



Committee on Student Services
11:00 am Thursday, February 6,
2025 Meeting held in-person and via
Zoom

[Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 848 2762 5160 Passcode: 241440

**The meeting will convene immediately following the conclusion of the Commission Meeting.*

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes | Ms. Jenny Bryson, Vice Chair |
| 2. SC Institutes of Innovation & Information (SCIII): | Dr. Karen Woodfaulk |
| a. Quarter 2 Report (<i>For Information</i>) | Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Executive Director |
| b. FY24-25 Annual Report (<i>For Information</i>) | and President |
| c. Proposed Budget for FY 25-26 (<i>For Information</i>) | |
| 3. College Goal South Carolina and FAFSA Completion
Update (<i>For Information</i>) | Dr. Gerrick Hampton |
| 4. Other Business | |
| 5. Adjournment | |

2025 Committee on Student Services Meeting Dates:

Thursday, March 6, 2025
Thursday, May 1, 2025
Thursday, June 5, 2025
Thursday, August 7, 2025
Thursday September 4, 2025
Thursday, November 6, 2025
Thursday, December 4, 2025



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

www.che.sc.gov





Minutes of the Committee on Student Services Meeting

January 23, 2025
1100 a.m.

Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Hugh Mobley, Chair
Commissioner Jenny Bryson
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger
Commissioner Paul Batson

Staff Members Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Kathryn Harris
Ms. Alfie Mincy
Ms. Kathy Rollins
Ms. Tanya Weigold
Ms. Fran Brune

Guests

Ms. Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Samantha Hicks, Coastal Carolina University
Dr. Crystal Ratliff, SC Technical College System
Ms. Lakischa Brown, York Technical College
Ms. Nikisha Howze, York Technical College
Mr. Chris Paulson
Ms. Bridget Blackwell
Mr. Joshua Haugh
Mr. Walter Collins
Ms. Suzanne Riddle
Mr. Bob Hamill
Ms. April Baur, Presbyterian College
Ms. Amy Hansen Munoz, Greenville Technical College
Ms. Dawn W. Butts, Aiken Technical College

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Fran Brune 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 called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services' November 7, 2024, meeting. A **motion** was made (Batson), **seconded** (Seckinger), and carried to approve the minutes.



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2. Committee on Student Services Charter Revision (For Approval)

Chairman Mobley explained that the purpose of the call meeting was to approve updates to the Committee on Student Services Charter. The changes to the charter reflect the updated name of the Committee on Student Services, outline the governance of items issued through statute or by provisos, and the resignation of Commissioner Sellers as stated by Chairman Mobley and Dr. Woodfaulk. A **motion** was made (Seckinger), **seconded** (Batson), and carried to approve the charter.

3. Other Business

There was no other business presented at the meeting.

4. Adjournment

There being no additional items before the Committee, Chairman Mobley adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Headquarters and Institutes FY 2024-25 Quarter Two Report



INSTITUTES OF
**INNOVATION AND
INFORMATION**
SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BECT BEST BIC NITS RCD TITAN WACH

Dr. Gwynth Nelson
Executive Director
Submitted: January 10, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Dr. Hubert Mobley, and Members, Committee on Student Services

From: Dr. Gwynth Nelson, Executive Director of the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information

Date: January 10, 2025

Explanation for Quarter 2 FY 2024-25 (SCIII Headquarters)

Budget FY 2024-2025

For FY 2024-25, the General Assembly did not fund the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) Headquarters. The headquarters is currently operating from carry forward funds for FY 2024-25.

Budget Explanation for FY 2024-25 (Quarter 2)

Executive Director Salary: The total approved salary for the Executive Director for FY 2024-25 began at \$162,000. The salary was later approved for the Executive Director for FY 2024-25 for \$166,860 due to a state cost of living increase. The SCIII Board voted and approved the salary increase in July 2024; the Committee on Access, Equity and Student Services voted and approved the increase on August 8, 2024, and the Commission on Higher Education Board voted and approved the increase on September 5, 2024. The executive director's salary for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$41,512.50 and fringes for quarter 2 were \$14,966.67.

Public Relations Specialist Salary: Ayana Hernandez, SCIII Public Relations Consultant, was hired October 2, 2024, as a time-limited employee, after being approved by the SCIII Board of Directors on July 18, 2024. The public relations specialist's salary for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$10,400.00 and fringes were \$3,386.24.

Executive Assistant: The total approved salary for the Executive Assistant for FY 2024-25 began at \$59,400. The salary was later approved for the Executive Assistant for FY 2024-25 for \$61,182 due to a state cost of living increase. The SCIII Board voted and approved the salary increase in July 2024; the Committee on Access, Equity and Student Services voted and approved the increase on August 8, 2024, and the Commission on Higher Education Board voted and approved the increase on September 5, 2024. The executive assistant's salary for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$15,221.25 and fringes were \$6,438.23.

Administrative: There were no administrative costs as of December 16, 2024, from Commission on Higher Education for quarter 2.

Contractual Services: As of December 16, 2024, the total cost for the Executive Consultant for quarter 2 was \$24,333.00, the total cost for the PR Consultant was \$1,667.00 and the total cost for the Governmental Relations Consultant was \$6,000.

Contractual Services (other): As of December 16, 2024, the expenditures for contractual Services (other) for quarter 2 was a total of \$419.00 for a catered meal for the SCIII Strategic Planning Committee working lunch session (\$239.00) and for a room rental for the strategic planning committee working session (\$180.00).

Equipment and Office Equipment: There were no expenditures for equipment and office equipment for quarter 2.

Materials and Supplies: There was a cost of \$149.68 (Amazon) for materials and supplies for quarter 2 for a desktop printer for the office.

Communications/Marketing: There were no expenditures for quarter 2 for materials and supplies.

Travel/Transportation: The total cost for quarter 2 was \$944.44 (in-state) and \$1,770.15 (out-of-state) travel for mileage, rental vehicles, air-travel and lodging.

Other Expenditures: There were no expenditures for other expenditures for quarter 2.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES for Quarter Two FY 2024-25 (October 2024 – December 16, 2024)

- *Quarter 1 - \$109,041.41*
- *Quarter 2 - \$127,264.16*

Total Expenditures - \$236,305.57

Headquarters Progress Explanation

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Build and strengthen relationships with local and state businesses and assist with the continued development of success of each of the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information.
2. Build a profound relationship with the General Assembly.
3. Facilitate resources, relationships, and funding so that the SCIII HBCUs and Institutes can provide insightful collaboration with each other. Thus, activating emerging synergies and forging highly productive partnerships with leaders in the business and philanthropic community.
4. Showcase SCIII internally (South Carolina State Legislature, Commission on Higher Education, seven HBCU college and university campuses) and externally as a leading enterprise for innovation and information in South Carolina by creating a cohesive communications, public relations and marketing strategy and guidelines.
5. Create a profound and successful strategic plan that will provide a clear roadmap of key priorities, goals, and objectives for SCIII.

SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTES OF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION HEADQUARTERS QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (SCII HEADQUARTERS)

Budget for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-2026

	FY 2023-24 End-of-Year Actual *Actual Expenditures Total as of 8/2/2024*	FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Expenses (July, August, September) *Actual expenditures as of October 8, 2024*	FY 2024-25 Quarter 2 Expenses (October, November, December) *Actual expenditures as of December 16, 2024*	FY 2024-25 Quarter 3 Expenses Expenses (January, February, March)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual	FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
1) Institute Director							
a. Salary	a. 155,500.00	a. 40,500.00	a. 41,512.50				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 56,004.01	b. 14,637.01	b. 14,966.67				
2) Public Relations Specialist							
a. Salary	a. 0.00	a. 0.00	a. 10,400.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 0.00	b. 0.00	b. 3,386.24				
3) Executive Assistant							
a. Salary	a. 57,016.58	a. 14,850.00	a. 15,221.25				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 24,410.22	b. 6,317.39	b. 6,438.23				
TOTAL (PERSONNEL EXPENSES)	\$292,930.81	\$76,304.40	\$91,924.89				
ADMINISTRATIVE							
Administrative Costs							
a. SC Commission on Higher Ed.	a. 19,040.17						
TOTAL (ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES)	\$19,040.17	\$0.00	\$0.00				
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (Consultants)							
a. Executive Consultant (Bradley)	a. 34,479.99	a. 8,333.00	a. 24,333.00				
b. PR Consultant (Hernandez)	b. 24,999.00	b. 8,333.00	b. 1,667.00				
c. Other (Corley)	c. 26,707.67	c. 0.00	c. 6,000.00				
TOTAL (CONTRACTUAL SERVICES)	\$86,186.66	\$16,666.00	\$32,000.00				

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (OTHER)							
a. Photographic/AV Services	a. 0.00	a. 0.00	a. 0.00				
b. Promotional Services	b. 350.00	b. 0.00	b. 0.00				
c. Telephone & Telegraph	c. 0.00	c. 0.00	c. 0.00				
d. Other Professional Services	d. 0.00	d. 0.00	d. 180.00				
e. Education/Training Services	e. 0.00	e. 0.00	e. 0.00				
f. Catered Meals	f. 0.00	f. 1,797.50	f. 239.00				
TOTAL (CONTRACTUAL SERVICES/OTHER)	\$350.00	\$1,797.50	\$419.00				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
a. Furniture, etc...							
b. Technology							
TOTAL (EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies	a. 916.53	a. 614.67	a. 0.00				
b. Promotional Supplies	b. 2,717.91	b. 1,174.98	b. 0.00				
c. Equipment	c. 684.78	c. 0.00	c. 149.68				
d. Other Supplies	d. 1,347.97	d. 3.05	d. 0.00				
TOTAL (MATERIALS & SUPPLIES)	\$5,667.19	\$1,792.70	\$149.68				
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							
a. Website and/or Maintenance	a. 0.00	a. 415.00					
b. Press Releases (Local/National), etc.	b. 0.00	b. 0.00					
c. Printed Publications/Materials	c. 1,096.60	c. 0.00					
d. President's Forum Report	d. 10,000.00	d. 10,000.00					
e. Miscellaneous Marketing	e. 2,500.00	e. 0.00					
f. IT Software/Licensing	f. 706.76	f. 0.00					
TOTAL (COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING)	\$14,303.36	\$10,415.00	\$0.00				
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
<u>Instate:</u>	<u>Instate</u>	<u>Instate</u>	<u>Instate</u>				
a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees	a. 2,878.20	a. 478.10	a. 944.44				
b. Lodging	b. 399.67	b. 0.00	b. 0.00				
c. Meals	c. 0.00	c. 0.00	c. 0.00				
d. In-State Other Transportation	d. 0.00	d. 0.00	d. 0.00				

<u>Out of State:</u>	<u>Out of State</u>	<u>Out of State</u>	<u>Out of State</u>				
a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees	a. 1,716.96	a. 282.24	a. 735.84				
b. Flight(s)	b. 745.08	b. 0.00	b. 129.78				
c. Lodging	c. 2,025.87	c. 1,030.47	c. 904.53				
d. Meals	d. 0.00	d. 0.00	d. 0.00				
e. Out-of-State Other Transportation	e. 105.00	e. 0.00	e. 0.00				
f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach	f. 0.00	f. 275.00	f. 0.00				
TOTAL (TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION)	\$7,870.78	\$2,065.81	\$2,770.59				
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees	1)						
a. In-State Registration Fees	a. 25.00						
b. Out-of-State Registration Fees	b. 1,500.00						
2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc....	2) 22,491.56						
TOTAL (OTHER EXPENDITURES)	\$24,016.56	\$0.00	\$0.00				
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET		\$725,068.00					
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$700,000.00	\$0.00					
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD		\$832,744.03					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$450,365.53	\$109,041.41	\$127,264.16				
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT		\$723,702.62	\$596,438.46				

ALLEN UNIVERSITY QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING
SCIII (Boeing Institute on Civility) Budget Narrative

Focus of Institute: The BIOC aims to elevate civil discourse by training individuals to recognize uncivil behavior and offering courses that build both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in civility. It provides opportunities for hands-on experiences and thoughtful exchanges, equipping business leaders, employees, and students with the tools to foster and enforce a respectful and civil workplace and environment.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Host 4 civility symposiums
2. Unveil Congressman Clyburn Statue
3. Provide the online certification course and credit towards professional/educational development.

