



South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities 2018 Primary Legislative Priorities and Quick Facts

Primary Legislative Priorities

1. South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Program

Support the FY 2018-2019 budget request of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission for an additional \$2.13 million for grants. If funded at the new level, the maximum student award will increase from \$3,200 to \$3,350

2. Merit-based Scholarships

Support full funding of Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Lottery Tuition Assistance scholarships to all eligible students to include both lottery and general fund appropriations (2017 = \$300 million)

Talking Points

- Tuition Grants are need-based grants available to SC residents attending a SC private non-profit college or university (AY 2016-2017 = \$39.2 million for 13,200 students) [Includes non-SCICU member Bob Jones University]
- Students attending independent colleges also qualify for merit scholarships (AY 2016-2017 = \$49.1 million for 9,739 students) [Includes non-SCICU member Bob Jones University]
- Average Tuition Grant = \$2,850; Average state appropriation per public college student = \$3,732; It costs the state approximately \$882 more per year to send a student to a public college (\$882 x 13,200 students = \$11.6 million in annual savings)
- Independent colleges award more than \$289 million in institutional scholarships each year, matching state financial aid by more than 3:1; private colleges are financially invested in the success of each of their students
- Independent institutions provide excellent opportunities for personal choice that may not be available at public institutions (i.e. size, location, personal attention, major, financial assistance, religious affiliation, cultural preference, values-based education)
- If SC did not have independent higher education opportunities, many of the 21,000 in-state undergraduate students at SCICU schools would either: (a) leave South Carolina for college, (b) not attend college, or (c) attend one of our public colleges at an increased cost to tax payers of approximately \$882 per student
- 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; except for a special statutory program, independent colleges do not receive direct state appropriations