



Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services
Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 3:00PM
Via Zoom ONLY

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 811 2502 0865 Passcode: 680682

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes Dr. Hugh Mobley, Chair
2. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII)
Annual Report *(For Approval)* Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Acting Executive Director
and President
Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Executive Director
3. Other Business
4. Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 7, 2024
Thursday, May 2, 2024
Thursday, June 6, 2024
August TBA
Thursday September 5, 2024
Thursday, November 7, 2024



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

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Minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2024
3:55PM

Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Hugh Mobley, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Bettie Rose Horne
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Oran Smith

Guests

Mr. Walter Collins, USC Palmetto College
Ms. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII
Ms. Kimberly Smalls, SCIII
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University

Staff Members Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk	Ms. Kristin Brooks
Ms. Morgan Clinton	Ms. Jamie Covell
Dr. Gerrick Hampton	Ms. Kathryn Harris
Ms. Andrea LaTouche	Ms. Mariana Manic
Ms. Alfie Mincy	Ms. Yolanda Myers
Ms. Christine Seale	Ms. Nia Simmons
Ms. Yarley Steedly	Mr. Georges Tippens
Ms. Bunnie Ward	Ms. Tanya Weigold
Ms. Leslie Williams	Ms. Bryce Wilson
Ms. Lishu Yin	

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tanya Weigold introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chairman Hugh Mobley provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance. Chairman Mobley introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Committee on Access and Equity & Student Services, Dr. Oran Smith.

Chairman Mobley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services' December 7, 2023, meeting. A **motion** was made (Horne), **seconded** (Seckinger), and carried to approve the minutes.



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2. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) Quarter 2 Report (For Approval)

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a brief overview of the Quarter One and Two reports for the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) headquarters. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that SCIII is funded by proviso to allow the Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU's) to promote innovative programs to attract research faculty and allow for students to major in critical need areas to prepare them for the work force.

Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Executive Director, reviewed the Quarter One and Two reports. Dr. Nelson highlighted collaborations with various government agencies and community engagement efforts. Dr. Nelson discussed the utilization of carry-forward money from the previous fiscal year, emphasizing the need for transparency and presented the program's plan to provide updates on its intended use. Dr. Nelson shared that that she and Dr. Woodfaulk are working to establish guidelines for the use of carry-forward money in the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Horne **motioned** approval of the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII) Quarter One and Two reports. Commissioner Batson **seconded**, and the motion carried.

3. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarter 2 Report (For Approval)

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a brief overview of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT). She explained that SC-PRRMT was providing the report for Quarter Two. Dr. Woodfaulk reported that the SC-PRRMT program increased from 73 participants in Fall 2023 to 78 participants Spring 2024. Dr. Woodfaulk highlighted that the program increased from 12 sites to 14 sites during the previous quarter. Chairman Mobley discussed the low graduation rate, noting that COVID may have affected the retention rate of that cohort.

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Program Manager for SC-PRMMT, reviewed the Quarter Two report. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that SC State University now utilizes a program called SLATE. SLATE allows the Admissions office to better track and communicate with students, especially students with incomplete applications. Ms. Thomas-Myers noted that tuition and fees for the program stayed the same for Spring 2023, but the insurance amount did increase slightly.

Commissioner Horne and Commissioner Seckinger expressed concern regarding the passing of the PRAXIS exams. Ms. Thomas-Myers emphasized that the PRAXIS exam is still the biggest barrier for program participants. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared a draft plan to spend down the carry-forward funding. In addition to hiring two part-time recruiters, the program will hire PRAXIS specialists to provide instruction to program participants. The program will also cover all materials, testing supplies, and pay the testing fee for each student.

Chairman Mobley requested that SC-PRRMT provide an end of fiscal year report to review the carry-forward spending. Commissioner **Horne** motioned approval of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) Quarter Two report. Commissioner Batson **seconded**, and the motion carried.

4. Better FAFSA Review

Ms. Kathryn Harris began by acknowledging the recent changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process is due to the FAFSA Simplification Act passed in December 2020. Ms. Harris emphasized the goal of simplifying the FAFSA was to make it less of a barrier for families.

Ms. Harris detailed several changes in the FAFSA process, including the introduction of the Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) for each contributor, the increase in the federal Pell Grant to \$7,395, and the replacement of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) with the Student Aid Index (SAI).

Ms. Harris shared some concerns regarding the Better FAFSA, specifically the delayed update of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and potential impacts on students and institutions. Ms. Harris indicated institutions will not receive FAFSA data until mid-March or early April.

Committee members expressed concerns about the potential negative impact on students, loss of need-based funding, and the delay in FAFSA information affecting decision timelines for the class of 2024. Commissioner Seckinger suggested CAESS communicate these concerns to South Carolina legislators and the Attorney General to address the possibility of broader implications of the FAFSA changes.