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Hosted two civility symposiums
2. Provides online certification course and credit towards professional/educational development.
3. Unveiled Congressman Clyburn Statue

Achievements Made to Date:

of Students Impacted: 50

#Number of Faculty Impacted: 25

of Businesses: 4

Community Persons Engaged: 50

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Quarterly Civility Symposium
2. Emanuel Nine bust unveiling
3. Civility Podcast

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information BIC Institute Quarter Two Budget Reporting

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (Boeing Institute on Civility @ Allen University)

Budget for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-2026

	FY 2023-24 End-of-Year Actual	FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Expenses (July, August, September)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 2 Expenses (October, November, December)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 3 Expenses Expenses (January, February, March)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual	FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
1. Institute Director a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance	\$120,000	\$48,970					
2. Additional SCIII Employee a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance	\$45,000		\$11,250				
3. Additional SCIII Employees a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance							
TOTAL (PERSONNEL EXPENSES)	\$165,488.93	\$48,970	\$11,250				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT a. Furniture, etc... b. Technology							
TOTAL (EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT)							
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies b. Promotional Supplies c. Equipment d. Other Supplies							
TOTAL (MATERIALS & SUPPLIES)	\$63,519.36		\$5,000.00				
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							

Communications & Marketing a. Website and/or Maintenance b. Press Releases (Local/National), etc. c. Printed Publications/Materials d. Miscellaneous Marketing							
TOTAL (COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING)	\$5,255.00		\$5,255.00				
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
<u>Instate:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Lodging c. Meals d. In-State Other Transportation <u>Out of State:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Flight(s) c. Lodging d. Meals e. Out-of-State Other Transportation f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach							
TOTAL (TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION)							
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees a. In-State Registration Fees b. Out-of-State Registration Fees 2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc....							
TOTAL (OTHER EXPENDITURES)	\$138,247.02		\$21,505.00				
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$374,418.21						
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT							

BENEDICT COLLEGE QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING

SCIII (Benedict College – Business, Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology) Budget Narrative

Quarter 2: Budget Explanation for Quarter 2: October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

The BEST Institute Information Technology

The BEST Institute's Information Technology Department continues to provide information technology services campus wide to ensure all licenses, technology, internet/Wi-Fi Services, computer labs and customer care services are current and operable. Total funds expended during the reporting period supported the personnel cost (\$51,129) for the Chief Information Officer (65%), 100% of the Systems' Administrator and the IT Help Desk staff salaries. Total funds expended during Quarter 2 totaled \$51,129. Cumulative Expenditures for this project total \$101,684 as of December 31, 2024.

BEST Institute Scholars Program

Eligible students were identified to receive BEST Institute scholarship awards. The criteria for eligibility consisted of students from South Carolina with a GPA of 2.7 and above from BEST Institute related majors and disciplines. There were 20 scholarships issued during Quarter 2 at \$10,000 each for a total of \$200,000. The remaining funding will be used to support professional development and programming for the BEST Institute Scholars.

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

While no CHE/SCIII funds were used during the reporting period, indirectly the funds supported over a dozen development events attended by hundreds of Benedict College students including corporate field trips, corporate and government information sessions and webinars, student success workshops, crack the code IT workshops, student clubs like Men of Social Work and the Pre Law-Club, a Make Golf Your Career Fair attended by over 50 students of all majors including Sports Management and our inaugural Internship and Graduate School Fair featuring 73 companies and approximately 400 students and alumni.

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative

Benedict College's Student Health Center will continue to use the services provided by Nurses Are Us temporarily until the position is filled for an additional full-time nursing staff member. During the second reporting quarter that ended December 31, 2024, \$15,314 was expended for contracted nurses. The full-time Mental Health Counselor's position is still vacant, and the College is still advertising and accepting applications for this position. From the list of applicants received as mentioned during Quarter 1, Benedict College was unable to identify a qualified applicant for the Mental Health position according to the job description.

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

During the Quarter 2 reporting period, the B.E.S.T. Innovation Center continued to establish an entrepreneurial community on campus while producing innovation among faculty and generating economic and social value for the College.

Expenditures totaling \$21,693 were spent during the second reporting quarter (October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024) towards the B.E.S.T. Innovation Center. Funds totaling \$16,693 were expended towards personnel cost for the Coordinator of Special Projects at 70% allocation of time and \$5,000 towards the annual fees for the Student Made Store for the platform used to allow students to conduct online business. The new coordinator is currently creating an Entrepreneurship Master Class Series. Plans are ongoing to complete the upgrades to the Innovation Lab with equipment, software, and furniture. The Innovation Lab will be completely furnished and upgraded with technology by the Quarter 3 reporting period. Total funds expended to date equal \$22,889. The remaining funds will be used for Business Week, Faculty Development Initiatives and to complete the physical space enhancements for the B.E.S.T. Institute Innovation Lab.

Quarter 2: Institute Progress Explanation

The BEST Institute Information Technology Program

The BEST Institute IT Department continues to provide services to the college to ensure that technology including computers, various software and systems are current and operable. The BEST Institute IT Department also ensures daily through staff involvement that networking, infrastructure management, systems security, cybersecurity, servers and database and web base management are all current and functional.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Provide maintenance and license support for Jenzabar1 and additional applications that integrate with the Jenzabar system and the college ERP system. These are essential to the daily operations of the college and impacts faculty, staff, and students.
2. Ensure the campus has a high performance, secure, robust network infrastructure designed to meet the College's administrative, academic, research and outreach initiatives.
3. Provide training to IT staff to update skills and remain current on latest trends and best practices as well as improve specific skill sets that may be unique to each member of staff depending on role.
4. Provide training for module managers to attend Jenzabar annual JAM conference to learn and about the latest updates for Jenzabar. Module Managers are responsible for key administrative modules within Jenzabar such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, and Registration.

BEST Institute Scholars Program

Twenty Benedict College students have been selected as BEST Institute Scholars. The students are upperclassmen and native South Carolinians majoring in disciplines aligned with the focus of the BEST Institute. During the Spring 2025 semester, the Scholars will participate in professional development activities which will be supported by the remaining funding allocated for the scholar's program. There were 20 scholarships issued during Quarter 2 at \$10,000 each for a total of \$200,000 to students in the BEST Institute Scholars Program. A profile of the students will be provided in the Quarter 3 report.

Goals for FY 24-25:

- Provide scholarships and financial assistance to students as identified for the BEST Institute Scholars Program.
- Provide professional development and enrichment opportunities for the BEST Institute Scholars.

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

The main goal of the Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service-Learning Program is to implement innovative programming that prepares Benedict College students for lifelong success utilizing career readiness: to transform student scholars into career-oriented, civic-minded, professionally qualified talent. The 2nd Quarter primarily served as a student identification and engagement period with no expenses.

While no CHE/SCIII funds were used during the reporting period, indirectly the funds supported over a dozen development events attended by hundreds of Benedict College students including corporate field trips, corporate and government information sessions and webinars, student success workshops, crack the code IT workshops, student clubs like Men of Social Work and the Pre Law-Club, a Make Golf Your Career Fair attended by over 50 students of all majors including Sports Management and our inaugural Internship and Graduate School Fair featuring 73 companies and approximately 400 students and alumni.

The remaining 2 reporting quarters will be focused on supporting professional development conferences and immersive travel experiences for students in preparation for the upcoming hiring and internship seasons.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Support Students in experiential learning opportunities to increase their skills and career development prospects.
 - For the remainder of this FY: 10 planned student experiential learning opportunities (conferences, outings, and institutes have been identified totaling approximately \$30,000 supporting students of, communications and arts, environmental engineering, sports management, political science. Estimated students supported: 50
2. Support faculty in their professional development endeavors

- For the remainder of FY2025: 4 planned faculty development experiences (conferences, webinars, research fora) for the director of Counseling, business faculty in areas of research, Fintech, AI, and entrepreneurship have been identified totaling \$6,000.

3. Support and engage the community through student Service-Learning engagement

- For the remainder of FY2025, service-learning community engagement supporting the community totaling \$2,000.

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative

Focus: Benedict College Student Health Center continues to work to improve health and sexual health awareness to the Benedict College Community.

The following Activities were provided during the reporting period:

- OVW (Office of Violence Against Women) Training November 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Collegiate Health Circle with Victims Advocate Fulford and The HIVE (ongoing)
- DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) Testing
- PALS (Palmetto Aids Life Support Service) Testing
- Condom Distribution and Education (Ongoing)

Partnerships consisted of the following:

- Eau Claire and Waverly Family Practice
- DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control)
- PALS (Palmetto Aids Life Support Service)
- Joseph H. Neal Wellness Center
- HIVE (Domestic Violence Support Organization)

Triage consisted of 1,032 students served, 38 faculty and staff served, 15 Emergency Room Visits, (8 to the Victims Advocate, 43 to Benedict College Counseling Service, 15 to Benedict College Special Student Services), 90 Off-Campus Referrals, (12 to PALS, 36 to DHEC, 42 Waverly Family Practice), and the continuation of servicing COVID-19 and FLU cases campuswide.

Goals – Student Health Department for FY 24-25:

1. Provide a healthy campus community
2. Continue to shorten the wait prior to being triage
3. Increase the number of educations forums
4. Improve the daily operations of the Student Health Center

The numbers have increased this year in terms of student engagement for the Counseling and Self Development Program: 164 individual sessions completed to date; 1 workshop with UPWARD Bound students (18 students); 2 workshops focusing on the Freshmen and Academic Probation students (Tiger Mentality/Decision-Making workshop; 300 students);

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Event (served 200 students; provided therapeutic resources/informational brochures/worksheets, and goodie bags); RA Training (13 students; focused on Team Building and Enhancing Communication Skills/Conflict Resolution). Further, inspirational and/or skill building emails are sent out monthly to the student population in written or video format, which has been well-received.

The achievements for the Counseling Department consisted of purchasing and disseminating therapeutic supplies to further enhance the counseling process; and attending trainings/conferences to maintain a skillset or learn updated ways to serve our college community/implement new ideas and programs. Nearly 700 students have been served throughout the 2024-2025 grant funding cycle, representing roughly 35 percent of our student population. Furthermore, per student and administration reporting, retention and graduation rates were maintained due to attending to the mental health needs of the student population.

Goals –Counseling and Self Development Department for FY 24-25:

1. Hire another Licensed Counselor soon (last hire tendered resignation April 2024 due to family reasons and caregiving needs at home)
2. Create a more consistent group training schedule for students that captures the primary presenting issues faced/reported
3. Create a more comprehensive counseling/coaching program for 2nd semester Juniors focusing on graduation plans/post-graduation success
4. Develop psychoeducational videos addressing mental health issues (access via a hosting cite; will research)

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

The mission of the B.E.S.T Innovation Program is divided into three parts that consist of the following:

- Through student and faculty led entrepreneurship, encourage entrepreneurial applications in course curriculum, improve student career readiness and competitiveness, and create an on-campus community where student businesses and startups are born and nurtured.
- Through service and collaboration with external strategic partners, make Benedict College an essential element in the SC Innovative Ecosystem and driver of the SC minority economy.
- Strive to make Benedict College a leader and example in Entrepreneurship and Innovation to Colleges and Universities nationwide.

