library – \$2,500,000 recurring

CHE's highest priority among collaborative programs is to establish the PASCAL Statewide Higher Education Library in recurring funds. This program, now in its fourth year, is transforming the availability of resources across our state's 58 public and private higher education libraries. The request continues \$2,000,000 as received in the current year and each of the past three years and provides a \$500,000 increase to meet rising costs and to expand resources.

SC LightRail – \$4,500,000 continued in nonrecurring funds to Clemson, USC, and MUSC

EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) – \$982,464 recurring increase

University Center of Greenville (UCG) Operating – \$1,281,301 recurring increase

Greenville Tech Maintenance & Debt Service for UCG – \$635,919 recurring increase

SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership – \$1,200,000 nonrecurring continued as recurring

Higher Education Lottery-Funded Programs – CHE requests continued support of higher education programs funded through the SC Education Lottery. In FY 2007-08, these programs totaled \$216,585,473 including:

\$167,385,473 for Student Scholarship, Grant and Loan Programs including: Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, Lottery Tuition Assistance, Need-based Grants, Tuition Grants, and National Guard Tuition Assistance/formerly Loan Repayment. (See above for requested FY 2008-09 increases.)

\$30,000,000 for Centers for Economic Excellence

\$12,000,000 for Higher Education Technology for Public 2- and 4-year colleges and universities

\$2,500,000 for SC State University

\$4,700,000 for Higher Education Excellence Enhancement

Capital Bond Funding: \$782,388,759 for 68 projects ranked in priority order

SC CHE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - FY 2008-09 FUNDING REQUESTS

PRIORITIES FOR CHE AGENCY PROGRAMS

Ensuring Effective Service Delivery

Improving College Access

Agency Technology – \$130,000 from nonrecurring to recurring

One of CHE's mission critical functions is the maintenance and support of a centralized statewide higher education data system necessary for state policy research, state and federal requirements, and other data sharing needs of institutions and the public. To keep pace with changing technology, CHE requests continuation of FY 2007-08 nonrecurring funds.

SC GEAR UP - \$200,000 recurring increase

GEAR UP is a national grant program which supports early college preparation and awareness activities for rural and low-income students. SC was awarded a second, six-year state GEAR UP grant in 2005 that will bring \$14.8 million federal dollars into the state provided the required state match is met. Through SC GEAR UP, CHE and its partners (SC Chamber of Commerce, State Department of Education, SC Governor's schools, and the Southeast Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence) provide students the skills and support they need to prepare for, enter, and succeed academically in higher education. Direct services reach approximately 4,000 students across 22 rural and low-income middle schools along the I-95 corridor. In FY 2007-08, SC GEARUP received \$600,000 in recurring funds and \$75,000 in nonrecurring funds. The request increases support by \$125,000, bringing total funding to \$800,000.

SC College Access Network - \$25,000 recurring

CHE seeks support to enable the agency to work with the National College Access Network on a program to enhance and strengthen the state's resources for its neediest students. The program will help SC identify "last dollar" grants to supplement existing state and federal grant programs.

Access & Equity Program for Underrepresented in Health Care – \$400,000 recurring

As we face workforce shortages in health care, particularly nursing, we need to address strategically known shortages. CHE seeks \$400,000 for the expansion of the existing Access and Equity Program to establish a statewide partnership among our colleges to build a more diverse health-care workforce by increasing the number of underrepresented populations in nursing/and other health care areas. Access & Equity is presently funded with \$711,613 allocated across the state's 33 public colleges and universities.

SREB Programs and Services – \$145,735 increase in recurring funds

CHE seeks a necessary increase for the state's participation in Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) programs and services to continue the same level of participation in regional initiatives and policy research and in programs that enable our students to take advantage of higher education offerings not otherwise available in SC at reduced rates (e.g., Veterinary Medicine and Optometry). The requested increase brings FY 2007-08 support of \$2,889,005 to a total of \$3,034,740.

DID YOU KNOW?

214,363 students were enrolled during fall 2006 across 33 public and 25 independent colleges in SC. Of these:

82% (176,765) in public colleges

81% From SC upon entry

65% Female

88% Undergraduates

68% Full-time

21% African American and 5% Hispanic

For additional information, contact Julie Carullo, (803) 737-2292 or jcarullo@che.sc.gov