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SOUTHERN WESLEYAN

SPARTANBURG METHODIST

VOORHEES

WOFFORD

SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, INC.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



A VOICE FOR INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Message From the Chair

The Board of Trustees of South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. is pleased to be able to support the missions of its twenty member institutions of higher learning as they work together to provide exceptional and affordable educational opportunities to an increasingly diverse student population.

As described in this 2015 Annual Report, SCICU's programs and advocacy provide our members with additional resources to help them sustain and grow supportive liberal arts learning environments. Emphasizing individualized learning and student achievement, SCICU members encourage students to develop a sense of personal and social responsibility, cultivate serious inquiry and critical thinking skills, think expansively, and acquire strong, transferable knowledge and the practical skills needed to prepare them for successful and fulfilling professional and personal lives.

A prime example of SCICU's academic support is the SCICU/IT-o-Logy Scholarship Program established this year after SCICU trustees and friends of independent higher education contributed \$35,000 in new or increased contributions to match a \$25,000 grant from the Council of Independent Colleges. Over the next three years, the program will fund a \$1,000 scholarship at each of SCICU's twenty member institutions for students studying in STEM-related majors (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

As detailed in the following pages, please take a moment to share with us our sincere appreciation for the leadership and unselfish contributions of the many individuals, companies, and foundations that support the hopes and dreams of so many students attending a South Carolina independent college or university.



A lone gunman's senseless and brutal murder of nine people at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the evening of June 17, 2015, was particularly painful to the independent college community. Six of the nine victims had deep ties with one or more SCICU members. Among the dead were Sen. Clementa Pinckney (Allen University), Tywanza Sanders (Allen University), DePayne Doctor (Southern Wesleyan University and Columbia College), Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (Charleston Southern University), Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., (Allen University) and Myra Thompson (Benedict College). Prayer vigils and memorial services were held on many campuses in the wake of the killings. Scholarships and other recognitions to honor the dead and remember their contributions have been established.

The faith and strength of the independent college community, like other communities, were tested that evening and in the days that followed. From one campus to another as students, staff, and faculty tried to make sense of the senseless, there were hundreds of teachable moments transformed by prayer, reflection, and compassion.

As my two-year term as Board Chair comes to an end, I would like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees and staff for their support. The next few years will have unique challenges as more than a quarter of our institutional members will have new leadership and the Board moves to finalize a strategic vision and staff succession plan. I am sure that the Board, under the leadership of Chair Jim Reynolds, will approach each challenge with the same enthusiasm and commitment that it has demonstrated for more than sixty years.

Kathleen C. McKinney
Chair, SCICU Board of Trustees
Shareholder, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

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Organization and Mission



SCICU: Providing Opportunities for Excellence

Founded: South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. was established in 1953 to promote independent higher education in South Carolina.

Membership: To be eligible for membership in SCICU, an institution must meet the following criteria: (1) be a two or four-year college or university with its primary emphasis on the liberal arts; (2) receive qualified accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; (3) be a non-profit institution; and (4) be headquartered in South Carolina.

Mission: SCICU supports and promotes the values of independent higher education in South Carolina. SCICU seeks to advance higher education through fundraising, scholarships, research, as well as facilitating collaborative activities among the member institutions. SCICU also enhances a positive public image and encourages government policies that support independent higher education.

Management: A board of trustees, composed of the presidents from each member institution and business and community leaders fro across the state, directs SCICU.

Tax Status: SCICU is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. SCICU has been designated a 501 (c) 3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service and all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions should be made payable to SCICU and mailed to P.O. Box 12007, Columbia, SC 29211. SCICU's fiscal year runs September 1 through August 31.

SCICU Staff South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. Mike LeFever - President & CEO mike@scicu.org P.O. Box 12007 Columbia, SC 29211 **Eddie Shannon – Executive Vice President** eddie@scicu.org 1706 Senate Street Columbia, SC 29201 Brenda Torrence - Vice President for Business Affairs brenda@scicu.org Shay Shealy West - Media/Communications Specialist shay@scicu.org

ALLEN UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1870 Ph: 803/376-5700 Fax: 803/376-5731 1530 Harden Street



Columbia, SC 29204

Website: allenuniversity.edu President: Dr. Lady June Cole



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1911 Phone: 864/231-2000 Fax: 864/231-2004 316 Boulevard Anderson, SC 29621

Website: andersonuniversity.edu President: Dr. Evans P. Whitaker

BENEDICT COLLEGE

Founded: 1870 Phone: 803/253-5000 Fax: 803/705-4840 1600 Harden Street Columbia, SC 29204 Website: benedict.edu President: Dr. David H. Swinton



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1964 Phone: 843/863-7050 Fax: 843/863-7070 9200 University Boulevard Charleston, SC 29406

Website: charlestonsouthern.edu President: Dr. Jairy C. Hunter, Jr.

