

South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities 2010 Legislative Priorities and Quick Facts

Legislative Priorities

1. SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Program

- 1.1. Support the FY 2010-11 budget request of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grant Commission for an additional \$1,686,843. This figure represents increased funding commensurate with the 3.6% increase in Higher Education Price Index for the past year. If funded, the maximum award will increase from \$2700 to \$2800 based on 14,900 recipients.
- 1.2. If new state revenues are not sufficient to increase the Commission's budget for FY 2011 to the requested level, advocate for funding at levels no less than those established in the FY 2010 and FY 2009 budgets.
- 1.3. Resist all efforts to reduce appropriations allocated to higher education needed-based grants and merit scholarships from the levels established in the previous year's budget.
- 1.4. Resist all efforts to amend the statute that exempts tuition grants and other scholarships from mid-year budget cuts.

2. PASCAL (Partnership Among SC's Academic Libraries)

- 2.1. Support CHE's \$2.0 million budget request to restore full funding to PASCAL.
(Note: PASCAL is a partnership among public and private higher education academic libraries that promotes and enables all the partners to exchange resources through a central electronic card catalogue and delivery system. PASCAL also operates a purchasing consortium that negotiates reduced costs for subscriptions to electronic journals. SCICU members benefit from the expanded resources and cost efficiencies of PASCAL, elements essential for maintaining accreditation.)

3. Need-based Scholarships

- 3.1. Support the budget request of the Commission on Higher Education for an increase in need-based scholarships. The Tuition Grants Commission receives approximately 18% of the need-based appropriation to CHE to be used for tuition grants. The 18% relates to the proportion of students attending independent colleges and universities compared to the number attending public higher education institutions

4. Merit-based Scholarships

- 4.1. Advocate for full funding of Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Lottery Tuition Assistance scholarships to all eligible students to include both lottery and general fund appropriations

Talking Points

- Thank you for continued support
- Independent institutions provide opportunities that may not be available from public institutions. (i.e. size, location, major, financial assistance, religious affiliation, cultural preference, values-based education)
- Independent institutions are a significant contributor to the state's economy in terms of existing industry, education of citizenry, and workforce preparation. (\$620 mil. Impact; 6500 employees)
- If South Carolina did not have independent higher education opportunities, many of the more than 32,000 students would either: (a) leave South Carolina for college, (b) not attend college, or (c) attend one of our public colleges. Independent colleges help to raise the state's per capita income and attract investment by providing sufficient in-state educational opportunities to be able to retain the best and brightest students without the capital costs of building more public dormitories and classrooms and hiring additional state employees

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Quick Facts

SCICU Member Institution

20 non-profit, liberal arts institutions domiciled in SC and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (Fall 2008)

Headcount Enrollment:	32,555 (Undergrad & Grad)
South Carolina Residents:	23,114 (Undergrad & Grad)
Students receiving state financial aid:	19,565 (Undergrad only)
Percent of all students receiving aid:	94%

		<u>1998-99</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>% increase</u>
Average Tuition:	SCICU Members	\$10,561	\$19,401	83.7%
(2009-2010)	Public – Four year	\$3,420	\$ 8,957	161.9%

South Carolina Tuition Grants Program

This need-based grant program was created in 1971 to help offset the difference in tuition between public and private institutions. While the award is invaluable to students, the relative value has declined over time. Overall funding for the past two years has remained flat although the number of participating students has increased. In FY 2008-09, 12,801 South Carolina residents received an average of \$3,006 to attend an in-state independent college. The average state appropriation per student to attend a public college is \$4,486. An estimated 14,225 students will receive grants in FY 2010 driving down average award to around \$2,474.

	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
Total Available Tuition Grants Funding	\$35,604,262	\$35,200,000
Number of Students Served	12,801	14,225
Average Tuition Grant Award	\$ 3,006	\$ 2,474

The independent colleges and universities are doing their part to keep the cost of college affordable. In FY 2007-08, thirty-seven percent (\$160,149,329) of student financial assistance from all sources was awarded directly by the institutions.

Partnership Among South Carolina's Academic Libraries (PASCAL)

PASCAL is a consortium of South Carolina's public and private academic libraries together with their parent institutions and state agency partners. PASCAL fosters cooperation on a broad range of issues including:

- Electronic Resources – Tens of thousands of core academic journals in electronic form
- PASCAL Delivers – Millions of books available within 3 days
- Digital Libraries & Scholarship – Coordinated access to electronic resources of all types

The SC Legislature reduced funding for PASCAL's programs by more 90% for Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10. As a consequence much of the high value information that PASCAL has been able to provide universally to all students and faculty in South Carolina is being lost. Emergency funding from each of the member institutions is sustaining the program at a greatly reduced level for the current fiscal year.