The Goals achieved during the 2 Quarter’s reporting period for the B.E.S.T. Innovation Program consisted of a faculty innovation workshop that impacted 25 faculty members, programming for Entrepreneurship Week that included a student pitch competition that impacted over 500 students, in addition to identifying the physical space for the Innovation Lab at the Benedict College Learning Resource Center.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Begin training faculty on release time, innovation in the classroom, and increasing research and entrepreneurial activities.
2. Promote the development of intellectual property and begin assessing IP value for college’s benefit.
3. Designate and furnish a physical space for the Innovation Lab for student startup companies and innovative projects.
4. Create an Entrepreneurship Master Class Series
5. Create an Innovation/Entrepreneurship Podcast

Quarter 2: Achievements Made to Date:

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

of Students Impacted 545

#Number of Faculty Impacted 23

of Businesses 96

Community Persons Engaged 6

Note: Since Inception # Community Persons Engaged: countless, the Innovation Lab has hosted, sponsored, and participated in numerous community focused events.

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

of Students Impacted 400

#Number of Faculty Impacted 0

of Businesses 73

Community Persons Engaged

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative Student Health Center

of Students Impacted 1,218

#Number of Faculty Impacted 38

of Businesses 6

Community Persons Engaged 6

Counseling and Self Development Department

of Students Impacted 695

#Number of Faculty Impacted 28

of Businesses 3

Community Persons Engaged 6

**South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information BEST Quarter Two Budget Reporting
 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (BEST INSTITUTE @ BENEDICT COLLEGE)
 Budget for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-26**

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
	End of Year Actual	Quarter 1 Expenses	Quarter 2 Expenses	Quarter 3 Expenses	Quarter 4 Expenses	End of Yr. Actual	Proposed Budget
		(July, Aug, Sept.)	(Oct, Nov., Dec)	(Jan., Feb., March)	(April, May, June)		Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
SCIII PERSONNEL							
1) Coordinator of Special Projects (34%)							
a. Salary	41,398.00	11,340.00	14,070.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	8,111.00	1,945.00	2,623.00				
2. IT Helpdesk Staff (100%)							
a. Salary	47,277.00	11,820.00	11,820.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	10,500.00	2,625.00	2,625.00				
3. IT Systems Administrator (100%)							
a. Salary	68,289.00	17,070.00	17,070.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	15,165.00	3,791.00	3,791.00				
4. IT - Chief Information Officer (65%)							
a. Salary	51,794.00	12,948.00	12,948.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	11,503.00	2,875.00	2,875.00				

5.							
Mental Health Counselor (100%)							
a. Salary	32,083.00	-					
b. Fringes/Insurance	4,476.00						
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	290,596.00	64,414.00	67,822.00				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
a. Furniture, etc....							
b. Technology (laptops, etc....)							
TOTAL EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies	353.00	-					
b. Promotional Supplies							
c. Equipment							
d. Other Supplies							
TOTAL MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	353.00						
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							
a. Website and/or Maintenance							
b. Press Releases (Local, National)							
c. Printed Publications/Materials							
d. Miscellaneous Marketing							
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
IN-STATE							

a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees							
b. Lodging							
c. Meals							
d. Other Transportation							
f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach							
OUT-OF-STATE							
a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees	561.00	-					
b. Flight(s)	5,639.00	-					
c. Lodging	8,536.00	-					
d. Meals	1,400.00	-					
e. Other Transportation	873.00	-					
f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach	-	-					
TOTAL TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION	17,009.00	-					
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees	-	-					
a. In-State Registration Fees	-	-					
b. Out-of-State Registration Fees	4,704.00	-					
2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc..	345.00	100.00					
3) Participant Support Cost	95.00	-	200,000.00				
4) Contractual Services	82,707.00	1,196.00	20,000.00				
5) Program Consultants	1,800.00	-					
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES	89,651.00	1,296.00	220,314.00				
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	984,409.00	586,800.00	521,090.00				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	397,609.00	65,710.00	288,136.00				
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT	586,800.00	521,090.00	232,954.00				

CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING **SCIII (The Institute of Teaching and Nursing) Budget Narrative**

Budget Explanation for Quarter 2

Scholarships- funds used to support scholarships/tuition support for nursing students totaling \$6008.00 for Fall 2024

Personnel Expenses- TITAN funds for quarter 2 were used to support the salary of an MSN administration director (nursing-MSN). TITAN funds provide critical financial support to this individual, enabling them to lead and manage Master of Nursing programs more effectively, implement innovative solutions, and maintain a high level of quality in education and research. In addition, scholarship and tuition support provided for 5 students majoring in teacher education in the amount of \$18,009.

Institute Progress Explanation

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Student and Program Recruitment Expansion
2. Global FNP Study Abroad Immersions
3. Global Study Abroad Immersions for Teacher Education Majors
4. Collaborative FNP Nursing Workforce Development
5. Collaborative Workforce Development for Education Majors

Achievements Made to Date: (Quarters 1 and 2)

1. Provided scholarships to assist RN-BSN and MSN students totaling \$6008.00 for quarter 1 (TITAN)
2. Personnel Expenses- continued support for salaries of administrative director (MSN)
3. Requested part time recruitment split for \$10,000 from TITAN for senior coordinator to expand nursing student recruitment efforts (in-process- TITAN supported)
4. Added part-time FNP clinical coordinator (\$19,800) to support increased FNP enrollment- secure preceptor sites and compliance (in-process- TITAN supported)
5. RN-BSN, MSN leadership director and FNP boost recruitment plan---admitted 41 new RN-BSN students for fall 2024, admitted record numbers of FNP students (22) for Fall 2024
6. Added a new MSN leadership cohort for the Fall 2024 semester
7. Recently graduated 35 RN-BSN and 12 FNP students- summer 2024
8. Continued outreach in hospital partnerships for dedicated education units and student practice in rural communities (Family Health Center)
9. Continued conversations to facilitate global experiences for FNP students- Ghana, 2-week immersion-Spring 2025
10. Nursing department participated in media presence for HBCU innovation –Health disparities/ Social Determinants of Health, FNP led clinics

11. Nursing participated in CEO roundtable on cancer---need clinical trials in area to boost diversity, minority representation in research---to reduce health disparities-cancer.
12. Participation in SCIII strategic planning committee
13. Awaiting new nursing building breaking ground (October 2024)
14. Teacher education majors participated in summer academy, namely the Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School, an initiative designed to provide literacy and tutorial support for community learners in the Greater Orangeburg County.
15. Teacher education majors learned more about the ramifications of artificial intelligence and how it may be utilized to promote the achievement of higher test scores on requisite licensure examinations.
16. Partnership meetings conducted with a variety of constituencies in the local community to ascertain growth opportunities for grow your own education professionals.

1.Student Scholarships (Nursing)

of Students Impacted 4

of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted

Community Persons Engaged

2. In-process - part-time FNP clinical coordinator (\$19,800) to support increased FNP enrollment- secure preceptor sites and compliance (in-process- TITAN supported)

of Students Impacted

of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted 1

Community Persons Engaged

3.In process- part time recruitment split for \$10,000 from TITAN for senior coordinator to expand nursing student recruitment efforts (in-process- TITAN supported)

of Students Impacted

of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted 1

Community Persons Engaged

4. Personnel Expenses- continued support for salary of MSN administrator support

of Students Impacted

of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted 1

Community Persons Engaged

1.Student Scholarships (Education)

of Students Impacted 5

of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted

#Community Persons Engaged

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information TITAN Institute Quarter Two Budget Reporting

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (Claflin University- TITAN)
Budget for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-2026**

	FY 2023-24 End-of-Year Actual	FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Expenses (July, August, September)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 2 Expenses (October, November, December)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 3 Expenses Expenses (January, February, March)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual	FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
4. Institute Director c. Salary d. Fringes/Insurance							
5. Additional SCIII Employee a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance							
6. Additional SCIII Employees a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance	\$81,743.45 \$11,879.87	14,591.67 2,192.31	20,252.60 3,327.89				
TOTAL (PERSONNEL EXPENSES)	\$93,623.32	\$16,783.98	23,580.49				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT a. Furniture, etc... b. Technology	\$49,387.92						
		Workstations \$2,254.54					
TOTAL (EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT)							
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies b. Promotional Supplies c. Equipment d. Other Supplies	\$9190.23						
TOTAL (MATERIALS & SUPPLIES)							
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							

Communications & Marketing a. Website and/or Maintenance b. Press Releases (Local/National), etc. c. Printed Publications/Materials d. Miscellaneous Marketing							
TOTAL (COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING)							
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
<u>Instate:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Lodging c. Meals d. In-State Other Transportation <u>Out of State:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Flight(s) c. Lodging d. Meals e. Out-of-State Other Transportation f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach	\$10,154.13						
TOTAL (TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION)							
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees a. In-State Registration Fees b. Out-of-State Registration Fees 2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc....							
TOTAL (OTHER EXPENDITURES)	Tuition Support \$68,179.00 Pre-Education \$38,829.05	Tuition Support \$14,255.00 Pre-Education Program \$9,000.53	18,009.00				
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$1,038,678.00	\$1,388,678.00 (\$526,328.00 + \$512,350 + \$350,000)	1,388,678.00				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$269,354.65	\$42,295.05	41,589.49				
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT							

CLINTON COLLEGE QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING
SCIII (Wellness and Community Health Institute) Budget Narrative

Budget Explanation for Quarter 2

- Quarter 2 of the academic year 2024-2025, the total personnel expense was \$70,749.99. This total includes the institute director's salary and fringes as well as the salary and fringe for 1 administrative assistant and 3 community health coordinators.
- Quarter 2 of the academic year 2024-2025, the total general operating expense was \$35,610.27 for rent.
- Quarter 2 of the academic year 2024-2025, the total material expense was \$3,593.70. This is for promotional supplies, and equipment for campus and community wellness initiatives during the second quarter.
- Quarter 2 of the academic year 2024-2025, the total travel expense was \$298.80. This expense is attributed to meals and mileage reimbursement for a conference.