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1869 Phone: 803/535-5000 Fax: 803/535-5402 400 Magnolia Street Orangeburg, SC 29115 Website: claflin.edu

President: Dr. Henry N. Tisdale

COKER COLLEGE

Founded: 1908 Phone: 843/383-8000 Fax: 843/383-8056 300 East College Avenue

Hartsville, SC 29550 Website: coker.edu

President: Dr. Robert L. Wyatt

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Founded: 1854 Phone: 803/786-3012 Fax: 803/786-3674 1301 Columbia College Dr. Columbia, SC 29203 Website: columbiasc.edu President: Ms. Beth Dinndorf



COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1923 Phone: 803/754-4100 Fax: 803/786-4209 7435 Monticello Road Columbia, SC 29203 Website: ciu.edu

President: Dr. William H. Jones

CONVERSE COLLEGE

Founded: 1889 Phone: 864/596-9000 Fax: 864/596-9223 580 East Main Street Spartanburg, SC 29302

Website: converse.edu

President: Dr. Elizabeth A. Fleming

ERSKINE COLLEGE

Founded: 1839 Phone: 864/379-2131 Fax: 864/379-3048 2 Washington Street Due West, SC 29639 Website: erskine.edu

President: Dr. Paul Kooistra



ONVERSE



FURMAN UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1826 Phone: 864/294-2100 Fax: 864/294-3939 3300 Poinsett Highway Greenville, SC 29613 Website: furman.edu President: Dr. Elizabeth Davis



LIMESTONE COLLEGE

Founded: 1845 Phone: 864/489-7151 Fax: 864/487-8706 1115 College Drive Gaffney, SC 29340 Website: limestone.edu President: Dr. Walt Griffin

MORRIS COLLEGE

Founded: 1908 Phone: 803/934-3211 Fax: 803/773-3687 100 West College Street Sumter, SC 29150 Website: morris.edu

President: Dr. Luns C. Richardson

NEWBERRY COLLEGE

Founded: 1856 Phone: 803/321-5127 Fax: 803/321-5627 2100 College Street Newberry, SC 29108

Website: newberrv.edu President: Dr. Maurice Scherrens

NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1892 Phone: 864/977-7021 Fax: 864/977-5627 P.O. Box 1892 Tigerville, SC 29688 Website: ngu.edu

Interim President: Dr. Randall Pannell

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

Founded: 1880 Phone: 864/833-2820 Fax: 864/833-8195 503 South Broad Street PRESBYTERIAN Clinton, SC 29325

Website: presby.edu

President: Mr. Robert E. Staton



SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Founded: 1906 Phone: 864/644-5000 Fax: 864/644-5900 PO Box 1020 Central, SC 29630 Website: swu.edu President: Dr. Todd Voss

SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE

Founded: 1911 Phone: 864/587-4000 Fax: 864/587-4355 1000 Powell Mill Road Spartanburg, SC 29301

Website: smcsc.edu



VOORHEES COLLEGE

Founded: 1897 Phone: 803/793-3351 Fax: 803/793-1015 PO Box 678 213 Wiggins Road Denmark, SC 29042 Website: voorhees.edu

President: Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr.

WOFFORD COLLEGE

Founded: 1854 Phone: 864/597-4000 Fax: 864/597-4179 429 Church Street

Spartanburg, SC 2930. Website: wofford.edu

President: Dr. Nayef H. Samhat



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During our 2014-2015 fiscal year the following individuals, foundations, and corporations supported independent higher education in South Carolina by making gifts to SCICU.

On behalf of our member institutions and their students, as well as the SCICU Board of Trustees and staff, we extend sincere appreciation to the following for their support and commitment to Opportunities for Excellence.

Thank you!

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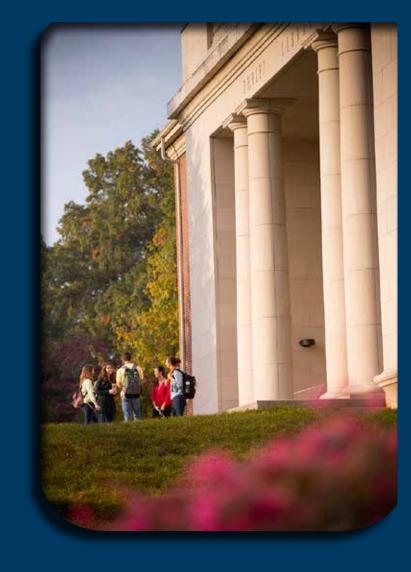
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Listing by Gift Category (September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015)

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S.C. Student Loan Corporation

SCE&G

Sonoco Foundation Wells Fargo Foundation Williams & Fudge, Inc.

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Coker, Joan S.

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Duffy, Edward F. and Janet W. Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC

Emard, Lonnie J.

Enterprise Holdings Foundation Every Foundation, Philip L. Van

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Reynolds, James D. Roberts, Terence V.

Rucker, Harriett L.

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Shaw, Minor M.

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Vulcan Materials Company

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Walker, Jr., Claude M.

Watt, Larry K.

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Zeigler, Jr., Edward T.

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Vulcan Materials Company

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PNC Bank
SchoolDude
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IN-KIND GIFTS

Microsoft

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Metromont Corporation

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Giving Opportunities

SCICU Scholars Program

The SCICU Scholars Program was developed in 1994 to encourage investment in undergraduate student scholars at SCICU's member institutions. Investors in the Scholars Program recognize the need to encourage talented students to complete a college degree. They also recognize that the cost of college may prove prohibitive to outstanding young people with high potential for long-term success. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, \$324,750 was awarded to 257 undergraduate students. Criteria for scholarships are developed with each donor.

SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program

Developed by SCICU in 1995, the Student/Faculty Research Program is designed to strengthen educational programs for students attending member institutions by providing quality undergraduate research experiences. These experiences are transforming students' lives and encouraging them to explore careers in research. On an annual basis, SCICU raises funds from benefactors to conduct this initiative, issues a call for grant proposals, assembles an evaluation committee of faculty members who select the proposals to be funded, issues the funds for the projects selected, and organizes a symposium at which each student presents their research findings. For fiscal year 2014-2015, \$98,763 was awarded to fund 32 student/faculty research proposals. The students will present the results of their research at a symposium to be held in February of 2016.