Ms. Harris concluded her presentation by emphasizing the challenges and uncertainties posed by the FAFSA changes, urging collaboration to address potential issues. Committee members acknowledged the severity of the situation and discussed the need for proactive measures to mitigate the impact.

5. College Goal South Carolina Overview

Ms. Morgan Clinton and Ms. Jamie Covell reviewed College Goal SC; a state-wide FAFSA completion initiative. Ms. Clinton shared the approaches the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) is taking in the midst of the Better FAFSA changes. Ms. Clinton stated that CHE has hosted several trainings on how to host a College Goal event and has provided a variety of resources and tool kits to high school counselors. In addition, Ms. Clinton shared that CHE continually provides updates on social media regarding the most up-to-date information on the Better FAFSA. Ms. Clinton stated that although the Better FAFSA has delayed the College Goal events (which normally begin in October), high schools were still hosting events to share information with families and to create their FSA ID's.

Ms. Clinton shared that CHE has been doing targeted outreach to low-income first-generation students by partnering with local TRIO programs. She further stated that CHE has shared resources with local TRIO programs on how to host successful drive-through events to provide opportunities for families to complete the FAFSA in a convenient setting. Ms. Clinton also shared that CHE will be hosting several FAFSA events at local libraries to provide more opportunities for families to complete the FAFSA.

Ms. Covell shared that the Class of 2023 ranked 15th in the nation for FAFSA completion. Ms. Covell stated that 64 million dollars in Federal Aid was left of the table by SC families by not completing the FAFSA in 2023; this is roughly \$5,108 per student. Ms. Covell emphasized that next year's data may be affected by the Better FAFSA delay. Chairman Mobley and Commissioner Seckinger requested a follow-up on how the Better FAFSA affected Class of 2024 when CHE has more data. Chairman Mobley suggested that CHE inform the General Assembly that need-based aid may be affected by the Better FAFSA delay.

6. Legislative Review

Ms. Yarley Steedly reviewed scholarship legislation of interest, including bills currently in committee and bills have that crossed over from last year.

7. Scholarship Overview and Invoicing

Student affairs staff reviewed the eligibility requirements and awarding processes for each state scholarship and grant program. Mr. Bryce Wilson then reviewed the invoicing process for the lottery funding.

8. Methodology for Future Scholarship Projections

Ms. Mariana Manic presented information regarding the new model on how to project scholarship needs for the Palmetto Fellows, HOPE, and LIFE Scholarship programs. Ms. Manic indicated that CHE will employ the new model that uses seven different methods of projection. The model is dynamic in that a different method may be chosen each year based on updated data. This should provide more flexibility in the future by ensuring additional projection accuracy as scholarship trends change.

Chairman Mobley asked if the previous method stayed 'static' and that is reason the carry-over funding accumulated. Commissioner Batson further asked if the carry-forward accumulated over many years or recently. Mr. Georges Tippens explained that by using the comp method, CHE assumed the trend was going to continue. Mr. Tippens expressed that the carry-forward only really accumulated in the last few years. Mr. Tippens further expressed that when COVID occurred, the Compound Growth Rate method did not account for the difference between projected and actual enrollment numbers thus creating the 152 million in carry-forward funding.

Chairman Mobley suggested that the new model results be reviewed annually by CAESS to ensure that the model for scholarship funding estimates continue to project accurately. Commissioner Batson asked that previously identified information regarding the buildup of the carry-forward funding be shared during the next CAESS meeting. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Seckinger, and Commissioner Batson suggested CAESS shares this information with Senate Finance and Ways and Means.

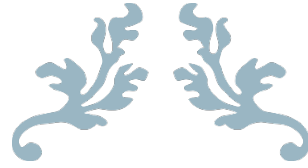
9. **Other Business**

There was no other business presented at the meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no additional items before the Committee, Chairman Mobley adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

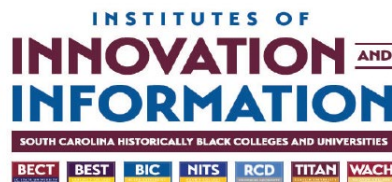




2023-24

SCIII ANNUAL REPORT

Presented by: Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Executive Director



FEBRUARY 20, 2024
SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTES OF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION



Executive Summary

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information

January 2024

Submitted By
Gwynth R. Nelson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information is critical to the mission of *teaching and learning, research and scholarship, service, and community engagement*. Created with special funding from the South Carolina Legislature in 2021, the Institutes on the seven senior Historically Black College and University campuses is a seamless conduit for partnerships between these institutions and state businesses and industry. The Institutes provide not only specialized training and services that assist in retaining many of the state's graduates but partnerships that assist businesses and industry in training, diversifying, and improving their workforce which ultimately impacts the South Carolina economy.