Institute Progress Explanation

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Increase wellness opportunities for global learners
2. Increase community outreach in Black churches
3. Raise mental health awareness on and off Clinton campus
4. Create wellness policies for students that promote early intervention and campus-wide community prevention
5. Develop campus and community health initiatives that address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
6. Promote the adoption of a healthy lifestyle on and off campus

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Increased community outreach in the Black church
2. Developed campus and community health initiatives that addressed the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
3. Raised mental health awareness on campus
4. Promoted the adoption of a healthy lifestyle on and off campus

Achievements Made to Date: (Quarter 2)

of Students Impacted **245**
of Businesses **33**

#Number of Faculty Impacted **70**
Community Persons Engaged **1500**

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (WACH Institute @ Clinton College)
Budget for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-26

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
	End of Year Actual	Quarter 1 Expenses (July, Aug, Sept.)	Quarter 2 Expenses (Oct, Nov., Dec)	Quarter 3 Expenses (Jan., Feb., March)	Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	End of Yr. Actual	Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
SCIII PERSONNEL							
1) Institute Director-Lafarah Frazier							
a. Salary	80,000.00	19,999.98	19,999.98				
b. Fringes/Insurance	13,600.00	\$900.00	900.00				
2) Add. SCIII Employee Shameka Wright							
a. Salary	50,000.00	12,500.01	12,500.01				
b. Fringes/Insurance	8,500.00	900.00	900.00				
3) Add. SCIII Employee Takeria Barber							
a. Salary	45,000.00	11,250.00	11,250.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	7,650.00	900.00	900.00				
4) Add. SCIII Employee Naomi Kemp							
a. Salary		5,625.00	11,250.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance		450.00	900.00				
5) Add. SCIII Employee Sarah Beth Sisney							
a. Salary		5,625.00	11,250.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance		450.00	900.00				
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	204,803.00	58,599.99	70,749.99				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
a. Furniture, etc.... RENT	142,441.08	35,610.27	35,610.27				
b. Technology (laptops, etc....)		1,058.17					
TOTAL EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT		36,668.44					

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

a. Office Supplies	1,157.96	1,008.46	0
b. Promotional Supplies	4,222.96	2,644.10	846.02
c. Equipment			29.89
d. Other Supplies	9,639.03	5,097.78	2,717.79
TOTAL MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	15,019.95	8,750.34	3,593.70

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

a. Website and/or Maintenance			
b. Press Releases (Local, National)			
c. Printed Publications/Materials			
d. Miscellaneous Marketing		550.00	
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING		550.00	

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION**IN-STATE**

- a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees
- b. Lodging
- c. Meals
- d. Other Transportation
- f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach

OUT-OF-STATE

a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees	400.00		
b. Flight(s)		583.00	
c. Lodging		400.14	
d. Meals	150.00	237.00	
e. Other Transportation			
f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach			
TOTAL TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION	550.00	1,220.14	

OTHER EXPENDITURES

1) Registration Fees

a. In-State Registration Fees

b. Out-of-State Registration Fees

c. Consultation 13,500.00

2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc.. 180.00 3,550.00

TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES 13,680.00 3,550.00

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 362,814.03 109,338.91 74,343.69

TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT (109,338.91) (74,343.69)

MORRIS COLLEGE QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING

SCIII (The Senator John L. Scott, Jr. Institute of Network Information Technology and Security) Budget Narrative

Budget Explanation for Quarter 2

Institute Director

- a. The salary of \$7,650 represents 25% of the annual salary of \$30,600.
- b. The fringe benefit of \$2,310 is based on the rate of 30.19% of the salary.

2. Additional SC III Employ

- a. The 3-month salary of \$30,600 is based on the salary of \$122,400/9 months.
- b. Fringe benefit of \$9,253 is calculated at the rate of 30.19 of the salary.

3. Additional SC III Employ

- a. The amount of \$864 is based on the wage of \$18/hr. This employee provides eSPORTS service during the evening hours of 5-9 PM to students as they prepare for competition with Esports students from other institutions.
- b. Fringe benefits of \$261 is based on the rate 30.19% of the wage of \$864 listed above.

Note:

1. A candidate in Esports Video Game Design has been offered a contract for \$60,000/year. He will join faculty in January 2025.

Total Personnel Expenses

The amount of \$50,923 represents the total of 3 faculty-staff members' 3-month salaries and fringe benefits.

Equipment/Office Equipment

- a. Furniture: The amount of \$3,320 represents the cost of an office desk-storage unit that will facilitate the process of interacting with faculty members and students as it provides an efficient environment for preparing documents of all kinds for the SCIII program.
- b. Equipment: No equipment has been purchased this quarter.

Total Personnel Expenses

The amount of \$50,923 represents the total of 3 faculty-staff members' 3-month salaries and fringe benefits.

Equipment/Office Equipment

- a. Furniture: The amount of \$3,320 represents the cost of an office desk-storage unit that will facilitate the process of interacting with faculty members and students as it provides an efficient environment for preparing documents of all kinds for the SC III program.
- b. Equipment: No equipment has been purchased this quarter.

Material and Supplies

- a-c. The amount of \$7,286.56 was expended to cover the expenses of the activities of the Cybersecurity Awareness Day. It covers the feeding of 500 high school and middle school students, renting tents for the event and paying 4 Staff members for conducting the activities on October 22, 2024.
- d. This amount of \$37,500 represents 25% of the 10 student scholarships of \$15,000 each per academic year.

Total Material and Supplies

No amount was expended on materials and supplies.

Communication and Marketing

The total amount of \$3,598.94 has been allocated to meet the expenses of renting tents and personnel for the Cybersecurity Awareness Day event scheduled for October 22, 2024. Arrangements were made in advance to ensure availability of the tents on the exact day of the event.

Other Expenditures

No other expenditures were incurred.

Total Expenditures

Total expenditures of Quarter 2 of 2024-2025 academic year totals \$99,522.50.

Institute Progress Explanation:

Goals for FY 24-25:

- 1. Hired a professor in Esports Video Game Design.
- 2. Awarded 10 student scholarships \$15,000 each per academic year.
- 3. Prepared a Needs Assessment for The Center of Excellence for Technology Innovation and Cybersecurity (CETICyber).
- 4. Discussed fundraising for CETICyber with Mr. Charles Carither of Cornerstone Group.

Achievements Made to Date: (Quarter 2)

1.		
# of Students Impacted	<u>10</u>	#Number of Faculty Impacted <u>2</u>
# of Businesses	<u> </u>	# Community Persons Engaged <u>4</u>
2.		
# of Students Impacted	<u>56</u>	#Number of Faculty Impacted <u>2</u>
# of Businesses	<u> </u>	# Community Persons Engaged <u>4</u>

Note: The Office of Enrollment and Records reports 44 Cybersecurity majors and 12 Esports majors (covering 3 tracks).

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information NITS Institute Quarter Two Budget Reporting

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR MORRIS COLLEGE
Budget for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-2026**

	FY 2023-24 End-of-Year Actual	FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Expenses (July, August, September)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 2 Expenses (October, November, December)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 3 Expenses Expenses (January, February, March)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual	FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
1. Institute Director							
a. Salary	a. 26,360	a. 7,650	a. 7,650				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 7,735	b. 2,310	b. 2,310				
2. Additional SCIII Employee							
a. Salary	a. 26,360	a. 30,600	a. 30,600				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 7,735	b. 9,253	b. 9,253				
3. Additional SCIII Employees							
a. Salary	a. 120,000	a. 864	a. 864				
b. Fringes/Insurance	b. 34,729	b. 261	b. 261				
TOTAL (PERSONNEL EXPENSES)	188,824	50,923	50,923				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
a. Furniture, etc...	1,473	a. 3,320	a. 0				
b. Technology		b. 6,900	b. 0				
TOTAL (EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT)	1,473	10,220	0				
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies		a. 5,000	a. 0				
b. Promotional Supplies	B. 725	b. 2,000	b. 7,288.56				
c. Equipment		c. 2,000	c. 3,595.94				
d. Other Supplies/Scholarships		d. 37,500	d. 37,500				
TOTAL (MATERIALS & SUPPLIES)	725	46,500	48,386.50				
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING			99,322.50				

Communications & Marketing a. Website and/or Maintenance b. Press Releases (Local/National), etc. c. Printed Publications/Materials d. Miscellaneous Marketing							
TOTAL (COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING)		5,000					
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
<u>Instate:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Lodging c. Meals d. In-State Other Transportation <u>Out of State:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Flight(s) c. Lodging d. Meals e. Out-of-State Other Transportation f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach	<u>Instate</u> a. 311 <u>Out of State</u> f. 3,547	<u>Instate</u> a. 2000 <u>Out of State</u> a. 6,000	<u>Instate</u> a. 35.00 b. 0 c. 18.07 d. 0 <u>Out of State</u>				
TOTAL (TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION)	3,858	\$8,000	53.07				
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees a. In-State Registration Fees b. Out-of-State Registration Fees 2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc....		a. 250 b. 300					
TOTAL (OTHER EXPENDITURES)	194,880	550	0				
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		450,000	450,000				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		121,193	220,515.50				
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT		328,807	229,484.50				

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING
SCIII (Institute of Business, Environment, Communications and Transportation) Budget Narrative

Budget Explanation for Quarter 2

PERSONNEL (Salary & Fringe Benefits) for primary staff to include:

The personnel cost for Quarter 2 has only included the following:

- Executive Director
- Administrative Coordinator
- Certiport Testing Assistant
- Consultant for the Communication Speaker Series

PROJECTS

A Bulldog Ready Career Readiness and Leadership Academy. Acquired a credentialing license to issue digital badges through Credly for the Career Readiness and Leadership Academy. The Academy will launch in January 2025 to address some of the concerns of employers and ensure the future success of SC State graduates. The Academy will focus on employability skills which have been cited by employers as the skills most critical to workplace success in the 21st-century economy. These skills include (but are not limited to) critical thinking, oral and written communications, collaboration and teamwork, professionalism, technology use, creativity, leadership and financial literacy. Thus, the objectives of the Career Readiness Academy are to:

- Complement academic programs to strengthen employment outcomes
- Align learning to employer needs and hiring trends
- Prepare students with in-demand skills and hands-on experience

The Career Readiness & Leadership Academy is a digital badging program consisting of learning modules which include activities, virtual or live workshops and online training. Students may participate in various programs and activities to earn badges in each of eight categories (Professionalism, Communication, Critical Thinking, Teamwork and Collaboration, Technology, Leadership Development, Financial Literacy and Innovation and Creativity). If all eight badges are earned, students will also earn a Certificate in Professional and Leadership Development.

The badges will be awarded based on a point structure. Students receive points by completing activities such as attending professional development events, participating in research, completing internships and more. Each activity varies by badge, but all contribute to the student's overall growth and preparedness for the workplace.

The BECT Education and Research Greenhouse Project – Launched an Open House for the BECT Education and Research Greenhouse on November 21, 2024.

The goal of the Greenhouse is to get students to understand commercial plant production from start to finish. We will also introduce hydroponics and vertical growing. In addition, the greenhouse is being used as a Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Lab for professors to conduct research on three different ways to start plants (**propagate**) which include: cuttings, transplants and seeds. Dr. Florence Anoruo, Plant and Environmental Scientist in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences is utilizing the greenhouse for part of her Plant Physiology lab projects and other related research. Thus, the greenhouse projects augment the empirical laboratory activities conducted in the Department of Biological and Physical Science.

Dr. Brandon Huber, Research Scientist & Extension Associate in 1890 Research & Extension is conducting research using hydroponics in the greenhouse. Lastly, students in the Environment Club are experimenting with growing plants and microgreens.

These activities will be documented through a series of videos and informative articles. This project was funded by a USDA grant that expires in 2024 but will continue through the BECT appropriations.