Annual Unrestricted Campaign for Participating Institutions

Since the founding of SCICU in 1953, unrestricted gifts have played an essential role for our colleges and universities. These important gifts have a profound impact on the ability of our institutions to meet their changing needs. Unrestricted funds are generally used by participating colleges and universities to provide financial aid for deserving students. For fiscal year 2014-2015, \$109,800 was distributed to participating member institutions. Unrestricted gifts are distributed by a formula established by the Board of Trustees that allocate 50% equally and 50% by apportionment according to enrollment.

SCICU Endowment

Gifts may be made to the SCICU endowment fund for purposes consistent with the donor's interest. Scholarships, faculty development, research or other programmatic support are sustained through the endowment.

SCICU Program Sponsorships

Sponsorships for the annual SCICU Campus Tour, SCICU Excellence in Teaching Awards Dinner, and College Guide are available.



SCHOLARS PROGRAM:

The Scholars Program was developed in 1994 to encourage investment in individual student scholars attending participating SCICU member institutions. Investors in the Scholars Program recognize the need to assist talented and deserving students in their efforts to obtain a college degree.

BAILEY FOUNDATION

Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

BB&T CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have high financial need as determined by FAFSA.

COLONIAL LIFE

Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, who have high financial need as



determined by the FAFSA, and attend Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Columbia

College, Columbia International University, or Newberry College.

DUKE ENERGY

DUKE ENERGY

Scholarships for traditional students

that reside in the Duke Energy service area attending one of the eleven SCICU member institutions also located in the Duke Energy service area, have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and are majoring in math or science.

SANDERS FAMILY FOUNDATION

SCICU trustee Dan Sanders, through his family foundation, established this scholarship beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year that operates in coordination with the Furman University Bridges to a Brighter Future Program, a program that assists at-risk youth with their educational goals. Ten students participating in the Furman Bridges Program will be selected by the Bridges program to receive \$1,000 scholarships to attend the SCICU-member college of their choice. Recipients will be upper-class students who have extenuating circumstances in their financial aid packages.

SC STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION



Scholarships for traditional full-time under-graduate students who are

South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and high financial need as determined by FAFSA. The scholarships should be used to reduce the need for educational borrowing.

SCE&G



Scholarships for traditional students with a

GPA of 3.0 or higher. Student, parent or guardian must be a current customer of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company.

SONOCO FOUNDATION



Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



The SCICU/CIC IT-oLogy Scholarships were made possible by a \$25,000 matching grant provided by the Council of Independent Colleges in 2015. SCICU raised

\$35,000 in new and increased gifts for a total of \$60,000 to be awarded over the next 3 years in the form of \$1,000 scholarships to students majoring or minoring in IT or Applied Computing.

UPS FOUNDATION



Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION



Scholarships for traditional students who are South Carolina residents with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and is a Federal Pell Grant recipient who is a member of a

diverse population under-represented in higher education.

WILLIAMS & FUDGE, INC.

SCICU trustee Gary Williams established a new scholarship program in 2014-15 to reward leadership at each of SCICU's 20 members. College presidents select students who currently hold leadership positions at the colleges and who have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

SCICU Business Partners

We would like to express thanks to the SCICU Business Partners. The program is designed to enable the SCICU member colleges, their employees, and their students and families to obtain information about goods and services available from the companies and businesses that have chosen to become SCICU Business Partners.

ABM BUILDING SERVICES, LLC Alpharetta, GA



CSI LEASING, INC Charlotte, NC



AFFINITY, LTC, LLC Lemoyne, PA



ELLIOTT DAVIS DECOSIMO, LLC Charlotte, NC



ALUMNISYNC Mt. Pleasant, SC



eBRIDGE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, LLC Louisville, KY



AMERICAN STUDENT ASSISTANCE Winston-Salem, NC



e2CAMPUS Leesburg, VA



ARAMARK HIGHER EDUCATION Cary, NC



eDOCHOME Greenville, SC



BLACKBOARD Washington, DC



ePROCUREMENT SERVICES, LLC Auburn Hills, MI



CAPINCROUSE LLP Lawrenceville, GA



FIND GREAT PEOPLE, LLC Greenville, SC



COLEMAN LEW & ASSOCIATES Charlotte, NC



FIRST AMERICAN EDUCATION FINANCE Fairport, NY



CRAIG GAULDEN DAVIS Greenville, SC



GENWORTH FINANCIAL Lemoyne, PA



GILLIS SPECIALTY ADERTISING Columbia, SC



SODEXO Spartanburg, SC



HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD Greenville, SC



STALWART SYSTEMS Greenville, SC



HRP ASSOCIATES Greenville, SC



STEMPremier Mt Pleasant, SC



INSITE Peabody, MA



TOTAL COMFORT SOLUTIONS West Columbia, SC



MCMILLAN PAZDAN SMITH ARCHITECTURE Spartanburg, SC



UNITED HEALTCARE STUDENT RESOURCES Doylestown, PA



MYERS MCRAE EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND CONSULTING Macon, GA



VERIZON WIRELESS Charleston, SC



POLLOCK COMPANY West Columbia, SC



VULCAN MATERIALS Atlanta, GA



PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE & INVESTMENT ASSOCIATES Columbia, SC



WALSH CONSULTING, LLC Columbia, SC



SCHOLARBUYS Carpentersville, IL



WYCHE LAW FIRM Greenville, SC



ADVOCACY

For students attending independent colleges and universities in South Carolina, the 2015 session of the General Assembly was very successful.

The Tuition Grants Commission received an additional \$136,772 in state lottery funds. The additional funds, along with an increased share of state need-based grants, will allow the agency to increase the maximum Tuition Grant from \$3,000 to \$3,100 for academic year beginning this fall. The Commission's budget from all sources for FY 2015-16 is more than \$36 million.

Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Tuition Assistance scholarships for students attending either public or private colleges and universities are fully-funded for FY 2015-16 with a combination of general appropriations and lottery funds at approximately \$335 million.

In the FY 2015-16 budget, PASCAL, the Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries, was appropriated approximately \$1.4 million in excess lottery funds.

Student recipients of Tuition Grants wrote more than 8,100 letters to members of the House and Senate thanking the legislators for their support of independent higher education and urging them to continue to fund the program at the fullest extent possible.

More than 100 students and staff from 18 member institutions attended the annual Independent College and University Day at the State House to discuss the meaning and value of state scholarships in personal terms with their legislators.

The General Assembly, in a Concurrent Resolution sponsored by Rep. Jay Lucas of Hartsville, oined Governor Nikki Haley in proclaiming April 13-17, 2015 as "Independent College and University Week" in South Carolina and April 15, 2015 as "Independent College and University Day."

Speaker of the House Rep. Jay Lucas received the SCICU Legislative Champion Award for 2015 for his leadership and support of the Tuition Grants program and independent higher education.



Rep. Jay Lucas (L) and Mike LeFever (R).

Anderson University President Dr. Evans Whitaker was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley and confirmed by the SC Senate to a seat on the State Commission on Higher Education.

SCICU worked closely with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities on matters of federal interest, especially with work beginning on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Mike LeFever and presidents Dr. Jairy Hunter (Charleston Southern University), Dr. Claude Lilly (Presbyterian College) and Dr. Nayef Samhat (Wofford College) visited with members of the South Carolina Congressional delegation in February to discuss issues such as Pell grants and other campus-based student aid, over-reaching federal regulations, affordability, value, and student debt.

On behalf of its members, SCICU filed formal comments on proposed federal regulations governing overtime pay regulations and teacher preparation.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Achievements:

<u>SCICU Sourcing</u> -- SCICU raised and distributed \$599,077 to member colleges and universities for scholarships and academic advancement, including:

Scholars/Named Scholarships	\$ 324,750
Unrestricted Scholarships '	109,800
Student Research .	98,763
Excellence in Teaching Awards	60,000
Donor Designated Gifts	3,500

<u>State grants and scholarships</u> -- 21,264 awards totaling \$77.5 million were awarded to students attending member colleges and universities:

\$ 34.3 million
30.0 million
10.0 million
2.7 million
.5 million
\$

<u>Federal assistance</u> -- More than 16,200 students attending member colleges and universities received almost \$73.0 million in federal grant assistance, including:

Pell Grants	\$ 65.5 million
FSEOG Grant	2.9 million
Federal Work Study	4.2 million

Total economic benefit of all SCICU, state, and federal scholarship and grant programs to SC independent college and university students

\$ 151.0 million

COMMUNICATIONS

Print and digital publications include the following:

2015 Annual Report - Audited financial statement and donor recognition.

2015 Statistical Abstract - Statistical profile of SCICU member schols in key academic and operations areas.

Website (scicu.org) -- Experiencing increased traffic and activity, especially during the legislative session and after the publication of the College Guide.

2015-2016 College Guide :



Provides actionable information to assist students, parents, and guidance counselors in evaluating the outstanding and unique higher education opportunities at South Carolina's non-profit independent

colleges and universities.

2015 Collaborative Purchasing Directory - Discounted contracts for goods and services

News and Notes Newsletter - Monthly mailing list exceeds 1,100 recipients.

EVENTS

Career Connections Networking and Interview Day -- SCICU matched 200+ graduating seniors with 80 recruiters from 43 employers at this annual networking event.

Research Consortium -- SCICU awarded research grants for 32 student-led projects in the amounts of \$98,763. Final presentations were made at the Milliken Innovation Center.

Biennial Board Retreat -- More than 50 trustees and guests participated in this two-day event in Greenville.

Teacher Recruitment Fair-- Eighty (80) education majors interviewed with representatives from 40 school districts.

South Carolina Independent College and University Week Events:

Excellence In Teaching Awards Dinner - The 10th annual awards dinner recognized outstanding faculty from each of SCICU's 20 member colleges and universities. Selected for their ability to teach and inspire, these individuals were recognized with a certificate and a \$3,000 stipend for professional development

Independent College and University Day - More than 100 students and staff attended this annual event at the State House.

Guidance Counselor Campus Tour- Thirty-seven counselors participated in this annual tour of 10 SCICU schools. SCICU sponsors this annual event so that guidance counselors can gain a greater awareness of the unique and intrinsic value of independent higher education. Tour visits 10 of the 20 SCICU member schools every other year.

COLLABORATION

Collaborative purchasing programs -- SCICU continues to provide and expand diverse opportunities for member schools to save money through group purchasing arrangements.

Title IX Training -- SCICU contracted for in-state Title IX training for 100 staff and faculty from 19 member institutions.

Business Partners -- This program provides a convenient electronic marketplace for goods and services common to SCICU members. 37 partners are on-board at the end of the fiscal year.

Professional Development -- SCICU staff facilitated/hosted professional development events for members of numerous professional peer groups, including chief academic officers, chief financial officers, career services directors, librarians, institutional research directors, student affairs directors, admissions directors, and human resources directors.

MANAGEMENT

Received a clean audit report for FY 2014-2015

Microsoft donated Office Pro Plus 2013 for 4 SCICU computers as part of their Corporate Citizenship program (*FMV over* \$3,200).

Migrated from office server to 3rd party admin with 24 hour monitoring/support.