Highlights

With its home office located in Orangeburg, the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII), became a part of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education as of January 2023. The Commission serves as the fiscal agent.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

SCIII promotes a culture of teaching and learning at all seven of the Institutes. The SCIII home office bridged several relationships with state agencies and local businesses during the 2023-24 fiscal year. For instance, Benedict College established relationships with UBER for school van travel, Atlanta Photojournalism Seminar Film Festival and the National Association of African American Honor Program; at Claflin University relationships were tenured with the London Metropolitan University and the Family Health Center for Nursing and Collective Impact for Teaching; Morris College garnered relationships with the Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic; South Carolina State University established relationships with the National Department of Transportation and over 20 local businesses that mentored students while Voorhees established a partnership with the Williamsburg County School District and GEAR UP.



With a cumulative enrollment of more than 7,000 students, more than 12 percent of these students received direct services via the Institutes. We assisted the Institutes in establishing relationships with businesses within the state, including state agencies.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

SCIII facilitated meetings with several federal agencies. We were honored to host the Undersecretary of Commerce for a Business Roundtable that included more than thirty different state agencies and all seven of the HBCU presidents and senior administrators. Hosted at Allen University, this event explored several grant opportunities for assisting these schools in increasing broadband research support for their respective communities. We also hosted several meetings with the SC Department of Commerce and Scout Motors to discuss the needs they will have for staffing an electronic vehicle operation in the state. The seven Institutes agreed to assist the agency in recruiting and employing their students.

We also contacted and engaged in discussions of how these schools could assist federal agencies. We established relationships with the following:

- The US Department of Commerce
- The US Department of Labor
- The US Department of Transportation
- The US Department of Defense
- The US Department of Energy

The seven schools are currently the recipient of a grant from the US Department of Energy. This grant of \$20 million is designed to increase the number of students majoring in STEM and preparing them to be ready for the workforce.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Institutes are committed to service and community engagement activities that will enhance not only their respective offerings but assist business and industry as well as local, state, national and international entities in reaching their goals. To this end, SCIII assisted several of the schools in partnering with agencies and local community groups. As a result, academic programs and services offered on the respective college campuses have been strengthened and organizations and or businesses with whom they engaged have been advanced.

Among the many groups SCIII assisted the schools in establishing or renewing relationships with included the following:

- US Chamber of Commerce



- US Department of Transportation
- South Carolina Black Caucus
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina
- EdVenture Museum
- Scout Motors
- Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic
- Office of Regulatory Staff
- HBCUs Discovery Program
- DESA Incorporated

LOCAL AND STATE IMPACT

During this fiscal year, the SCIII office produced an Impact Report that demonstrates the footprint these seven schools and their respective Institutes have on the wider community. The report shows clear, actionable data that communicates the ethical stance and ways in which these institutions bridge the gap between local actions and global implications, contributing more than \$136 million to the state's economy annually. The report tracks the progress toward social impact and sustainability goals, highlighting many efforts made to stakeholders.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is without question that the seven senior HBCUs of South Carolina play a vital and significant role in the state. The Institutes provide leadership that is essential for relevant student development and especially for business and industry. While all these schools have historically offered strong and vibrant academic programs that helped produce some of the best and brightest citizens within the state, the Institutes provide new models of collaboration. To continue the path forward, there are several things that are needed. Among these are the following:

- Continue building capacity and knowledge for each Institute's offering. It is imperative that collaborative efforts are required to build skills, capacity, and knowledge within and among the Institutes, and with business and industry. Currently SCIII Headquarters is working with 10-12 business and industry leaders. The goal is to increase this by 10% for the next fiscal year.
- Increased state funding is needed to assist the Institutes in becoming stronger entities that help to produce graduates that remain in the state as viable employees and taxpayers. These institutes can play a leading role in health care, business, transportation, security, education, and community development. With an additional \$1 million allocated to the Institutes, this will assist with strengthening and developing stronger ties with the businesses within the state, especially in the areas of workforce development, recruitment, research, and training.



- More work must be done to help business and industry create internal innovation or social venture funds that can support these schools. Philanthropic foundations can make more effective use of their funds by considering more inclusive business models. SCIII must be able to apply for grants and financial support from philanthropic foundations. Our goal is to hire an executive consultant/grant writer to assist with this task.

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information

Boeing Institute of Civility at Allen University
Institute of Business, Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology at Benedict College
Institute of Teaching and Nursing at Claflin University
Institute of Wellness and Community Health at Clinton College
The John L. Scott, Jr. Institute of Network Information, Technology and Security at Morris College
Institute of Business, Environment, Communications and Transportation at South Carolina State University
Institute on Rural Community Development at Voorhees University

Explanation for Annual Report (July 1, 2023 – January 4, 2024) (SCIII Headquarters)

Budget FY 2023-2024

For FY 2023-2024, the General Assembly awarded the SCIII Headquarters an allocation of \$700,000 and required the Commission of Higher Education to be the fiscal agent for the SCIII Headquarters. The employees of SCIII Headquarters are currently considered temporary employees of the Commission of Higher Education.

