

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE: HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) are pleased to join in partnership to conduct this study, *Foundations for the Future: Higher Education in South Carolina*, for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Aims McGuinness, Senior Associate at NCHEMS, and Richard Novak, Vice President for Public Sector Programs at AGB, will co-direct the project, with additional staff and consultants assisting at various stages.

This important study for the future of South Carolina will consist of two inter-related phases. The first phase will determine the public agenda for higher education by identifying the major strategic priorities confronting the future of South Carolina and its citizens. The second phase will be an assessment – with accompanying recommendations – of the effectiveness of the major policy mechanisms, such as governance, finance and funding allocations, and regulations, necessary for the achievement of the public agenda.

Assisting in both phases of the project will be an advisory group of South Carolina civic and elected leaders. Mr. McGuinness and Mr. Novak will meet as necessary with the group to solicit input and provide updates on progress. CHE staff will provide additional guidance. The study will begin on June 12 and conclude no later than December 5, 2003. NCHEMS will serve as the fiscal agent for the contract.

Phase One

“Setting the Public Agenda for Higher Education”

Time Frame: June 12 to September 12

Phase One will be a process for identifying the major priorities facing South Carolina that higher education can and should address. An emphasis will be placed on those priorities that can help assure a future quality of life for all of the state's citizens.

Phase Two

“Assessing Governance and Related Policies”

Time Frame: Mid-September to early December 2003

Phase Two will consist of a “policy audit” of existing mechanisms for governance, finance, and regulation that facilitate or impede achievement of the strategic themes of the public agenda identified in Phase One, and subsequent policy recommendations in each of these three areas. The audit will consist of a review of existing statutes, regulations, and other policy documents (governance arrangements, procedures for allocating resources, accountability mechanisms/reports, etc.).

A complete detailed narrative report outline of the study and its two phases will be presented to the advisory group and the Commission on Higher Education on or before December 15, 2003. It will consist of observations and findings from the policy audit, principles and criteria for change, and policy recommendations.