SCICU Member college students visit the State House and thank the legislators on Independent Colleges & Universities Day at the State House -April 15, 2015



Hailey Owens, Coker College

Hailey Owens, a senior at Coker College, is the J. Lacy McLean Student of the Year. This \$2000 scholarship award is presented annually by SCICU to the most outstanding student from nominations by our member colleges and universities.

Mentoring and helping others are central to Owens' experience at Coker and her goals after graduation. Her interest in helping others was sparked in high school by her participation in the Youth Empowerment Academy, a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

Originally from Pelion, Owens will graduate in December 2015 with a major in psychology and a concentration in counseling. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in public health with plans to develop her own leadership program to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse in schools.

Her college accolades include membership in Phi Chi, the international psychology honor society, Dean's List (every semester), and the Susan Coker Watson scholarship for study abroad in Spain and Portugal.

She currently works as a Resident Assistant at the nearby Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, where she enjoys mentoring high school students. She is a member of Coker's Christian student organization and vice president of the Chinese Culture Club.

In her free time, Owens loves to sing, kayak, and write. She also enjoys helping out events at her home church in Columbia and spending time with her family.



The J. Lacy McLean Award was established in 1987 by friends of J. Lacy McLean in honor of his 34 years of service to higher education, particularly among private, non-profit colleges and universities. The award recipient must be a South Carolina resident who has performed well academically and who has demonstrated those traits characterized by the life of Lacy McLean, including commitment to public affairs, community service, and leadership. The nominee must be a rising senior at an independent four-year college or a rising sophomore at an independent two-year college.

Amy Burton, Erskine College



Amy Burton, a junior at Erskine College, is the Sterling L. Smith Scholarship recipient for 2015. The award is presented annually by SCICU to a student who qualifies for a Higher Education Tuition Grant and includes a \$1,000 scholarship.

Burton is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in math and minors in physics and business administration.

A resident of Ware Shoals, Burton is a strong believer in community and campus involvement. She is in her third year as a color guard instructor at Abbeville High School and volunteers on the FFA Advisory Board of Ware Shoals High School. She also enjoys giving back to her community through Habitat for Humanity and volunteering with local Eagle Scout beautification projects on the Erskine campus.

Burton's campus involvement includes working as a Student Life Assistant for the residence halls and tutoring groups of students from different mathematics classes through the Supplemental Instruction Program. Amy Burton serves as chair of the Erskine Entertainment Board and is a member of the Executive Student Leadership Team and the Student Retention Committee.

Her many honors at Erskine include Garnet Circle (top 25 students ranked by GPA, regardless of class), South Carolina Palmetto Fellow, Kincannon Award in physics, and the Roy S. Smith Scholarship for Mathematics.

After college, Burton plans to continue serving others while working to instill a passion for involvement in all those she comes in contact wherever her academic or career path may take her.

Funded through gifts to South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc., the scholarship was established in 1996 to honor the legacy of Sterling L. Smith for his relentless years of service to higher education. Sterling L. Smith was instrumental in crafting the development of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program. All nominees must be rising sophomores, juniors, or seniors that are recipients of a South Carolina Tuition Grant, have performed well academically, and have demonstrated those traits characterized by the life of Sterling Smith, including leadership and commitment to public affairs.

SCICU Student/Faculty Research Program

Developed in 1995, the SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program increases research opportunities for undergraduate students attending SCICU member institutions. Participating students develop the skills for professional opportunities that are both scientific in nature and are the benchmarks of every highly qualified professional. Thirty-seven students from twelve SCICU member institutions were awarded research grants of more than \$98,700 in the spring of 2015. The students will present their findings at the Research Symposium scheduled for February 18, 2016 at Milliken Innovation Center in Spartanburg, S.C. Listed below are the students, faculty sponsors, and the project titles.

