



**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

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**To:** Mr. Austin Gilbert, Chairman, and Members,  
 Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Mr. Frank Gilbert, Chairman,  
 Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services

**Informational Report**  
**Annual Summary for the**  
**African-American Teacher Loan Program FY 1997-98**

**Introduction**

For the fourth in a row, the S.C. Appropriations Act (FY1996-97) included a proviso which continued funding the African-American Teacher Loan Program to attract African-American males into the teaching profession. This program was established by proviso in FY 1994-95. The original proviso reads as follows:

(African-American Loan Program) Of these funds, \$130,000 shall be distributed to S.C. State University, \$100,000 to Benedict College, and \$100,000 to Voorhees College for a loan program with the major of attracting African-American males to the teaching profession. The regulations for the loan program, which shall provide loans that can be canceled by teaching a specific time in South Carolina, shall be developed in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education.

As authorized in the proviso, regulations were developed by Commission staff and institutional representatives from Benedict College, South Carolina State University, and Voorhees College. In July 1994, the Committee on Academic Affairs endorsed and the Commission approved the regulations for the African-American Loan Program. The regulations were promulgated and approved by the General Assembly during the 1996 legislative session. During the 1996-97 Legislative Session, the General Assembly did not include funding for the African-American Teacher Loan Program at Voorhees College.

The primary focus of the African American Teacher Loan Program is to encourage African-American males to pursue teaching careers in the State. In accordance with the approved regulations, other race and female students were eligible to participate in the loan program. However, at least 80 percent of the loans are to be awarded to eligible African-American males, unless justification is provided by the institution. The loans are to be forgiven at specified rates for service as a teacher in South Carolina.

The 1997-98 Appropriations Bill allocated \$280,000 and reduced participation to two institutions: Benedict College and South Carolina State University.

Proviso 18A.22 of the 1997-98 Appropriations Bill reads as follows:

(African-American Loan Program) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the African-American Loan Program, \$130,000 shall be distributed to S.C. State University, and \$100,000 to Benedict College, and must be used for a loan program with a major focus attracting African-American males to the teaching profession. The Commission on Higher Education shall act as the monitoring and reporting agency for the African-American Loan Program. Of the funds allocated according to this proviso, no more than 10% shall be used for administrative purposes.

The General Assembly awarded an additional \$50,000 to S.C. State University during the 1998 legislative session. The total amount awarded to S.C. State University for FY 1997-98 was \$180,000.

The regulations require that the participating institutions submit an annual report disclosing the disbursement of funds, the number of forgivable loans distributed to students, loan repayments, and student achievement data to the Commission on Higher Education at the end of FY 1997-98.

### Summary of Annual Reports

#### **Benedict College**

During FY 1997-98, the African-American Teacher Loan Program provided \$100,000 to Benedict College. Fifteen African-American males (88 percent) and three African-American females (12 percent) participated in the Loan Program. The three female participants were awarded loans due to the need to recruit African-American students to pursue teaching careers in critical need areas (mathematics).

Fifteen participants continued in the program from the previous year and three students entered the Loan Program as first-time participants during FY 1997-98. Three participants enrolled in majors defined as critical needs subject areas by the South Carolina State Education Board. Four students graduated in May 1998 and completed all requirements for teacher certification. Three of these students are employed as teachers in South Carolina. Of the 18 participants in the African-American Teacher Loan Program, 16 have been admitted into the Teacher Education Program at Benedict College and as of June 1998, 16 participants had passed

the Teacher Education Entrance Examination (EEE), which is a State requirement to enter all teacher education programs.

The institution awarded loans in the amount of \$92,476.00 to 18 participants in the African-American Loan Program. Benedict College anticipates that 14 students will continue in the African-American Teacher Loan Program and receive renewal loans during the 1998 fall semester, and four new students will receive initial loan awards. Since the program's implementation in 1994, eleven participants have graduated and are now teaching in South Carolina.

During FY 1997-98, the African-American Teacher Loan Program at Benedict College was administered through the existing Minority Access to Teacher Education (MATE).

### **South Carolina State University**

For FY 1997-98, the African-American Teacher Loan Program provided \$180,000 to South Carolina State University. Twenty-five African-American males (79 percent) and seven African-American females (21 percent) participated in the Loan Program. All of the 32 participants were enrolled as full-time students during the 1997-98 academic year, and all female participants were enrolled in critical needs subject areas (mathematics, biology).

Twenty-three participants continued in the African-American Teacher Loan Program from the previous year and 9 students entered the program as first-time participants during FY 1997-98. As of June 1998, 26 of the program participants had met the criteria for entrance into the teacher education program at South Carolina State University.

Of the 32 loan program participants, 20 students (61 percent) are enrolled in majors defined as critical needs subject areas by the South Carolina State Education Board. Six of the participants graduated during the 1997-98 academic year, five of these students are now teaching in South Carolina. Since the program's implementation in 1994, 17 participants (13 African-American males and four African-American females) have graduated and 16 of the graduates are now employed in South Carolina's public schools.

During 1997-98, the African-American Teacher Loan Program was administered by the South Carolina State Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers at South Carolina State University. The institution awarded loans in the amount of \$167,674 to 32 participants in the African-American Teacher Loan Program. As of this date, South Carolina State University awarded loans to 34 participants (24 continuing participants and 10 new participants) for the 1997-98 academic year.

### **Summary**

During FY 1997-98, 50 students participated in the African-American Loan Program at South Carolina State University and Benedict College. Of the participants, 40 (79 percent) were African-American males and (21 percent) and ten were African-American females. Forty-two participants were admitted to the teacher education programs at their respective institutions by the end of the 1997-98 academic year. Twenty seven of the program participants are now teaching in South Carolina.

More detailed reports as submitted by each institution are available upon request.

This report is presented to the Commission for information only and will be relayed to the appropriate legislative bodies as stipulated in the regulations.

**African-American Teacher Loan Program  
FY 1997-98**

Institution	M	F	FY 1997-98 Program Expenditure	Total Forgivable Loans	Participants Majoring in Critical Needs Areas	Participants Admitted to Teacher Education Program	1997-98 Graduates	Total Number of Graduates Since 1994	Total Number of Students Teaching in S.C.
Benedict	15	3	*\$102,476	\$92,476	3	16	4	11	11
S.C. State	25	7	**\$180,990	\$167,674	20	26	6	17	16
***Total	40	10	\$283,466	\$260,150	23	42	10	28	27

\*\$2,476 was expended due to a loan repayment during FY 1997-98. The total for forgivable loans for FY 1997-98 was \$92,476

\*\*\$990.00 was expended due to default collections during FY 1996-97. The total for forgivable loans for FY 1997-98 was \$167,674.

\*\*\*Students may fall into multiple categories.