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Agenda item 3.02.F

**Commission on  
Higher Education**

Rayburn Barton  
Executive Director

November 1, 2001

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

**From:** Ms. Dianne Chinnes, Chairman, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing *DC/m*

**Consideration of Centers of Excellence Appropriations Request,  
FY 2002-03**

**Introduction**

The Educational Improvement Act of 1984 provided for the establishment of a contract program with public or private colleges in South Carolina to foster the development of "Centers of Excellence" in particular areas of need related to teacher education programs. State funding is provided for up to four years at a decreasing rate each year with the goal of establishing statewide resource centers that gradually will be supported totally by institutional and external funding sources. There are currently fourteen Centers of Excellence, although only four are receiving funding during the current fiscal year (FY 2001-02).

Program *Guidelines* stipulate that each Center submit budgets for the first four years of funding as well as two additional years beyond state funding. Reporting requirements in the *Guidelines* further stipulate that each year there is a formal request for funding.

**Budget Summary for Funding Request for FY 2002-03**

This report outlines the appropriation request for FY 2002-03 that will be made to the General Assembly through the Commission's annual report to the Education Improvement Act Subcommittee of the Education Oversight Committee.

In FY 2001-02, the Commission did not conduct a Centers of Excellence grant competition because the General Assembly did not fund the appropriation increase requested by the Commission. As indicated in last year's Appropriation Request to the Committee, without an increase we were unable to have a competition. As a result, during FY 2002-03 the program will have two centers in the fourth and final year of state funding and one center in the third year of state funding. With a level appropriation from the General Assembly in FY 2002-03, the Commission would be able to award up to two new centers at approximately \$135,000 per center.

Noted in the table below is an itemized list of the Commission's total appropriation request. We are seeking level funding for the program for FY 2002-03.

<b>Center and Institution</b>	<b>Amount to be Requested in FY 2002-03</b>
Center of Excellence for the Study of Standards-Based Educational Reform Coastal Carolina University	\$67,457 (fourth year of funding)
Center of Excellence: S.C. Earth Physics Project University of South Carolina-Columbia	\$67,499 (fourth year of funding)
Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Professional Development Winthrop University	\$100,837 (third year of funding)
New Centers (two) to be awarded in FY 2002-03	\$279,057
CHE Expenses (brochures, review panel, meetings)	\$12,000
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$526,850</b>

### **Recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve an appropriation request of \$526,850 for FY 2002-03 to fund the Centers of Excellence Program.