	1		1	
INSTITUTION	STUDENT(S)	FACULTY SPONSOR(S)	RESEARCH TOPIC	
Anderson University	Ryan Pittman / Eslie Aguilar	Dr. David Prager	Using Periodic Patterns to Statistically Verify Local Warming Trends in Low Latitude Locations	
Benedict College	Astacia Watkins	Dr. Rush Oliver	Effects of Cycloheximide on Calpain Proteolysis During Crab Claw Muscle Atrophy in the Fiddler Crab	
Charleston Southern University	Amy Sisson	Dr. James Brooks	Stopping Batrachochytrium Dendrobatidis	
Charleston Southern University	Ingrid Bonilla	Dr. Amy Albrecht	The Effects of Essential Oil on the Growth and Gene Expression of Breast Cancer Cells	
Charleston Southern University.	Joshua Satterfield	Dr. Yu-Ju Lin	Unlocking Doors Using Mobile Devices	
Coker College	Arthur Cabral and Joshua Forbes	Dr. Ze Zhang	Interactive Self Learning System: Project Physics	
Coker College	Toni Becker	Dr. Jessica Robbins	Small Molecule Studies Towards the Design and Synthesis of Environmentally Friendly Biodegradable Polymers	
Coker College	Taylor Barefoot	Dr. Maria Valeria Avanzato	Characterization of Pythium Species in a Historical Water Lilies Pond at Kalmia Gardens, SC	
Coker College	Deondre Parks	Dr. Gordon Brown	Chirped-Pulse Microwave Spectroscopy of the 3.5-Diflourophyridine-Carbon Dioxinde Complex	
Coker College	William Marrafao	Dr. Paul Dostert	Enriching the Learning Environment at Coker College Through Bluetooth Beacons	
Coker College	Brandon Yarborough	Dr. John Hauptfleisch	Exploration of Catalysts in the Thermal Generation of Perfluoronitroalkanes	
Columbia College	Ljubitca Fadie, Sarah Smith, and- Jacqueline Mayorga	Dr. Marlee Marsh	Examining the Immune Responses of Fundulus heteroclitus to Environmental Pressures	
Converse College	Halley Wisner	Dr. Jennifer Berglind	Impact of Dietary Gluten on the Inflammatory Profile in the DSS Induced Colitis Mouse	
Converse College	Sara Ashley Brown	Dr. Monica McCoy	The Impact of Sex Education on Sexual Behavior, Knowledge and Attitudes	
Converse College	Alexandra Bruce, Ashley Majorana	Dr. Marie LePage	An Application Based Intervention Program to Reduce Body Dissatisfaction	
Converse College	Kaitlyn Harrison	Dr. Stephen Brown	Determine the Presence and Functionality of LGR5+ in Adenocarcinoma Tissue	
Converse College	Shannon O'Farrell	Dr. Jeff Brotherton	Anthranilate Synthase Enzyme Activity in Vivo and in Vivo and in Vitro	
Converse College	Bibiana Loza	Dr. Randall Gregg	Differential Impact of Ebola virus Zaire and Sudan Strain gycoprotein upon immunosurveillance by Natural Killer Cells	
Erskine College	Justin Glover	Dr. Joel Boyd	Photocatalytic Water Purification using Titania Nanotubes	
Furman University	Judith Carlisle	Dr. Alison Roark	Effects of Symbionts on Sexual Reproduction in Aiptasia pallida anemones	
Furman University	Jason Pecorella	Dr. Victoria Turgeon	Thrombin Plays a Role in Creating the Hostile Environment that Impedes NEuron Survival and Axon Regeneration	
Furman University	James Mouer	Dr. Chris Healy	Rapid and Interactive Statistical Analysis of English Words Using a Computer Cluster	
Furman University	Madison Ritter	Dr. Victoria Turgeon	Motor Neurons Survice and Regenerae Their Axons in Vitro Following Their Removal From an Injury Induced Hostile Environment	
Furman University	Rachel Celestine	Dr. Andrea Tartaro	Mock Interview Technologies	
Furman University	Theodore Summer	Dr. Erin Wamsley	The Effect of Cognitive Demand on Memory Retention during Rest	
Furman University	Abigail Hartman	Dr. Timothy Fehler	Witchcraft, Monsters, and the Supernatural during the English Civil War	
Limestone College	George Green	Dr. Scott Tanner	Effects of Mutildrug Resistance Gene Deficiency on Intestinal Cell Healing in a Model of Inflammatory Bowel Disease	
Presbyterian College	Naya Martin	Dr. Stuart Gordon	Large Scale Transposon Mutagenesis of Acidovorax Avenae Subps. Avenae	
Southern Wesleyan University	Zachary Ford	Dr. Michael Keaton	Moonlight and Magnolia: A History of the Southern Plantation	
Wofford College	Jordan Thomas	Dr. Ramin Radfar	Metformin, Cancer and Glucose Metabolism	
Wofford College	Lauren King	Dr. John LeFebvre	Assessing Prevention and Wellness Promotion Programs in Community Colleges for Post-9/11 Veterans	
Wofford College	Alexander Bentley	Dr. Charles Smith	Occurrence, Distribution and Management of At-Risk Upland Amphibian and Reptile Species	

SCICU Excellence in Teaching Awards

The hallmark of South Carolina's private non-profit colleges and universities is their emphasis on individualized learning and student achievement. This can only be accomplished by a faculty of the highest quality working in a supportive environment that encourages and fosters serious inquiry, critical thinking, and a broader understanding of the world in which we live.

Each year, SCICU recognizes and celebrates the best of the best with its Excellence in Teaching Awards. The recipients are honored at a special dinner and awarded a \$3,000 professional development grant. This group of teacher-scholars represents many different academic disciplines and brings a rich diversity of education, experience, and interests to our campuses.

There are common threads, however, that weave their way through this distinguished group of academicians. They first and foremost are teachers who come to our liberal arts institutions to work one-on-one with students whom they also serve as advisors, mentors, and friends. They are dedicated and committed individuals who have worked long and hard to be the best in their particular academic disciple in order to instruct and guide future generations as their life's work. They are value-centered, passionate, creative, and caring. Our campuses are filled with outstanding faculty, and we are pleased and proud to recognize the following individuals.



Professor Abdollah Rabieh Allen University



Dr. Robert Franklin, Jr. Anderson University



Dr. Ming Yin Benedict College



Dr. Celeste McMaster Charleston Southern University



Dr. Mitali P. Wong Claflin University



Dr. Gordon Brown Coker College



Dr. Adrienne Oxley Columbia College



Dr. David Olshine Columbia International University



Dr. Laura Feitzinger Brown Converse College



Dr. Howard Thomas Erskine College



Dr. Leslie W. Hicken Furman University



Dr. Jerry E. Wright Limestone College



Dr. Elaine McClure Morris College



Dr. Peggy Barnes-Winder Newberry College



Dr. H. Paul Thompson, Jr. North Greenville University



Dr. John Justin Brent Presbyterian College



Dr. Darryl Jachens Southern Wesleyan University



Professor Kent Newberry Spartanburg Methodist College



Dr. Booker T. Anthony Voorhees College



Dr. John Moeller Wofford College

Student Networking Events / Guidance Counselor Campus Tour

SCICU continued its support of member colleges and universities in 2015 with events designed specifically for graduating student employment opportunities.

Guidance counselors and others who impact student choices/decisions regarding higher education were given a week-long tour of SCICU member colleges and universities.