- **The BECT Certiport MOS Testing Lab** – Provided training in Microsoft Office and Excel for 230 students. 30 students and 2 faculty completed certifications in Microsoft Office Associate and Microsoft Office Excel.
- The **Communication Speaker Series** in partnership with the Communications Program had two lectures to include meet and greet with professionals in the industry. WIS-TV 10 Producer, Sierra Artemus, was the featured speaker on October 17, 2024. The purpose of the series is to have Communication majors' network with professional media companies and organizations for their future career development and provide insights on challenges and opportunities in the industry.
- Awarded five (5) students the Senator John Scott Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 each. Scholarship fund was created by a BECT supporter and other donations.
- A 5-year **strategic plan** was completed and approved by BECT Advisory Council, which included 4 goals as follows:
 - Goal 1: Develop an agile environment for innovation and research at S C State University**
 - Goal 2: Enhance the career readiness and professional development of stakeholders.**
 - Goal 3: Enhance societal impact through initiatives that promote prosperity and overall well-being within communities**
 - Goal 4: Expand physical and financial resources**
- Began the planning phase of the Transportation project funded by FMCSA to develop and implement an innovative SMART program using virtual reality to educate, raise awareness and reinforce the need for safety in operating commercial motor vehicles (CMV) in South Carolina. The SMART Awareness Program will focus on three primary behaviors that cause commercial crashes: speeding, which is a problem that impacts the trucking community; driver fatigue, which NHTSA estimates causes more than 100,000 incidents each year; and distracted driving, which according to a study by FMCSA, 71% of large-truck crashes occurred when the truckdriver was doing something other than driving the truck. A project director and administrative assistance were hired to begin work in January. Met with software developers.

Institute Progress Explanation

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Develop an agile environment for innovation and research at S C State University
2. Enhance the career readiness and professional development of stakeholders.
3. Enhance societal impact through initiatives that promote prosperity and overall well-being within communities
4. Expand physical and financial resources

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Sponsored a Faculty-Student Research Symposium with 31 presenters on various topics related to business, environment, communication and transportation. Implemented the BECT Education and Research Greenhouse which is enhancing the environment for innovation and research. Two faculty and five students are conducting experiments in the greenhouse.
2. Enhanced the professional development and career readiness of students through seminars and digital technology training. Also, students took 4-day coastal excursion trip to expose students to non-traditional career pathways in coastal and ocean science and a day trip to learn about environmental gardening. Provided training for students to take MOS certification tests. Sponsored a Communication Speaker Series for communication majors to learn and network with professionals in the field. Students participated in entrepreneurial training and assisted with market research for small businesses. Awarded five (5) students the Senator John Scott Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 each. The scholarship fund was created by a BECT supporter and other donations.
3. Conducted a 6-month Small Business Accelerator program that provided training and funding to assist in sustaining and developing 10 community businesses and 2 student businesses.
4. Received \$2.0M grant from US Department of Transportation to develop and implement an innovative SMART program using virtual reality to educate, raise awareness and reinforce the need for safety in operating commercial motor vehicles (CMV) in South Carolina.

Achievements Made to Date:

of Students Impacted 480
of Businesses 25

#Number of Faculty Impacted 25
Community Persons Engaged 52

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Develop an agile environment for innovation and research at S C State University
2. Enhance the career readiness and professional development of stakeholders.
3. Enhance societal impact through initiatives that promote prosperity and overall well-being within communities
4. Expand physical and financial resources

Year to Date Expenditures: July 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2024: **\$705,154**

**South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information BECT Institute Quarter Two Budget Reporting
 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (BECT @ SC STATE)
 Budget for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-26**

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
	End of Year Actual	Quarter 1 Expenses (July, Aug, Sept.)	Quarter 2 Expenses (Oct, Nov., Dec)	Quarter 3 Expenses (Jan., Feb., March)	Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	End of Yr. Actual	Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
SCIII PERSONNEL							
1) Institute Director							
a. Salary	\$ 147,000.00	\$ 37,589.00	\$ 37,589.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	\$ 52,876.00	\$ 13,521.00	\$ 13,521.00				
2) Add. SCIII Employees							
a. Salary	\$ 93,500.00	\$ 23,806.00	\$ 16,542.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance	\$ 43,387.00	\$ 9,431.00	\$ 5,950.00				
3) Add. SCIII Employee							
Consultants	\$ 104,765.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00				
b. Fringes/Insurance							
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$ 441,528.00	\$ 84,847.00	\$ 74,602.00				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT							
a. Furniture, etc....							
b. Technology (laptops, etc....)	\$ 8,539.00						
TOTAL EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 8,539.00						
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies	\$ 5,139.00		\$ 195.00				
b. Promotional Supplies	\$ 2,507.00						
c. Equipment							

d. Other Supplies	\$	6,637.00	\$	2,666.00
TOTAL MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	\$	14,283.00	\$	2,861.00

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

a. Website and/or Software license	\$	13,028.00	\$	3,500.00
b. Press Releases (Local, National)				
c. Printed Publications/Materials	\$	2,586.00		
d. Miscellaneous Marketing				
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING	\$	15,614.00	\$	3,500.00

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION

IN-STATE

- a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees
- b. Lodging
- c. Meals
- d. Other Transportation
- f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach

OUT-OF-STATE

a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees				
b. Flight(s)	\$	4,879.00		
c. Lodging	\$	2,852.00		
d. Meals				
e. Other Transportation				
f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach	\$	2,399.00		
TOTAL TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION	\$	10,130.00		

OTHER EXPENDITURES

- 1) Registration Fees
 - a. In-State Registration Fees
 - b. Out-of-State Registration Fees
- 2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc..

3)Membership fees	\$	2,500.00				
4)Student Stipends	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00		
5)Contractual						
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES	\$	7,500.00	\$	5,000.00		
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$	608,810.00	\$	262,500.00	\$	262,500.00
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT			\$	33,313.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	(534,344.00)	\$	(89,847.00)	\$	(80,963.00)
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT	\$	74,476.00	\$	280,442.00	\$	199,479.00

VOORHEES UNIVERSITY QUARTER TWO BUDGET REPORTING **SCIII (The Institute of Rural Community Development) Budget Narrative**

Focus of Institute: To provide mechanisms to improve the quality of life in rural communities and counties surrounding Denmark, South Carolina. <https://sciii.net/rcd-vorhees-university/>

Achievements Made to Date during the First quarter 2025 (October, November, and December 2025)

Ensure the implementation of enrichment programs in our high-poverty middle and high schools.

“GEAR UP engages students early, accelerates their readiness through supplemental programs, and expands the capacity of schools to create college-going cultures.” (<https://www.edpartnerships.org/about-gear-up>) As GEAR UP matriculates with the current 9th and 10th-grade students, it prepares them to be academically, socially, mentally, and financially prepared to enter careers or colleges of their choice. Previously, GEAR UP was in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Colleton, Hampton, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg Counties. In 2024, we added Edgefield County to our portfolio. Thus, Voorhees University GEAR UP serves ten districts and engages public school students in the *Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Colleton, Edgefield, Hampton, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg* Counties. Additionally, public school students’ engagement with the VU GEAR UP Program aggressively increased from 547 students in August 2022 to 3,149 GEAR UP students on December 11, 2023, and 3,530 students as of April 2, 2024. As of August 28, 2024, **4,836** students are enrolled in the VU GEAR UP program, which aims to impact **5,361** students in our local rural communities.

Background

The RDCI's Liberal Arts Innovation Center for Healthcare, Access, and Equity (LAIC) aims to provide services that promote increased access to healthcare services for our VU and surrounding community. The LAIC's mission is to model and test promising practices from a liberal arts and multidisciplinary education perspective to unite the best practices in rural and minority health disparities. The Center's liberal arts philosophy and guiding theoretical framework are anchored in the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP). The LAIC focuses on rural and minority healthcare, which is highly influenced by Rural Promising Practices, a national model designed and implemented by the Office of Rural Health (ORH) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. LAIC seeks to impact rural and minority health disparities from a liberal arts and multidisciplinary perspective.

Voorhees University Student Health Ambassadors Awarded \$1,500 Scholarship (December 4, 2024)

- Denmark, SC – December 4, 2024 – The Voorhees University Student Health Ambassadors have been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship through the HBCU Discovery Grant, funded by the Centers for Rural and Primary Healthcare at USC. This recognition celebrates their exceptional commitment to reducing healthcare disparities in rural communities.
- Background: Voorhees University launched a healthcare initiative with the Centers for Rural and Primary Healthcare support to combat disparities that disproportionately impact rural areas. The HBCU Discovery Grant bolsters the University’s mission to enhance health and wellness on campus and within the surrounding community through Tiger I.M.P.A.C.T., an initiative addressing six key health pillars: **Investment, Mental Wellness, Physical Wellness, Advocacy, Chronic Health Disease, and Technology.**
- Under the guidance of Suzanne William, LPN, Voorhees’ Director of Health Services, these ambassadors lead initiatives that foster access to healthcare, provide educational resources, and engage the campus and local community in meaningful discussions about reducing healthcare disparities.

- The program also established The Rural Interest Group at Voorhees University, a platform for students in all majors to explore how policy and evidence-based strategies can address healthcare challenges in rural settings. The ambassadors received specialized training in July/August to become certified Community Health Workers, equipping them to gather insights from rural populations and empower community-driven health improvements.
- “Our Student Health Ambassadors embody the core values of Voorhees University by actively working to bridge healthcare gaps in our rural community,” said Nurse Williams. “With the foundational support from the Centers for Rural and Primary Healthcare and Voorhees University’s RCDI team members, these students are paving the way for barrier-free, healthy living for all.”
- Through their dedication, the Student Health Ambassadors ensure that Tiger I.M.P.A.C.T. continues to make strides in reducing healthcare disparities, transforming the Voorhees University community and beyond.

of VU Students Impacted: **4**

of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: **1**

of Community K-12 Schools Impacted: **0**

of Colleges and Universities Impacted: **1**

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: **1**

The AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) program (November 14, 2024)

- On November 14, the VU Student Health Ambassadors and Dr. Parker attended a ceremony celebrating the hard work of college and high school students who impact rural communities. The focus was on food insecurity, and Ashanti Wright, a Voorhees University *HBCU Health Discovery Student Health Ambassador*, gave a presentation on the subject and received an award.
 - Background: “*The AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to underserved populations. The AHEC program helps bring the resources of academic medicine to address local community health needs. AHECs continually focus on improving the healthcare system by working with academic institutions, healthcare settings (including CHCs), behavioral health practices, and community-based organizations. Through these longstanding partnerships, the AHECs employ traditional and innovative approaches to develop and train a diverse health care workforce prepared to deliver culturally appropriate, high-quality, team-based care, emphasizing primary care for rural and underserved communities.*” <https://1cahec.com/>

VU Students Impacted-5

VU Faculty/Staff Impacted-1

Community K-12 Impacted- N/A

Colleges and Universities Impacted 2 (Voorhees University and Claflin University)

Community Persons/Students Engaged- N/A

Fresh Fruity & Vegetable Community Drive (October 17, 2024)

- On October 17, 2024, Nurse Williams and the Student Health Ambassadors helped pack **961 boxes** of fresh fruits and vegetables. The boxes were distributed to six high schools in three counties, impacting food insecurities.

VU Students Impacted-5

VU Faculty/Staff Impacted-1

Community K-12 Impacted- 900+

Colleges and Universities Impacted-1

Community Persons/Students Engaged- (Directly 25, (Overall) 900+

Black AIDS Institute (*Fall semester*)

- After completing the BAI course, the remaining requirements include establishing an internship with an organization that provides students with opportunities to work on issues related to individuals living with an AIDS diagnosis. Establishing an internship requires collaboration between BAI and Family Health Centers, Inc., to determine the HIV outreach opportunities available to students who qualify to participate after completing at least three modules from the approved course curriculum. The final responsibilities of each organization are still under discussion.
- The following requirement is to focus on compliance with the HRSA grant and explore the possibility of The Black AIDS Institute visiting Voorhees University this semester to speak with your first-year class. With our shared mission of addressing health disparities in African American communities, especially in rural South Carolina, the RCDI team believes this would be an excellent opportunity to engage students in conversations about the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis and prevention early in their college journey. First-year students were chosen for this opportunity because the information provided would prepare them for potentially encountering this disease during their transition from matriculation to graduation. Working with Ms. Lauren Grayson will involve interaction with the first-year students in this effort. Additionally, students in specific public health courses can participate in the BAI grant by completing the selected embedded modules.