Budget Explanation for FY 2023-2024

Executive Director Salary: The total approved salary for the Executive Director for FY 2023-2024 was \$162,000, which included an 8% pay raise (3% for 2021-2022 and 5% for 2022-2023) by the SCIII Board in July 2023. However, the increase was approved by CHE Board December 2023 and was received by Executive Director the pay date January 16, 2024. The total amount for salary for Quarter 1 was \$37,500 and for Quarter 2 was \$37,500 and the fringes for Quarter 1 were \$13,619.10 and the fringes for Quarter 2 were \$13,378.68.

Assistant Executive Director: The position will be posted in March 2024 with an expected hired date before the end of Quarter 4.



Executive Assistant: The total approved salary for the Executive Assistant for FY 2023-2024 was \$59,400, which included an 8% pay raise (3% for 2021-2022 and 5% for 2022-2023) by the SCIII Board in July 2023. However, the increase was approved by CHE Board of Directors in December 2023 and was received by the Executive Assistant on the pay date of January 16, 2024. The total amount of salary for Quarter 1 was \$9,166.54 and for Quarter 2 \$18,333.38. (Please note that there was an administrative timing error with payroll, which caused the significant difference in pay from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2.) The fringes for Quarter 1 were \$5,917.57 and the fringes for Quarter 2 were \$5,812.57.

Administrative: The administrative cost charged by the Commission on Higher Education for Quarter 1 was \$857.80 and for Quarter 2 was \$6,166.06. The total cost for the FY 2023-2024 will be \$24,000.

Contractual Services: The total cost for the Executive Consultant for Quarter 1 was \$2,500 and the total cost for the Executive Consultant for Quarter 2 was \$7,490.00. The total cost for a Business Consultant was \$6,774.58, listed under ‘other’, which was for invoices and services from the prior year.

Contractual Services (other): There were no expenditures for Contractual Services (other) for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

Equipment and Office Equipment: There were no expenditures for Equipment and Office Equipment for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

Materials and Supplies: There were no expenditures for Materials and Supplies for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

Communications/Marketing: The total for the impact report for Quarter 1 was \$6,830.58 and for Quarter 2 was \$3,169.42.

Travel/Transportation: The total cost for Quarter 1 was \$1,025.11 which included in-state and out-of-state travel for mileage, rental vehicles, and lodging, and the total cost for Quarter 2 was \$1,651.76 which included in-state and out-of-state travel for mileage, rental vehicles, and lodging. The cost of travel/transportation was incurred by the Executive Director for visits to the SCIII Institutes for Institute Director meetings and/or school activities/events.

Other Expenditures: The total for Quarter 1 was \$1,500 and for Quarter 2 was \$6,500 which included publication fees and sponsorships for the Institute’s events.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES for FY 2023-2024 (from July 1, 2023-January 4, 2024)

Total Expenditures - \$185,693.15



The Year in Review: (July 1, 2023 – January 4, 2024)

ALLEN UNIVERSITY

Focus of Institute

The Boeing Institute provides a series of courses and related experiences to build both the theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of civility. Additionally, a quarterly symposium on important issues of the day with exchanges from opposite ends of the continuum will originate from the Institute's Studio which has been designed and built for such purposes. These broadcasts will engage national and international audiences emanating from the campus of Allen University.

Goals for FY 2023-24

1. The Boeing Institute on Civility (BIC) will provide a series of courses to enhance the understanding and practice of civility. There will be four projected courses offered to develop and train individuals as it relates to civility.
2. The BIC will produce and host a quarterly symposium on a pertinent issue or a major challenge to higher education.
3. The memorial for the Emmanuel Nine will be completed by the end of March. The University will hold an open house (date to be determined); but projected to be May 2024, and will host various groups at different times of the day (i.e. Family of the Emmanuel Nine; the AME Church; community; faculty/staff/students).
4. The Waverly Wall Museum's "*Waverly-good Samaritan Pioneers*" will have portraits on display. The purpose of the portraits is to feature the doctors and nurses that worked or trained in the hospital during the Jim Crow era; as the Waverly Hospital was the only training facility for blacks in Columbia.
5. The inaugural Dominion Energy Palmetto African American Hall of Fame event will occur by the end of the 2023-24 academic year. It is tentatively scheduled for June 2024, with an anticipated count of 300 guests and attendees.

Goals Achieved

1. Four courses have been designed and are being offered by Allen University:
 - a. The Art and Practice of Listening
 - b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - c. Examining Facts and Fiction
 - d. The Philosophy of Language
2. The Waverly Wall Museum currently displays portraits of the "Waverly-good Samaritan Pioneers."