Career Connections Networking and Interviewing Event



Over 200 students from SCICU member colleges met with prospective employers during the 22nd annual Career Connections Networking and Interviewing Event held on January 26, 2015 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

This private networking event, held specifically and only for SCICU member college students, gave students exposure to and interview opportunities with approximately 80 recruiters, including a variety of corporations, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations.

The Career Connections event was organized and hosted by the SCICU

institutions' career services directors with the support of SCICU office staff.

The 23rd annual Career Connections Networking Event is scheduled for February 9, 2016, again at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Teacher Recruitment Day 2015

On April 27,2015, the second annual SCICU Teacher Recruitment Fair took place on the campus of Presbyterian College. Over 60 recruiters representing 40 school districts from the states of South Carolina, Tennessee, and Florida participated in the event. Recruiters spent the day interviewing candidates from the pool of nearly 80 education majors from SCICU member institutions who attended the fair.

Lynn Downie, assistant director of career programs at PC, was instrumental in coordinating this year's fair. Career services colleagues from Anderson University, Coker College, Columbia College, Converse College and Limestone College came to assist with the event.

The 2016 Teacher Recruitment Fair is scheduled for March 10, 2016 at Columbia College.

2015 Guidance Counselor Campus Tour

Guidance counselors and education professionals from SC high schools gained exposure to SC independent and liberal arts schools through a tour of 10 of SCICU's 20 member colleges June 15-19, 2015.

The tour, which began with registration at Columbia International Unversity, visited Columbia College, Benedict College, Claflin University, Charleston Southern University, Voorhees College, Presbyterian College, Erskine College, Southern Wesleyan University, North Greenville University, and Furman University.

The remaining 10 SCICU member colleges will be visited during the 2016 Campus Tour, which will be held June 13-17, 2016.



CIC Matching Grant Challenge - STEM Scholarships







SCICU is pleased to announce the beginning of an IT/STEM-related scholarship program that will award 60 scholarships to students at SCICU's member schools over a three-year period.

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), an association comprised of more than 600 nonprofit independent colleges and universities, issued a \$25,000 matching challenge grant to SCICU in July 2014 for the support of IT/STEM-related studies at SCICU member colleges and universities.

SCICU's existing donors and new donors answered and exceeded the CIC challenge. In August 2015, SCICU announced that the CIC fundraising challenge had been exceeded by \$10,000, resulting in a total of \$60,000 available for IT/STEM-related scholarships beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year.

The SCICU/IT-oLogy scholarship program will award twenty (20) \$1,000 scholarships (one per SCICU member institution) during the next three academic years. Scholarship recipients will be selected from students who are majoring in Information Technology, Computer Science, Applied Computing, and other STEM-related majors.

IT-oLogy is a Columbia, SC-based non profit collaboration of businesses, academic institutions and organizations dedicated to growing the IT talent pipeline, fostering economic development and advancing the IT profession.

SCICU appreciates the support of the following 48 generous donors who made the SICU/CIC Challenge Grant a huge success:

Jennet Alterman

Henry Barton

Henri Baskins

William Beaty

William Deaty

Charlotte Berry

Clyde Bess

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC

BMW Manufacturing Company, LLC

Malissa Burnette

Council of Independent Colleges

Cox Industries, Inc.

Emma Dean

Edward and Janet Duffy

Lonnie Emard

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

James C. Fort

4E Ventures, LLC

Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, P.A.

HRP Associates, Inc.

Milton Kimpson

Jay Lasater

Michael G. LeFever

Amy Love

Erwin and Nancy Maddrey

Malloy Foundation

Earl Mayo

Lucy Grey McIver

Kathy McKinney

Metromont Corporation

Midland Agency Service

Derial Ogburn

Provista

James D. Reynolds

Harriet L. Rucker

Sanders Family Foundation

Edward M. Shannon, III

Minor M. Shaw

Cary and Marilyn Smith

South State Bank

Spinx Company

TD Bank, NA

Andrew and Brenda Torrence

Vulcan Materials

Claude Walker

Walsh Consulting Group, LLC

Brent A. Weaver

Williams Family Foundation

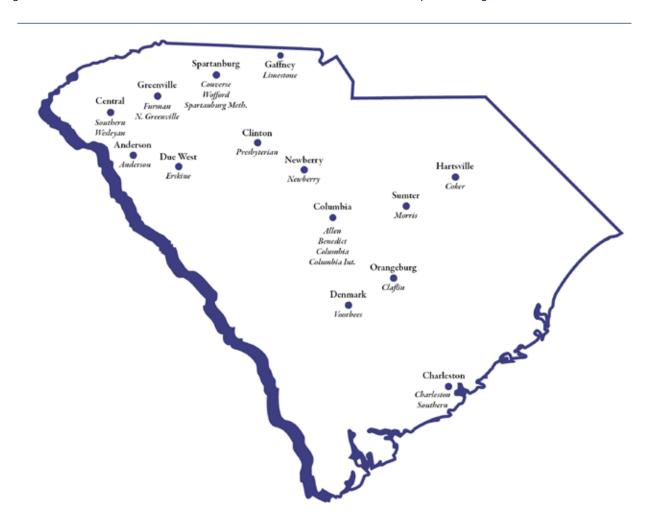
Edward T. Zeigler, Jr.

Educational and Economic Impact of Independent Colleges and Universities

SCICU represents twenty independent colleges and universities each with a unique historical, cultural, and in many instances, faith background. SCICU's membership includes five historically black colleges and universities, two all-women's colleges, and a two-year institution.