Community Health Assessment Planning Status (Spring 2025 plans)

- Dr. Kimberly Parker is leading the RCDI's effort to conduct an HBCU Health Discovery health assessment of Voorhees University students and the surrounding community. Dr. Parker's status report follows:
 - Our significant accomplishments on the needs assessment include creating the text narrative for various sections of the report and updating our needs assessment reference and resource list. We identified the areas representing the Voorhees community and started the initial planning and implementation phase for the student health needs assessment. We identified and contacted local health agencies to explore partnerships and collaborations. Finally, we executed the search to fill the vacant Health Liaison position.

Develop partnerships and collaborations with governments, donors, businesses, local schools, colleges/universities, community members, and other stakeholders.

The Rural Community Development Institute received a four-year to improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among rural individuals by developing high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/rped/index.html>

Symposium for community leaders of small towns (October 16, 2024)

- Dr. Thelma Sojourner led a Symposium for Community Leaders on October 16, 2024, sponsored by the Office of University Advancement/Community Relations Liaison. The event comprised mayors, community leaders, small business owners, Voorhees University faculty/staff, and community laypeople. Mr. George Hicks, Acting State Director of the USDA, shared with everyone the opportunity to participate with the Department of Agriculture to:
 - Access resources and implement improvements to rural municipalities
 - Strengthen diversity and dynamism in state and local organizations
 - Improve economic futures of communities and organizations
 - Provide platform and support mechanisms for capacity building and sustainability
- The Symposium also included presentations from Michelle Cardwell, Community Programs Director; Tim Ellis, Rural Business Program Director; Darien Taylor, Community Engagement Coordinator Public Information Officer; and Erica Salley, Community Programs Specialist.
- The Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) team members were introduced, and the meeting allowed them to network with community members. Dr. Sojourner states that the event's goal was to equip the participants with the tools to make informed decisions that expand services to stakeholders and create equitable, safe, and affordable programs across the surrounding counties.

VU Students Impacted-0

VU Faculty/Staff Impacted 16

Community K-12 Impacted- N/A

Colleges and Universities Impacted-1

Community Persons/Students Engaged- 25 community people

17th Annual HBCU Career Development Marketplace conference (November 11th -14th, 2024)

- For the first time, Voorhees University proudly had six students participate in the 17th Annual HBCU Career Development Marketplace conference, held at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Established in 2004, this national conference aims to inform and prepare top undergraduate students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for successful careers in corporate America.
- Students participated in workshops on leadership, post-graduation expectations, and strategies for launching a successful career during the event. They also had the opportunity to network with accomplished HBCU alums from various professions and interact directly with representatives from corporations, organizations, and government agencies seeking talented individuals. Notable figures such as civil rights attorney Ben Crump and educator and actor Stedman Graham served as panelists at the conference.
- Voorhees students competed in the oral competition. While they did not place, their outstanding performance was recognized by students, faculty, and staff from other institutions, many of whom felt they should have earned a spot among the winners.

- Additionally, several Voorhees students were contacted by recruiters about internship opportunities that were in attendance as a follow-up to learn more about their interests and backgrounds (The Western Alliance Bank, Moffitt Cancer Center, M&T Bank, The Financial Growth Partners, The Spring 2025 Youth Fellowship Internship Program, and Reworld). These students have completed all required steps, and their information has been forwarded to the hiring team. Now, they are waiting for potential next steps in the recruitment process.
- # of VU Students Impacted: 6
- # of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: 1
- # of Colleges and Universities Impacted: 21
- # of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 220

SC Works Presents Trunk-or-Treat with a Purpose: Careers & Connections events (October 31, 2024)

Mr. Clemons attended the event to promote the college’s academic programs, campus life, and personal and professional growth opportunities. His goals included connecting with individuals exploring higher education—such as high school students, working professionals, and those interested in degree programs or certifications—while providing detailed information about admissions requirements, financial aid, scholarships, and transfer opportunities to enhance educational accessibility. Additionally, the RCDI aimed to strengthen partnerships with local organizations, schools, and businesses to foster community support and collaboration. The event also allowed networking with job seekers, other institutions, and community leaders, creating openings for future collaborations and referrals.

of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: 2

of Colleges and Universities Impacted: 1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 13

Search for additional funding to implement the RCDI's goals and objectives and enhance the RDCI's sustainability.

The RCD Institute is collaborating with Dr. Gwynth Nelson (SCIII Executive Director), Dr. Barbara Adams (BECT Institute Director), and the other SCIII directors to explore the possibility of working on an SCIII combined institute grant.

Additional Comments:

- Voorhees University would like to thank the South Carolina Legislature, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information for providing Voorhees University with this transformational funding.

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Budget Reporting

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND ACTUAL BUDGETS FOR (RCD Institute @ Voorhees University)
Budget for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 and Proposed Budget Request for FY 2025-2026**

	FY 2023-24 End-of-Year Actual	FY 2024-25 Quarter 1 Expenses (July, August, September)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 2 Expenses (October, November, December)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 3 Expenses Expenses (January, February, March)	FY 2024-25 Quarter 4 Expenses (April, May, June)	FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual	FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget Request
PERSONNEL EXPENSES							
1. Institute Director a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance							
2. Additional SCIII Employee a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance		\$15,000.00 \$ 1,991.64	\$15,000.00 \$1,967.51				
3. Additional SCIII Employees a. Salary b. Fringes/Insurance		\$15,000.00 \$ 1,991.64	\$15,000.00 \$1,967.51				
TOTAL (PERSONNEL EXPENSES)		\$33,983.28	\$33,935.02				
GENERAL OPERATING							
EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT a. Furniture, etc... b. Technology							
TOTAL (EQUIPMENT/OFFICE EQUIPMENT)							
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES							
a. Office Supplies b. Promotional Supplies c. Equipment d. Other Supplies		\$160.61					
TOTAL (MATERIALS & SUPPLIES)		\$160.61					
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING							

Communications & Marketing a. Website and/or Maintenance b. Press Releases (Local/National), etc. c. Printed Publications/Materials d. Miscellaneous Marketing							
TOTAL (COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING)							
TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION							
<u>Instate:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Lodging c. Meals d. In-State Other Transportation		\$698.75					
<u>Out of State:</u> a. Mileage Costs/Rental Fees b. Flight(s) c. Lodging d. Meals e. Out-of-State Other Transportation f. Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach		\$400.00					
TOTAL (TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION)		\$400.00					
OTHER EXPENDITURES							
1) Registration Fees a. In-State Registration Fees b. Out-of-State Registration Fees 2) Sponsorships, Memberships, etc.... 3) Contractual		\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00				
TOTAL (OTHER EXPENDITURES)		\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00				
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		\$180,183.13	\$137,440.49				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 42,742.64	\$43,935.02				
TOTAL REMAINING AMOUNT		\$137,440.49	\$93,505.47				

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Quarter 2 Report
Submitted by: Dr. Gwynth Nelson



Reports from the following:
South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Headquarters
Allen University
Benedict College
Claflin University
Clinton College
Morris College
South Carolina State University
Voorhees University

2024-25 SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTES OF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION ANNUAL REPORT

Presented by: Dr. Gwynth Nelson, SCIII Executive Director



INSTITUTES OF
INNOVATION AND
INFORMATION
SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BECT BEST BIC NITS RCD TITAN WACH

SUBMITTED: JANUARY 10, 2025



Executive Summary

South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information

January 2025

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

On behalf of the seven senior Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) we are proud to present the 2024-25 fiscal year annual report. As you read through this report, you will see that the colleges and universities have continued to step up, even in the midst of unique and trying times. The seven HBCUs that comprise the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information are designed to assist not only students but businesses and corporations throughout the state and nation. The institutes specialize in specific areas such as health, nursing, business, cybersecurity, transportation, and education, which can help businesses train at a lower cost as well as identify prospective employees prepared by the institutes.

OVERVIEW OF SCIII

The South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information, a program under the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, leverages the resources of the state's seven, four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through campus institutes that partner with South Carolina businesses and industries to expand scholarship, increase the state's workforce, empower local communities and enrich South Carolina's economy.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

With its home office located in Orangeburg, SC, the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII), became a part of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education as of January 2023. SCIII is governed by an eight-member Board of Directors, chaired by Dr. Cheryl Caution Parker. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education is the fiduciary agent for SCIII. Dr. Gwynth R. Nelson serves as executive director of SCIII. Campus institutes at the seven HBCUs---Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Clinton College, Morris College, South Carolina State University and Voorhees University--are led by an institute director.



OUR FOCUS AND PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS AREAS

SCIII's focus on disciplines including education, technology, communication, cybersecurity, healthcare, nursing, civility, rural community development, business, and transportation, enables SCIII and the institutes to create and expand partnerships with in-demand industries and key businesses, address and meet critical community needs, provide workforce development solutions through internships, experiential learning and career opportunities to students and offer training and community engagement initiatives. SCIII has four key programmatic focus areas: 1. Teaching and Learning; 2. Research and Scholarship; 3. Service and Community Engagement; and 4. Local and State Impact.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

SCIII promotes a culture of teaching and learning at all seven of the Institutes. The South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Headquarters has established several new relationships with state agencies, local businesses and organizations during the 2024-25 fiscal year. Some of the relationships established are with Abacus Planning Group (Columbia, SC), Sisters of Charity Foundation (Columbia, SC) and Pathways Community Foundation (North Carolina). (Please see complete list below). These newly established relationships are aimed at offering internships to the students at the SCIII schools. The relationship will also look at academic restructure/course offerings to fit the needs of the companies/agencies. In addition, Benedict College established relationships with Eau Claire and Waverly Family Practice , and the Department of Health and Environmental Control; at Morris College has established and continued relationships with Sumter County School District as well as established relationship with Charles Carither of Cornerstone Group; South Carolina State University has relationships with SC State 1890 Research and Extension; and Voorhees University established relationships with the Black AIDS Institute.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

SCIII has facilitated meetings as well as established relationships that will provide scholarships, internships and financial support to the students, with the following:

- Abacus Planning Group
- Build and Broaden Grant (Collaboration with all South Carolina HBCUs including Denmark Technical College)
- Carolina Global Education Cluster
- Center of Excellence for Technological Innovation & Cybersecurity @ Morris College
- Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (Chips for America)



- Edventure Children’s Museum
- Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic
- Center for Racial Equity in Education (CREED)
- Pathway Community Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation

Several of the institutes have been awarded more than \$4,545,515 million in grants and awards form state and federal agencies.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The institutes are and continue to be committed to service and community engagement activities that enhance not only their respective offerings but assist business and industry as well as local, and state 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 are in the process of being strengthened to accommodate organizations/businesses. Among the many groups SCIII assisted the schools in establishing or renewing relationships with included the following:

- Abacus Planning Group
- US Chamber of Commerce
- South Carolina Black Caucus
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina
- Edventure Children’s Museum
- Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic
- Office of Regulatory Staff
- Sumter County School District

LOCAL AND STATE IMPACT

During this fiscal year, the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) Headquarters formally launched a strategic planning process in August 2024. SCIII engaged a consultant and appointed a diverse committee identifying goals and objectives under three priority areas: Collaboration, Marketing and Fundraising. The resulting strategic plan will provide a clear roadmap of key priorities, goals and objectives for SCIII for the next 3-5 years.