3. The Inaugural Speakers Symposium, The Preamble: A Civil Discourse, was held on January 19, 2024, with Former Congresswoman Liz Cheney and Former Congresswoman Val Demings as speakers. The symposium was live broadcast conducted by FOX-57.

The number of students that attended the symposium were 12, the number of faculty members who attended was 15, the number of businesses engaged were 11, and the number of community members engaged was 95.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$127,950.18 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included personnel, equipment, materials and supplies, and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel Expenses: \$97,940.00

- Quarter 1 partial salary for Institute Director \$48,970.00
- Quarter 2 partial salary for Institute Director \$48,970.00

Equipment/Office Equipment: \$647.99

- Furniture/Equipment

Materials/Supplies: \$24,357.19

- Office Supplies
- Promotional Supplies

Communication/Marketing: \$5,005.00

- Press Releases
- Printed Materials

TOTAL: \$127,950.18

BENEDICT COLLEGE

Focus of Institute

The BEST Institute is designed to improve academic quality, fiscal stability, financial literacy, institutional management, and student services initiatives. BEST focuses on several initiatives to include: (1) Administrative Improvements to support the Infrastructure for Teaching, Learning Initiatives; (2) Improving Academic Programs – Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service-Learning; (3) The Benedict College Business, Entrepreneurship, Science, and Technology (BEST) Innovation Lab; (4) BEST Institute Scholars Program and (5) Student Development's Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative.



Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Provide maintenance and license support for Jenzabar EX and additional applications that integrate with EX, the college ERP system. Jenzabar EX is essential to the daily operations of the college. Faculty, staff, and students all rely on this operating system. General maintenance upgrades to the Jenzabar EX system, the licenses are upgrades due to the functionality of the system. Online trainings will take place with faculty and staff with some trainings held by the Jenzabar team as well as the Benedict IT staff.
2. Ensures the campus has a high performance, secure, robust network infrastructure designed to meet the College's administrative, academic, research and outreach initiatives. The IT staff will continue working to strengthen remote and online access campus wide, due to lack of broadband service in and around the school's location. Periodic surveys to faculty, staff and students will be administered to assist with needed upgrades if possible.
3. Provide training to IT staff to ensure that technology is up to date and meets the needs of all users campuswide. This includes hardware and software. The number of trainings we plan to provide is yet to be determined.

Goals Achieved

1. Improved wireless connectivity and performance and security for faculty, staff, and students. Staff used architectural drawings to develop heat maps of all buildings on campus to determine the optimal placement of access points to support wireless coverage. A Google Tech Team (analytics team) came on campus equipped with a device (virtual device designed to perform a digital scan) did a walk through and pinpointed the problem areas to help assist the IT Staff on campus with connectivity/functionality problem areas.
2. Improved network and wireless security. The staff, with the assistance of a consultant, implemented new campuswide wireless security policies. Representatives from a Google Tech Team determined that the wireless network had been improved; and faculty, staff and students stated the connectivity had been improved.
3. Provided security awareness training to faculty and staff. More than 1,750 students and 153 businesses were directly impacted.
4. Student internship programs and experimental learning events to enrich development opportunities to fulfill academic and experiential learning outcomes, networking, knowledge expansion, skill development, and other NACE competencies were offered. Students attended several external programs to include, but not limited to, the following:
 - NAAHP (National Association of African American's Honor's Program)



- The Bourbon and Beyond Music Festival
 - NABA (National Association of Black Accountants) Regional Conference
 - Atlanta Photojournalism Seminar Film Festival
 - Atlanta Buried Alive Film Festival
 - Genoa, Italy Study Abroad Program
 - DOT Transportation Summit at SC State University; there were approximately 10-15 students that attended.
5. Developed (5) strategic relationships/partnerships that promote entrepreneurship and resource aggregation.
- Partnership with GrowCo Columbia
 - SC Quantum Association
 - SC Research Authority for Translational Research
 - University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) HBCU Working Group
 - NSF EPIIC Grant and the Eco-Engine Innovation Lab with Somerset College (KY) and Rose State College (OK)
6. Secured grant funding of \$526,500.00 from the Deshpande Foundation Rising Star Award – Excellence in Student Engagement in Entrepreneurship HU|PNC Entrepreneurship Education Innovation. Impacted more than 290 students and faculty, 14 businesses and engaged more than 33 community citizens.
7. Identified more than 150 eligible students to receive BEST Institute scholarship awards.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$ 200,562.00 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included personnel, equipment, materials and supplies, and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel Expenses

- Salary: \$110,030.00
- Fringes: \$22,788.00
 - ❖ CIO, Systems Administrator, and IT Help Desk

Travel/Transportation: \$11,317.00

- Mileage
- Flights
- Lodging
- Meals
- Out-of-State Transportation



Other Expenditures: \$56,427.00

- Contractual Services for Systems Administrators
- Out-of-State Registration Fees

TOTAL: \$200,562.00

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

Focus of Institute

TITAN is a unique partnership, affording multiple opportunities for the divisions of nursing and teaching at Claflin University. The Institute is critical in addressing the shortages of teachers in schools (both public and private) and the dearth of nurses in a variety of health-related fields.

Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Provide cutting edge academic programs in nursing and teaching of an innovative nature. There are currently two programs in Nursing (Bachelor's and Master's). The Master of Science in Nursing has two tracks: Nursing Leadership and Family Nurse Practitioner. There are three programs in teaching (Bachelors, Masters, and M.Ed.)
2. Improve Student Engagement, Student Success, and Technology Infrastructure. This will be measured by surveys, and student town hall meetings.
3. Expand a collaborative economic workforce development structure. This will be measured by the number of businesses and industries that provide scholarships and internships through our students in the TITAN Institute.
4. Incorporate creative global strategies in developing students for careers in teaching and nursing. These strategies will be incorporated into the teaching strategies in the classroom. They will be measured by the number of students enrolled in the teaching and nursing programs.

Goals Achieved

1. Held conversations with a variety of nursing and teaching agencies in the state of SC and abroad to ascertain possibilities for the establishment of MOUs to recruit and to retain nurses and teacher educators. Several conversations were held with three nursing and three teaching agencies in the state of South Carolina.
2. Expanded Partnerships: Family Health Center (Nursing) Collective Impact (Teaching)
3. Provided scholarships to aid nursing students in completion of their program. We admitted a record number of students in Fall 2023 (37).



4. Purchased simulation equipment to enhance on campus clinical immersion experiences for nursing students.
5. Improved recruitment of new students by integrating iPads for onsite visualization of learning platform and Claflin University website.
6. Graduated 210 Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to date.
7. Eleven Family Nurse Practitioner completed the Master of Science in Nursing program and 100 percent passed the national board certification examination.
8. Attained over \$1 million in funding for nursing scholarships.
9. Completed reaffirmation of nursing accreditation for 10 years with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.
10. Inducted 25 education candidates into Claflin's Teacher Education program.
11. Current nursing enrollment of 77 students in BSN (47 students) and MSN (30 students) programs.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$104,775.49 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included program development, training, personnel, materials and supplies, equipment, and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel Expenses: \$44,042.19

- Institute Director
- Administrative Support

Equipment/Office Equipment: \$49,387.92

- Enhanced simulation for on-campus learning experiences of nursing students
- Computers

Materials/Supplies: \$7,051.30

- Interactive test simulations
- Student passport for international travel

Travel: \$4,294.08

- Teaching and Nursing divisions visit for each of the 16 SC Technical Colleges for recruitment purposes



- Facilitate 3 International Study Abroad Experiences (Fall, Spring, Summer) for Nursing and Teaching

TOTAL: \$104,775.49

CLINTON COLLEGE

Focus of the Institute

The WACH Institute at Clinton College is designed to eliminate and ensure equitable community health outcomes through participatory evaluation, applied research, assessment, planning, and data services.

Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Increase wellness opportunities for global learners. This is expected to increase by 50%.
2. Increase community outreach in Black churches. 25%
3. Raise mental health awareness on and off the Clinton campus by hosting events, outreach and linking students to the community resources.
4. Create wellness policies for students that promote early intervention and campus-wide community prevention. This would be measured by 2-3 policies.
5. Develop campus and community health initiatives that address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). This will be documented by the number of students that come out to campus events.
6. Promote the adoption of a healthy lifestyle on and off the Clinton campus. This will be documented by the number of students that come out to campus events.

Goals Achieved

1. Hired a team of 3 members to work with and develop WACH programming.
2. Built connections with local community partners, with a collaboration with the Rock Hill school district and became a partner in the 5210-Healthy Together Program, designed to improve families and children's health.
3. Developed a new health initiative/program on campus. Some of the initiatives/programs are between Clinton ConNEXTion, Habitat for Humanity of York County, North Central Health Center, Mt. Prospect Church and the Faith and Health Coalition of York County.
4. Developed a new community initiative within Rock Hill, SC. The name of the For the Love of the Healthy Heart. Measured by the number of participants impacted by events at



the off-campus event. 50 informational packets were handed out to students. 8 weeks of the summer lunch program, about 1500 students were impacted.

5. Provided direct access to 55 students, 12 faculty members, 75 local businesses and engaged more than 1600 community citizens.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$177,261.36 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included personnel, equipment, materials and supplies and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel: (6 employees)

- Salary & Fringes Expenses: \$155,024.92
 - ❖ Institute Director
 - ❖ Administrative Support
 - ❖ Community Health Coordinator
 - ❖ WACH Programming Team consisting of 3 members

Equipment/Office Equipment: \$8,736.44

- Office Supplies
- Promotional Supplies

Other Expenditures: \$13,500.00

- Consultation Fee

TOTAL: \$177,261.36

MORRIS COLLEGE

Focus of Institute

NITS prepares cybersecurity professionals for exciting careers in the field. The Institute serves as a conduit for partnerships between the College and state business/industry and works to diversify and improve the state's workforce. The Institute bridge relationships and partnerships with businesses and industries as a means of supporting one another in a synergistic manner and helping train students for maximum career readiness. Through research, internships, and other opportunities the Institute produce a better-trained worker with lower costs in terms of job training and onboarding.



Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Expand Cybersecurity-Exports faculty, by hiring of more faculty as the school's overall enrollment increases.
2. Increase student enrollment; approximately 32 students are enrolled and expect to enroll 50 students.
3. Upgrade Cybersecurity and Exports Laboratory equipment, through research of the constant technological changes.
4. Provide 10 scholarships and five summer research internships to students.

Goals Achieved

1. Installed Cybersecurity Laboratory equipment.
2. Hired a Cybersecurity professor.
3. Awarded 10 Cybersecurity scholarships.
4. Provided two summer research summer internships to students.
5. Increased enrollment from 2 students in 2022 to 30 students in 2023-24 fiscal year.
6. Hosted 400 high school juniors and seniors on Cybersecurity Awareness Day.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$97,368.00 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included student scholarships, personnel, equipment, materials and supplies and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel

- Salary & Fringes Expenses: \$92,348.00
 - ❖ Institute Director
 - ❖ Cybersecurity Professor

Equipment/Office Equipment: \$1,473.00

- Technology (Upgrade cables, networks in Cybersecurity Lab)

Travel: \$3,547.00

- Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach

TOTAL: \$97,368.00



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Focus of Institute

The BECT Institute connects industry leaders and resources with students, faculty and the community citizens that are grounded in innovation, research, and training. The Institute supports, build, and sustain innovative and high-quality programs that foster synergy and educational opportunities to meet the needs of students, faculty, and the community through business, environmental science, communications, and transportation.

Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Create a pipeline of skilled and innovative students through experiential learning, training, and research opportunities. This is measured by the number of students that participate in the research and training opportunities.
2. Engage in community development by assisting businesses to become financially successful and stable businesses. This will be measured by the number of businesses that participate in the various workshops and trainings that will be offered.
3. Develop working relationships with business, industry, and government leaders to enhance opportunities in business, environmental science, communication, and transportation. The goal is to develop 4-6 lasting relationships each year.
4. Expand the teaching, learning, research, and scholarship focus of the University. This will be measured by increasing the number of faculty, staff and students who participate in various events that focus on learning and research and offering scholarships.

Goals Achieved

1. Hosted a 2-day DOT Transportation Summit that included 9 federal agencies and 5 state agencies in the transportation industry. Through general and breakout sessions, the Summit brought together transportation experts and policymakers of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), various state transportation agencies, students, faculty, professional staff, and administrators of South Carolina's seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their key stakeholders to learn, discuss, and network around intermodal transportation education, research, innovations, and careers.
2. Congressman James E. Clyburn was the featured speaker on Day 1. More than 300 students, faculty, and staff from the seven HBCUs in South Carolina attended the 2-day event. The Summit made students and faculty in many disciplines aware of career and research opportunities with the Department of Transportation.



3. Implemented an experiential learning program in the area of Project Management. Students completed an 8-week training program taught by Certified Project Managers (CPM) and concluded the program by planning and implementing a project, which was a Jazzy Christmas Concert. The project management program is expected to add to the pipeline of minorities in project management by making students at South Carolina State University aware of career opportunities in project management and hopefully inspire some to seek further training in this area.
4. Over the past twelve months, 13 small businesses completed an extensive training program and developed marketing plans that will be implemented to grow their business. The program included 8 months of classroom training on various topics to include goal setting, managing cash flow, sales strategies, digital marketing, customer relations, human resources, tax planning, intellectual property rights, financial management and more. After the classroom training, they worked one-on-one with a coach to develop a marketing plan. Additionally, 12 students with an interest in entrepreneurship worked as interns with a participating business.
5. A Multi-Media Journalist (MMJ) Bootcamp – An intense 2-Day Boot Camp to train and teach Communication majors the basics of MMJ field reporting was held. The Bootcamp was led by 8 broadcast professionals from 5 television stations across three states in various fields, i.e. photography, reporting, writing, and editing. SC State students engaged in classroom discussion and went out on the streets, shadowed by a professional team member as they learned the basics of MMJ field reporting. In addition, equipment to include cameras, laptops, and accessories were purchased for the Communications program. The number of students impacted was 370, the number of faculty members was 36, the number of businesses engaged was 20 and the number of community members engaged was 34.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$227,283.00 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included conference expenses, training for both students and business owners/leaders, personnel, equipment, materials and supplies and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel: (2 employees, 1 consultant)