SCICU institutions:

- Enrolled 33,811 students (Fall 2014)
 - o 30,977 undergraduate students (13.5% of SC's total two and four-year undergraduate enrollment)
 - o 2,834 graduate students
- Awarded 5,500 bachelor's degrees (over 23% of SC's baccalaureate degrees) and 1,069 graduate degrees, (FY 2014)
- Served a diverse group of students including 45% minorities; 31% minorities excluding the 5 historically black colleges and universities (Fall 2014)
- Employed 6,941 faculty and staff and several thousand student workers (November 2014)
- Contributed more than \$751 million annually directly to the state's economy (FY 2014)
- Provided close to \$247 million in institutional aid to students (FY 2014)
- Saved the state's taxpayers almost \$12.0 million in state appropriations required to enroll an equivalent number of students in public colleges and universities (FY 2015)



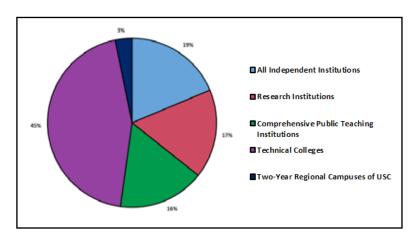




Independent and Public College and University Students Participating in South Carolina Financial Aid Programs for 2014-15 Academic Year

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE	MAXIMUM AWARDS / ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS*		INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS \$ AWARDED / # STUDENTS		STATE INSTITUTIONS \$ AWARDED / # STUDENTS	
Palmetto Fellows Requirements:	Up to \$6,700 freshmen/ \$10,000 sophomores - seniors Must meet 1 of 2 requirement sets: (1) 3.5 GPA, 1200 SAT / 27 ACT, <u>and</u> top 6% of class, or (2) 4.0 GPA <u>and</u> 1400 SAT/ 32 ACT	\$ 10,466,670	1,349	\$ 46,559,943	5,760	
LIFE Requirements:	Up to \$5,000 freshmen / \$7,500 sophomores - seniors Must meet 2 of 3: 3.0 GPA, 1100 SAT / 24 ACT, or top 30% of class	\$ 31,750,666	6,335	\$ 152,036,983	30,901	
HOPE Requirements:	Up to \$2,800 3.0 GPA, available for freshman year only	\$ 2,753,263	1,073	\$ 5,854,645	2,374	
Tuition Grants Requirements:	Independent <i>only</i> : Need-based up to \$3,000 Must meet 1 of 4: 900 SAT, 19 ACT, top 75% of high school class, or 2.0 GPA	\$ 36,095,796	13,358	N/A		
Need-Based Grants Requirements:	Public only: Up to \$2,500 2.0 GPA and demonstrated need via FAFSA (Need-based awards for Independents included in tuition grants	N/A above)		\$ 22,033,074	17,200	
Lottery Tuition Assis Requirements:	\$ 521,242 tutions egree	265	\$ 47,719,015	38,726		
* Additional requireme	\$ 79,561,782	21,930	\$ 274,203,660	94,961		

Independent and Public College and University Students Participating in South Carolina Financial Aid Programs for 2014-15 Academic Year



FINANCIAL CONDITION: September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

1,040,000 \$ 4,528,983

The financial statements of SCICU are audited by the firm of Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC CPAs, who have issued their unmodified opinion. The following statement of assets is drawn from their 2015 audit. Total assets of \$4,528,983 on August 31, 2015 compares to \$4,812,332 on August 31, 2014.

Because our member colleges are assessed dues to underwrite the entire administrative and operating costs of the association, 100% of all contributions raised from donors is distributed to the members without any reductions for fund-raising costs. Gifts and awards totaling \$594,579 were distributed during the year.

In an effort to minimize dues to our members, SCICU has employed a series of strict financial accounting controls and budgetary constraints to reduce its expenses and has utilized more sophisticated investments to improve revenues. As a result, no increase in dues to our members has been imposed since 1992.

SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND NET ASSETS
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
For the year ending August 31, 2015

CURRENT ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents \$ 403,523 **INVESTMENTS** 4,103,386 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT \$121,531 Building **Building improvements** 34,247 Office furniture and equipment 33,300 189,078 Less accumulated depreciation \$ 167,004 22,074 \$ 4,528,983 **NET ASSETS UNRESTRICTED** \$2,468,095 UNRESTRICTED - BOARD DESIGNATED 655,551 \$ 3,123,646 TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED 365,337

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND OTHER CHANGES
IN NET ASSETS — MODIFIED CASH BASIS
For the year ending August 31, 2015

REVENUES	
Gifts and awards received	\$ 477,365
Member college assessments	548,257
Interest and dividends	261,079
Special function	46,012
	\$ 1,332,713
EXPENSES	
Unrealized and realized loss on investments	414,712
Gifts and awards distributed	594,579
Operating costs	606,771
	\$ 1,616,062
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(283,349)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,812,332
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 4,528,983



Important Dates: 2016

February 9 Career Connections Job Fair Columbia Metropolitan Center 9am - 5pm

February 18 Research Symposium Milliken Center, Spartanburg 8:30am - 4:30pm

February 23 Board of Trustees Meeting Newberry College

March 10 Teacher Recruitment Fair Columbia College, Columbia 9am - 3pm

April 12 Excellence in Teaching Dinner Columbia Metropolitan Center 6pm - 9pm

April 13 SC Independent Colleges & Universities Day at the State House

June 13 - 17 Guidance Counselor Campus Tour



SCICU seeks to advance independent higher education through fundraising, scholarships, research, and by facilitating collaborative activities among the member institutions.



Our mission is to support and promote the values of independent higher education in South Carolina.