Three sub-committees were established within the committee to assist in identifying specific strategies for each priority. The process included tactical strategy sessions and thoughtful engagement of current and prospective constituents that will produce a document that will create accountability and effectiveness that aids SCIII's service delivery and impact. The inclusive process will include focus group sessions inviting SCIII's business, industry, higher educational leadership, legislators, nonprofits, students, SCIII boards and other partners.

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 sustain and strengthen these relationships for the next fiscal year.
- Increase 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, cybersecurity, education, and community development.
- 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 work collaboratively with the seven HBCUs to apply for grants that will assist with this task.



South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information

Boeing Institute of Civility (BIC) at Allen University

Institute of Business, Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology (BEST) at Benedict College

Institute of Teaching and Nursing (TITAN) at Claflin University

Institute of Wellness and Community Health (WACH) at Clinton College

The John L. Scott, Jr. Institute of Network Information, Technology and Security (NITS) at Morris College

Institute of Business, Environment, Communications and Transportation (BECT) at South Carolina State University

Institute on Rural Community Development (RCD) at Voorhees University



South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Headquarters **Explanation for Annual Report (July 1, 2024 – December 16, 2024)**

Budget FY 2024-25

For FY 2024-25, the General Assembly required the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) Headquarters to operate from carry forward funds from previous fiscal years.

Budget Explanation for FY 2024-25

Executive Director Salary: The total approved salary for the Executive Director for FY 2024-25 began at \$162,000. The salary was later approved for the Executive Director for FY 2024-25 for \$166,860 due to a state cost of living increase. The SCIII Board voted and approved the salary increase July 18, 2024; the Committee on Access, Equity and Student Services voted and approved the increase on August 8, 2024, and the Commission on Higher Education Board voted and approved the increase on September 5, 2024. The total executive director's salary for quarter 1 as of October 8, 2024, was \$40,500.00 and for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$41,512.50 and fringes for quarter 1 was \$14,637.01 as of October 8, 2024, and quarter 2 were \$14,966.67 as of December 16, 2024.

Public Relations Specialist Salary: Ayana Hernandez, SCIII Public Relations Consultant, was hired October 2, 2024, as a time-limited employee, after being approved by the SCIII Board of Directors on July 18, 2024. The public relations specialist's salary for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$10,400.00 and fringes were \$3,386.24.

Executive Assistant: The total approved salary for the Executive Assistant for FY 2024-25 began at \$59,400. The salary was later approved for the Executive Assistant for FY 2024-25 for \$61,182 due to a state cost of living increase. The SCIII Board voted and approved the salary increase July 18, 2024; the Committee on Access, Equity and Student Services voted and approved the increase on August 8, 2024, and the Commission on Higher Education Board voted and approved the increase on September 5, 2024. The total executive assistant's salary for quarter 1 as of October 8, 2024, was \$14,850.00 and for quarter 2 as of December 16, 2024, was \$15,221.25 and fringes for quarter 1 were \$6,317.39 as of October 8, 2024, and quarter 2 were \$6,438.23 as of December 16, 2024.

Administrative: There were no administrative costs as of December 16, 2024, from Commission on Higher Education for quarter 2.



Contractual Services: As of December 16, 2024, the total cost for the Executive Consultant for quarter 2 was \$24,333.00, the total cost for the PR Consultant was \$1,667.00 and the total cost for the Governmental Relations Consultant was \$6,000.

Contractual Services (other): As of December 16, 2024, the expenditures for contractual Services (other) for quarter 2 was a total of \$419.00 for a catered meal for the SCIII Strategic Planning Committee working lunch session (\$239.00) and for a room rental for the strategic planning committee working session (\$180.00).

Equipment and Office Equipment: There were no expenditures for equipment and office equipment for quarter 2.

Materials and Supplies: There was a cost of \$149.68 (Amazon) for materials and supplies for quarter 2 for a desktop printer for the office.

Communications/Marketing: There were no expenditures for quarter 2 for materials and supplies.

Travel/Transportation: The total cost for quarter 2 was \$944.44 (in-state) and \$1,770.15 (out-of-state) travel for mileage, rental vehicles, air-travel and lodging.

Other Expenditures: There were no expenditures for other expenditures for quarter 2.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES for Quarter Two FY 2024-25 (October 2024 – December 16, 2024)

Quarter 1 - \$109,041.41

Quarter 2 - \$127,264.16

Total Expenditures for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2: \$236,305.57



ALLEN UNIVERSITY: Boeing Institute of Civility (BIC)

Focus of Institute: The BIOC aims to elevate civil discourse by training individuals to recognize uncivil behavior and offering courses that build both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in civility. It provides opportunities for hands-on experiences and thoughtful exchanges, equipping business leaders, employees, and students with the tools to foster and enforce a respectful and civil workplace and environment.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Host 4 civility symposiums
2. Unveil Congressman Clyburn Statue
3. Provide the online certification course and credit towards professional/educational development.

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Hosted two civility symposiums
2. Provides online certification course and credit towards professional/educational development.
3. Unveiled Congressman Clyburn Statue

Achievements Made to Date:

of Students Impacted: 50

#Number of Faculty Impacted: 25

of Businesses: 4

Community Persons Engaged: 50

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Quarterly Civility Symposium
2. Emanuel Nine bust unveiling
3. Civility Podcast



BENEDICT COLLEGE: Business, Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology (BEST)

Focus of Institute: The Benedict College Business, Entrepreneurship, Science, and Technology (BEST) Institute inclusive of the following initiatives:

1. Administrative Improvements-Information Technology Department to Support BEST Institute Technology Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning Initiatives
2. Improving Academic Programs – Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service-Learning Initiative
3. The Benedict College Business, Entrepreneurship, Science, and Technology (BEST) Innovation Lab is designed to establish an entrepreneurial community on campus while sparking innovation among faculty and generating economic and social value for the college
4. BEST Institute Scholars Program
5. Student Development’s Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative.

Benedict College is committed to the development of students as individuals, industry leaders and productive citizens. We value teaching and learning relationships, support services, and cocurricular programs that contribute to meaningful personal and professional growth. We also recognize that health and well-being are crucial to students’ academic and personal success and must be included as a part of their overall academic and professional preparation to ensure their readiness for successful employment.

The Business, Entrepreneurship, Science and Technology Institute (BEST) at Benedict College seeks to foster innovation and educational opportunities related to fields and industries associated with careers in business, entrepreneurship, science, and technology. The goals of the BEST Institute are as follows:

- Connect students with majors or minors in business, entrepreneurship, science and technology disciplines with industries and businesses through internships, co-ops, and other on-the-job experiences prior to graduation.
- Produce grants that will support the Institute’s programs and services as well as the businesses and industries they serve.



- Acquire some of the latest equipment/technology needed to enhance the learning opportunities provided to students and customers.
- Market the programs and services of the Institute within the state and nationwide.
- Provide scholarships and financial assistance to students.

The BEST Institute Information Technology Program
Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Provide maintenance and license support for Jenzabar1 and additional applications that integrate with the Jenzabar system and the college ERP system. These are essential to the daily operations of the College and impact faculty, staff, and students.
2. Ensure the campus has a high performance, secure, robust network infrastructure designed to meet the College's administrative, academic, research and outreach initiatives.
3. Provide training to IT staff to update skills and remain current on latest trends and best practices as well as improve specific skill sets that may be unique to each member of staff depending on role.
4. Provide training for module managers to attend Jenzabar annual JAM conference to learn and about the latest updates for Jenzabar. Module Managers are responsible for key administrative modules within Jenzabar such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, and Registration.

BEST Institute Scholars Program
Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Provide scholarships and financial assistance to high academic performing upperclassmen students from South Carolina majoring in BEST Institute aligned disciplines.
2. Provide professional development and enrichment experiences that expose and potentially prepare them to consider employment opportunities in the state of South Carolina post-graduation.



3. Mentor students throughout the academic year to help them develop leadership and life skills. Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service-Learning

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Support Students in experiential learning opportunities to increase their skills and career development prospects.
2. Support faculty professional development activities.
3. Support and engage the community through student Service-Learning engagement.

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Provide resources to promote and foster a healthy campus community.
2. Continue to shorten the wait prior to being triaged in the Student Health Center.
3. Increase the number of health and mental health education forums held annually.
4. Improve the daily operations of the Student Health Center.
5. Hire another Licensed Counselor. (last hire tendered resignation April 2024 due to family reasons and caregiving needs at home)
6. Create a consistent group training schedule for students that captures the primary presenting issues faced/reported on campus and in the college student community.
7. Create a more comprehensive counseling/coaching program for 2nd semester Juniors focusing on graduation plans/post-graduation success.
8. Develop psychoeducational videos addressing mental health issues (access via a hosting site).

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Begin training faculty on release time, innovation in the classroom, and increasing research and entrepreneurial activities.
2. Promote the development of intellectual property and begin assessing IP value for College's benefit.
3. Designate and furnish a physical space for the Innovation Lab for student startup companies and innovative projects.



4. Create an Entrepreneurship Master Class Series.
5. Create an Innovation/Entrepreneurship Podcast.

The BEST Institute Information Technology Program

Goals Achieved to Date:

The BEST Institute Technology staff researched and pursued AI solutions that is now being implemented at Benedict College to assist with data analysis and predictive modeling, improve admissions by streamlining applicant screening and communications, and strengthen advancement efforts by enhancing donor prospecting, personalized engagement, and fundraising strategies.

BEST Institute Scholars Program

The BEST Institute scholars were selected, and 20 scholarships were awarded through Benedict College's Financial Aid Office. The BEST Institute Scholars represent disciplines aligned with the BEST Institute's focus. All scholars are from South Carolina and will serve as ambassadors for Benedict College and the BEST Institute. They will also be engaged in professional development opportunities and mentoring exercises to develop their leadership and life skills.

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

While no CHE/SCIII funds were used during the reporting period, indirectly the funds supported over a dozen development events attended by hundreds of Benedict College students including corporate field trips, corporate and government information sessions and webinars, student success workshops, crack the code IT workshops, student clubs like Men of Social Work and the Pre Law Club, a Make Golf Your Career Fair attended by over 50 students of all majors including Sports Management and our inaugural Internship and Graduate School Fair featuring 73 companies and approximately 400 students and alumni.

Plans for the Spring 2025 semester include:

- Planned faculty development experiences (conferences, webinars, research fora) for the director of Counseling, business faculty in areas of research, Fintech, AI, and entrepreneurship have been identified estimated: \$6,000
- Service-Learning community engagements estimated \$2,000



- Service-Learning community engagements estimated \$2,000

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative Student Health Center:

There was a decrease in the number of COVID 19 cases on campus since the beginning of the semester and a decrease in the number of FLU cases campuswide. The Student Health Center continues to ensure that all tests are negative and symptom-free before returning any infected student to the population. Additionally, the wait time for testing and treatment was shortened by half due to the continued staffing provided by Nurses R Us.

The following Activities were provided this year:

- Health Relationships in Collaborations with Victims Advocate Officer Fulford (August 27, 2024)
- Blood Drive with Red Cross and Benedict Ambassador (September 3, 2024)
- Campus visits from representatives from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) on September 16, 2024
- Sista Saving Sista's (September 21, 2024)
- Office of Violence Women (OVW) Training November 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Collegiate Health Circle with Victims Advocate Fulford and The HIVE (ongoing)
- Department of Public Health formally Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Testing
- Palmetto Aids Life Support (PALS) • Condom Distribution and Education (Ongoing)

Partnerships consisted of the following:

- Eau Claire and Waverly Family Practice
- Department of Public Health formally Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Testing
- Palmetto Aids Life Support (PALS) • Joseph H. Neal Wellness Center
- HIVE

Grants Funded:

- Fact Forward
- Office of Violence Against Women



The achievements for the Counseling Department consisted of purchasing and disseminating therapeutic supplies to further enhance the counseling process; and attending trainings/conferences to maintain a skillset or learn updated ways to serve our college community/implement new ideas and programs. Nearly 700 students were served throughout the FY 2024-2025 grant funding cycle, representing roughly 35 percent of our student population. Furthermore, per student and administration reporting, retention and graduation rates were maintained due to attending to the mental health needs of the student population.

