



# SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

RUTLEDGE BUILDING  
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## STATEMENT OF GOALS\*

"Evaluation of the adequacy of the state's postsecondary education system must occur on the basis of the goals to be achieved. In essence, postsecondary education exists to provide opportunities for individuals to develop their intellectual capacities more effectively and to meet the needs of society for educated and trained personnel.

"More explicitly, the institutions of postsecondary education were created to meet needs of the people of South Carolina, and are sustained for the direct purpose of providing the programs and services that respond to the requirements of South Carolinians. The state's system of postsecondary education is dedicated to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the citizens of the state and to that end seeks the following goals:

"The primary goal of postsecondary education is to provide the opportunity for learning beyond the secondary school level for all who need or seek it. The system must include an appropriate diversity of programs to meet a wide range of needs; it must emphasize the transfer of knowledge but be undergirded with a sense of responsibility for the development of moral, spiritual and aesthetic values. The objective of learning is the development of essential knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to live effectively in a democratic society.

"It is a goal to reduce the socio-economic barriers to postsecondary education to ensure that the benefits of postsecondary training are not denied because of social environment or economic status. Standards will not be lowered, but the goal will be pursued by extending special programs to those with the potential to meet standards.

"It is a goal to assure the most effective and efficient use of all resources provided to postsecondary education. The achievement of this goal will require the definition of educational roles, missions, scope and priorities; the definition and attempted elimination of unnecessary duplication; and the pursuit of external funding sources.

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\* As tentatively approved by the Commission on Higher Education on January 4, 1979

"It is a goal to improve the quality of postsecondary education. This goal seeks achievement of the best possible postsecondary educational programs in South Carolina. The quality of educational programs involves the quality of students, faculty, administration, facilities and other resources. Since a high proportion of state dollars are spent for postsecondary education there is a trust between the taxpayers and the providers of postsecondary education. Each sector and institution within the state, both individually and collectively, is expected to achieve as high a degree of quality as possible in carrying out its mission.

"It is a goal to encourage research activity within postsecondary education. Research is an essential element in baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate education. The spirit of inquiry and creativity is vital to maintaining the intellectual health and vigor of South Carolina. In fulfilling their educational missions institutions should develop the creative environment to encourage the expression of new ideas.

"It is a goal to make better use of the resources of postsecondary education in public service. In building the capability to carry out their primary missions, the institutions have acquired a high level of expertise in a wide variety of fields which should be available to benefit the state.

"It is a goal to achieve and sustain among the citizens of the state an appreciation for the accomplishments of postsecondary education and an understanding of its commitment to improving the quality of life. The viability of postsecondary education depends directly on public support which is neither inevitable nor constant. A great sense of pride among South Carolinians in their system of postsecondary education must be developed and maintained. The graduates of public and non-public institutions should be encouraged to pursue their life's work within South Carolina to contribute toward improving the quality of life for all its citizens.

"It is a goal to preserve a strong non-public sector of postsecondary education, recognizing the vital contribution made by the state's private institutions. The goal is to maintain a reasonable share of total enrollment in postsecondary education in the non-public institutions and to assist them in order that they may carry out their missions more effectively.

"It is a goal to work cooperatively with all segments of education in the state. The objective of all those engaged in education must be directed toward the enhancement of the learning processes. This entails the establishment of a cooperative working relationship that is conducive to the improvement and development of the many avenues for advancement through education."