



Meeting of the South Carolina Commission  
on Higher Education Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement  
1 p.m., May 1, 2024 via Zoom Webinar

**Members**

Commissioner Doug Snyder (Chair)  
Commissioner Gene Fant

Commissioner Dino Teppara

**Commission Staff Present**

Ms. Bunnie Ward  
Ms. Shardai Figgures  
Mr. Mark Swart  
Dr. Kristin Brooks

Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Nia Simmons  
Ms. Alfie Mincy  
Ms. Yarley Steedly

**Guests**

Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Trena Houp (USC, Columbia)  
Shirley Hinson (College of Charleston)

Lloyd Willis (Lander University)  
Walter Collins (USC, Lancaster)

All attended via Zoom Webinar.

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Snyder opened the Committee on Strategic Initiatives and Engagement meeting and called it to order at 1:06 p.m. Ms. Shardai Figgures took attendance and noted that Commissioner Seckinger was also in attendance. The meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Committee did not have a quorum.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was not approved for a lack of quorum.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes were not approved for a lack of quorum.

**4. Director's Report**

Ms. Bunnie Ward presented the current CHE mission, vision and values and goals for review by the committee. She also gave a brief update on the Educator Preparation Program Report Card and noted that responsibility for it will transfer to Dr. Corey Gheesling. Lastly, Ms. Ward highlighted achievements for the OSIE surrounding strategy and engagement, including work around transfer and upcoming collaborations to further enhance transfer.



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## 5. Initiatives Update

### a. Transfer and Articulation

Dr. Brooks provided information on the CHE Transfer Report required in Proviso 117. 135 and noted that it was submitted to the General Assembly a day early, and that all commissioners received a copy as well. Dr. Brooks welcomed Dr. Lloyd Willis from Lander University, who spoke briefly on the Ithaca S + R Universal Transfer Explorer Project and shared feedback from Lander's advisors, faculty and students who have participated in the project so far. Dr. Brooks also spoke briefly on the Universal Transfer Explorer, Academic Pathways and Ithaca S+R. Dr. Brooks also provided information about the current implementation status of Transfer Action Plan recommendations, as well as next steps.

### b. Workforce Development

Dr. Brooks gave a brief update on Workforce Development in the absence of Dr. Gheesling, who was not in attendance due to a conflicting event. The update included continuing work with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, Unified State Plan metrics, and the significance of dual enrollment and reconnecting adult learners as CHE contributions to the CCWD. She also provided an example of an ongoing local initiative to reconnect adult learners by highlighting a recent One Spartanburg campaign launch event.

### c. Legislative Activities

Ms. Yarley Steedly gave a legislative update. Topics included the Senate adopting their version of the budget, description of new provisos for dual enrollment and HEEEP, and higher-education bills that are currently moving.

## 6. Communications and Engagement Update

Mr. Mark Swart provided an update on communications, including recent press releases, media placements, recent events hosted by CHE, continued emphasis on New FAFSA, collaboration with student affairs to support digital application process with Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and Scholarship Appeals, and upcoming events. Mr. Swart also stated that communications is working on a digital participant guide for the upcoming College and Career Decision Day event. Mr. Swart shared analytics/metrics for the website indicating increased engagement over last year for the Scholarships and Grants page and highlighted the recent addition of a State Approving Agency page to the CHE website.

## 7. External CHE Studies

Ms. Laura Belcher gave a brief update on external studies following the recent meeting with House Legislative Oversight Committee and the Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee. She mentioned the presentation given by Acting President and Executive Director Dr. Gregory Little, and that there will be another CHE meeting with the Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee.

## 8. Other Business

There was no other business.

## 9. Adjournment

Chairman Snyder noted that commissioner Teppara had left the meeting and asked if there was any other business before the Committee. Being none, Chairman Snyder adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.