



**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 South Carolina HOPE Scholarship Program

The South Carolina HOPE Scholarship was established under the S.C. Education Lottery Act in 2001. It is a merit-based scholarship program designed to provide financial assistance to first-time entering freshmen who do not qualify for the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship upon graduating from high school. The General Assembly authorized funding in the amount of up to \$2,500 (not to exceed the cost of attendance), plus a \$150 book allowance for the first-year of attendance only. The scholarship may only be awarded to students attending an eligible four-year public or independent institution.

The HOPE Scholarship Program was implemented for the first-time during the 2002-03 academic year. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, a student is required to meet ALL of the following minimum requirements:

- Earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale at the end of the senior year;
- Graduate from high school or complete a home school program as prescribed by law;
- Attend an eligible South Carolina four-year public institution as defined in Section 59-103-5 or a four-year independent institution as defined in Section 59-113-50
- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment;
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State residency statutes;
- Enroll as a full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) degree-seeking student;
- Certify that he or she has not been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year;
- Certify that he or she is not in default and does not owe a refund or repayment on any Federal or State financial aid; and
- Must not be a LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient.

The S.C. HOPE Scholarship is a one-year program. However, if the student earns 30 credit hours and a cumulative 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) by the end of the freshmen year, the student may earn the LIFE Scholarship during the sophomore year.

As of August 31, 2003, the Commission on Higher Education awarded 2,196 students, totaling \$5.4 million for the 2002-2003 academic year. The following reports provide additional information regarding the 2002-2003 HOPE Scholarship recipients including: number of students awarded and the amount disbursed by institution; recipients by ethnicity; recipients by gender; and recipients by county of origin. Retention data will not be available until November 2003. These reports may also be found on the Commission's Website at www.che.sc.gov.

2002-03 Number of HOPE Recipients and Amount Disbursed by Institution		
as of August 31, 2003		
Institution	# of Recipients	Amount Disbursed
Four-Year Public Institutions		
The Citadel	37	94,075
Clemson University	27	68,900
Coastal Carolina University	134	335,783
College of Charleston	118	297,914
Francis Marion University	168	416,170
Lander University	162	399,196
South Carolina State University	95	241,125
U.S.C. - Columbia	393	999,050
U.S.C. - Aiken	114	274,275
U.S.C. - Spartanburg	177	421,022
Winthrop University	196	495,550
Medical University of South Carolina	N/A	N/A
SUB-TOTAL	1,621	4,043,059
Four-Year Independent Institutions		
Allen University	0	0
Anderson College	77	178,875
Benedict College	31	43,725
Bob Jones University	14	37,100
Charleston Southern University	82	197,425
Clafin University	47	124,550
Coker College	22	51,012
Columbia College	33	71,075
Columbia International University	20	29,150
Converse College	21	53,000
Erskine College	16	38,425
Furman University	1	2,650
Johnson and Wales University	0	0
Limestone College	22	56,975
Morris College	5	10,600
Newberry College	54	140,450
North Greenville College	74	181,856
Presbyterian College	26	63,600
Southern Wesleyan University	15	37,100
Voorhees College	8	13,250
Wofford College	7	18,284
SUB-TOTAL	575	1,349,102
GRAND TOTAL	2,196	5,392,161

Fall 2002 HOPE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Students	Percentage
Black/African-American	584	28%
American Indian/Alaskan National	8	.4%
Asian/Pacific Island	24	1.2%
Hispanic	27	1.3%
White/Non-Hispanic	1,382	66.3%
Unknown	58	2.8%
Total	2,083	100%

Fall 2002 HOPE Scholarship Recipients by Gender

Gender	Students	Fall 2002 Percentage
Male	800	38.4%
Female	1,273	61.1%
Unknown	10	.5%
Total	2,083	100%