- Salary & Fringes Expenses: \$174,823.00
 - ❖ Institute Director
 - ❖ Administrative Assistants
 - ❖ BECT Team Leaders

Equipment/Office Equipment: \$7,644.00

- Cameras, laptops, and camera accessories



- Materials/Supplies: \$7,646.00
- Office Supplies
- Promotional Supplies

Communication/Marketing: \$14,953.00

- Cvent
- Printed Publications/Materials

Travel: \$3,612.00

- Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach (DOT Summit)

Other Expenditures: \$18,605.00

- Sponsorships, Memberships
- Student Stipends (Student Ambassadors)
- Food Service (DOT Summit)
- Photography
- Research Awards

TOTAL: \$227,283.00

VOORHEES UNIVERSITY

Focus of Institute

The RCD was created to assist in sustaining community initiatives that address the socio-economic well-being of students, faculty and staff and neighboring rural community citizens. The Institute develops innovative approaches to improve educational, career and housing opportunities, healthcare access, infrastructure needs and community relationships and partnerships in order to improve the living standards.

Goals of FY 2023-24

1. Ensure the implementation of enrichment programs in our high-poverty middle and high schools.
 - a. Outcomes: Increased participation in GEARUP by community schools and their students
 - b. Performance Measure: The GEAR UP team will measure the number of events held and the number of students participating in all events.



2. Provide services that promote increased access to healthcare services and knowledge about our Voorhees University and the surrounding community.
 - a. Outcome: At least two healthcare awareness events are hosted
 - b. Performance Measure: The rural healthcare team will establish a baseline participation rate for the healthcare events plan so that it can be used to measure future performances.
3. Search for additional funding to implement the RCDI's goals and objectives and enhance the RCDI's sustainability.
 - a. Outcome: The writing of at least one grant a year.
 - b. Performance Measure: Submission of at least one grant application
4. Develop partnerships and collaborations with governments, donors, businesses, local schools, colleges/universities, community members, and other stakeholders.
 - a. Outcome: Hosted at least two events with stakeholders
 - b. Performance Measure: We will document and use as our baseline the number of on-campus events held and the number of participants at each event. We will also note any evidence of collaboration on projects.

Goals Achieved

1. Increased participation in the GEARUP Program by community schools and their students. GEAR UP currently serves nine school districts: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Colleton, Hampton, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg Counties public school students' engagement with VU GEAR UP program increased from 547 students to 3,149 students. As GEAR UP matriculates with the current 8th and 9th-grade students, it prepares them to be academically, socially, mentally, and financially prepared to enter careers or colleges of their choice.
2. The RCDs Liberal Arts Innovation Center for Healthcare, Access, and Equity (LAIC) is designed to provide services that promote increased access to healthcare services for the University and surrounding community. To this end, a rural healthcare team was created to centralize efforts and work collaboratively to improve diseases awareness and access to health care for community members.
3. Voorhees University Health Services and Black Aids Institute engaged students in registering for the BHIVE, raising awareness, and providing education on HIV/AIDS, providing career opportunities in this field, and increasing conversations on HIV/AIDS. Incentives were given to all participants. The number of participants impacted consisted



of the following: 150 VU students, 25 faculty/staff, 25 businesses, and 25 community members.

4. Voorhees University received a grant from the Department of Justice and Office of Violence against Women for \$300,000 to focus on reducing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. During 2023, the project director engaged campus and community members Dean Hill, Chief Hale, CASA Family Systems, and the Denmark Police Department and developed a strategic plan to implement the grant.
5. Voorhees University partnered with Dr. Danette Fraliz McAlhaney at Bamberg Family Practice to begin offering telehealth services. The telehealth services will be partially funded through a grant from Bamberg Family Practice.
6. The Institute received a grant from the University of South Carolina's HBCU Health Discovery Program. The purpose of this grant is to:
 - a. Support HBCU-led initiatives for students and the surrounding community that define health equity from their context,
 - b. Prepare and inspire the next generation of highly skilled and influential health leaders to impact their campus and community.
 - c. Create a sustainable pipeline of diverse students entering the healthcare workforce.
7. World AIDS Day Program/HIV Testing incorporated the Greek Fraternities and Sororities on campus to bring awareness to HIV & AIDS. VU Health Services partnered with Hope Health which provided testing, lunch and incentives for all participants and attendees. The number of VU students who attended was 100, the number of faculty and staff who attended was 5, and one business attended.

Year-to-date Expenditures: *A total of \$158,346.49 was expended for the Institute's work. The expenses included program development, training, personnel, materials and supplies, equipment, and communications.*

Expenditures

Personnel Expenses: \$152,311.49

- Salary and Fringes Expenses
 - ❖ Institute Director
 - ❖ Administrative Support
 - ❖ Beloved Community Director



Other Expenditures: \$6,035.00

- Materials/Supplies
- Training
- Printed Materials

TOTAL: \$158,346.49