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

- The BEST Innovation Lab held a Faculty Innovation Workshop
- The BEST Innovation provided programming for Entrepreneurship Week, including a student pitch competition.
- The physical space for the Innovation Lab has been designated.

Achievements Made to Date:

The BEST Institute Information Technology Program

of Students Impacted 1750
of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted 330
Community Persons Engaged

Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning

of Students Impacted 400
of Businesses 73

#Number of Faculty Impacted
Community Persons Engaged

BEST Institute Scholars Program

of Students Impacted 20
of Businesses

#Number of Faculty Impacted
Community Persons Engaged



Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative

of Students Impacted 1,743
of Businesses 6

Number of Faculty Impacted 63
Community Persons Engaged 12

Counseling and Self Development Department

of Students Impacted 702
of Businesses 3

#Number of Faculty Impacted 32
Community Persons Engaged 6

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center

of Students Impacted 545
of Businesses 96

#Number of Faculty Impacted 23
Community Persons Engaged 6

The BEST Institute Information Technology Program Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Campus-wide computer refresh for faculty and staff.
2. Provide maintenance and license support for Jenzabar1 and additional applications that integrate with the Jenzabar system and the college ERP system. These are essential to the daily operations of the College and impacts faculty, staff, and students
3. Provide IT staff training to remain current on the latest trends and best practices as well as improve specific skill sets that may be unique to each member of staff depending on their job role.
4. Research and acquire AI impactful resources that can improve productivity and streamline business operations.

Office of Professional Development and Lifelong Learning/CPI and Service Learning Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Provide 15 student experiential learning opportunities (conferences, outings, and institutes totaling approximately \$40,000.
Estimated students supported: 75
2. Support faculty professional development: 6 faculty development experiences (conferences, webinars, research fora) estimated:
\$8,000



3. Support and engage the community through student Service-Learning community engagement: estimated \$3,000

Student Development – Counseling and Self Development Services and Student Health Initiative

1. Continue to promote resources to foster a Healthy Campus.
2. Continue to reduce the triage wait time.
3. Continue the education forums on campus.
4. Continue to improve the daily operations of the Student Health Center.
5. Continue to collect data to review trends in mental health.
6. Create a PEER mentoring program.
7. Create community base service-learning opportunities for students.
8. Create training programs for faculty and staff to educate them on student mental health issues and to provide guidance for selfcare.

The BEST Institute Business Innovation Center Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Continue Entrepreneurship Master Class Series.
2. Continue and grow Innovation/Entrepreneurship Podcast.
3. Establish a student-led Radio Station for the College.

Year to Date Expenditures

Benedict College was awarded \$1,000,000 during FY2024-2025. Currently, we are reporting on residual/carryover funds from FY2023-2024 award where the award was \$1,312,500.

The SC BEST Institute Innovation Program activities supported the following initiatives:

Personnel Cost:

Salaries and Wages \$109,086 supported Salaries and Wages for the IT Staff (Chief Information Officer (65%), Systems Administrator (100%) and IT Help Desk Staff (100%), Coordinator of Special Projects (70%).



Fringe Benefits: (21% of salaries and Wages) - \$23,150

Contractual Services:

Contracted Nurses for the Student Health Center (Nurses Are Us) \$16,510

Contracted a company entitled “StudentMade, LLC” to support student entrepreneurs developing lifestyle businesses and potential enterprises. \$5,000

Total Contractual Services: \$21,510

Participant Support Cost:

20 scholarships issued at \$10,000 to students who completed the BEST Institute Scholars Program - \$200,000

Other Costs:

Subscriptions and Memberships – ZOOM Subscription - \$100

Total Funds Expended for the period July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024: \$353,846.00



CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY: The Institute of Teaching and Nursing (TITAN)

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 for FY 24-25:

- 1) Student and Program Recruitment Expansion for both Nursing and Teaching
- 2) Global FNP Study Abroad Immersions
- 3) Global Study Abroad Immersions for Teacher Education
- 4) Collaborative FNP Nursing Workforce Development
- 5) Collaborative Workforce Development for Educators
- 6) Examining the Use of AI & Implications for Requisite Licensure Examinations
- 7) Conference/Travel Support for Professional Development of Faculty, Staff, and Students

Goals Achieved to Date:

- 1) RN-BSN recruitment expansion- recruitment specialist
- 2) Recently graduated 55 nursing students- winter graduation 2024
- 3) Participation in SCIII strategic planning committee
- 4) Whether in the areas of early childhood education, elementary education, middle level education, or secondary majors in the content areas of music, art, English, and Mathematics, TITAN funds help to support access to testing preparation materials for requisite licensure examinations.

of Students Impacted _____

of Businesses _____

#Number of Faculty Impacted 1

Community Persons Engaged 1



Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

- 1) Provide scholarships for student/faculty global immersions to Ghana Summer 2025 or Summer 2026
- 2) Continue to support personnel (MSN director, RN-BSN recruiter, and FNP clinical coordinator)
- 3) Purchase simulation equipment for state-of-the-art simulation center-New nursing building 2025
- 4) This Spring 2025, the Claflin University School of Education anticipates facilitating study abroad experiences for 10 teacher education majors in Brazil. Partnering with the University of Brasilia, the goal is to counteract efforts to disassemble DEI initiatives and to spawn interests in international travel, while simultaneously broadening the global perspectives of aspiring educators. International travel of this magnitude will become an annual educational initiative.
- 5) Additionally, the Claflin University School of Education anticipates facilitating study abroad experiences for 10 students in the Human Performance Recreation and Sport Management Department. Students will travel to Johannesburg, South Africa to research the planning and overall orchestration of myriad sporting events in another country. International travel of this magnitude will become an annual educational initiative.
- 6) Support Licensure Preparation via the purchase of vouchers.
- 7) Support Faculty and Staff Professional Development for Conferences
- 8) Support Student Professional Development for Conferences

Year to Date Expenditures:

Quarter 1: \$42,295.05 Quarter 2: \$41,589.49



CLINTON COLLEGE: Wellness and Community Health (WACH)

Focus of Institute: The WACH Institute was founded to tackle health inequities and disparities by promoting a holistic and integrated wellness approach, with an emphasis on enriching the community experience and fostering greater health awareness at Clinton College to include the surrounding Greater Rock Hill, South Carolina area. The Institute aims to achieve equitable health outcomes for communities through participatory evaluation, applied research, assessment, planning, and data-driven services. Additionally, it seeks to inspire innovation and provide educational opportunities in fields and industries dedicated to promoting community wellness and health.

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Increase wellness opportunities for global learners
2. Increase community outreach in Black churches
3. Raise mental health awareness on and off Clinton campus
4. Create wellness policies for students that promote early intervention and campus-wide community prevention
5. Develop campus and community health initiatives that address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
6. Promote the adoption of a healthy lifestyle on and off campus

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Increased community outreach in the Black church
2. Developed campus and community health initiatives that addressed the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
3. Raised mental health awareness on campus
4. Promoted the adoption of a healthy lifestyle on and off campus

Achievements Made to Date:

of Students Impacted **245**

of Businesses **33**

#Number of Faculty Impacted **70**

Community Persons Engaged **1500**



Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Increase wellness opportunities for distance learners
2. Increase community outreach by 25%
3. Create wellness policies for students that promote early intervention and campus-wide community prevention by 12/31/25
4. Adopt the healthy campus framework by 12/31/25

Year to Date Expenditures

Budget Explanation for FY 2024-25 End of Year Actual

- **Personnel Expenses:** Total personnel costs amounted to \$278,187.36. This included salaries and fringe benefits for me, one administrative assistant, and three community health coordinators.
- **General Operating Expenses:** Total general operating costs for the year were \$110,000. My office was initially located in downtown Rock Hill, with a monthly rent of \$11,000. In August 2024, I relocated to the campus, eliminating this expense.
- **Material Expenses:** Total material expenses were \$17,870.10, primarily spent on equipment like laptops and other technology. Additional costs covered promotional and marketing materials for wellness initiatives, including the annual health fair, Welcome Week, Wellness Week, First-Generation Week collaboration, Homecoming, and the Back-to-School Block Party.
- **Communication Expenses:** Total communication expenses amounted to \$550.00 for the year.
- **Travel Expenses:** Total travel expenses were \$1,220.14, covering mileage and travel reimbursements for workshops and professional development.
- **Other Expenditures:** Total sponsorship-related expenses amounted to \$3,550.00.

Key Achievements

1. **Expansion of Mental Health Services:**
 - ✓ Secured Funding: WACH received a \$401,000 grant from the *South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare*. This funding will enhance campus initiatives focused on improving mental health services, promoting physical wellness, and addressing student health needs through prevention and education programs. The grant will also support team expansion, including hiring a new mental health counselor and training wellness ambassadors to become certified peer support workers.



2. **Physical Wellness Programs:**

- ✓ **Sunrise Yoga:** Held weekly fitness sessions for the Clinton basketball team, focusing on yoga to promote stretching, strength, and flexibility. These sessions were designed to energize the body and rejuvenate the nervous system, setting a positive tone for the day for students.
- ✓ **Bingocize:** Led a program at Mt. Prospect Church that blends exercise and health education with bingo games to enhance mobility, nutrition, and social interaction among sedentary older adults. By integrating physical activity and wellness information into a familiar and enjoyable game, the program encouraged seniors to stay active and engaged.

3. **Emotional and Social Wellness:**

- ✓ **Winter Wellness Land Self-Care Fair:** Organized an end-of-year student workshop centered on relaxation, fitness, nutrition, and mindfulness. Students earned self-care items by participating in themed stations featuring interactive activities and enjoyed hot cocoa and holiday treats with their peers. (Stations listed below):
 - **Merry Munchies Station:** Highlighted healthy nutrition tips for the holiday season.
 - **Build a Study Buddy Station:** Provided strategies for academic wellness and exam preparation.
 - **Calm and Cozy Crafting Station:** Offered stress-management activities through creative crafts.
 - **Holiday Magic Moments Station:** Focused on maintaining mental health during the holidays.
 - **Festive and Fit Station:** Promoted physical wellness with at-home fitness ideas.
- ✓ **Wellapalooza:** Hosted a campus-wide series of activities during Wellness Week to promote physical, emotional, and mental well-being among the college community. Activities listed below:
 - **BYOP (Build Your Own Parfait):** Kicked off Wellness Week in the yard with a healthy snack, providing students an engaging opportunity to explore the benefits of good nutrition.
 - **Plant A Seed, Grow Your Knowledge:** Organized an event where students painted their pots and planted seeds to represent personal and academic growth. While their pots dried, students relaxed with blankets and books, creating a peaceful atmosphere for both hands-on learning and personal reflection.
 - **Walk With Me:** A peer-led walk around campus with Rev. Cunningham to foster community and connection.



Innovative Programs Launched

- ✓ **Beacon Buddies: An HBCU Peer Support Program-** Launched a peer support program focused on mental health to foster a sense of belonging, validate students' experiences, and reduce stigma surrounding mental health.
- ✓ **Mindfulness Moments:** Celebrated World Mental Health Day by hosting a campus wellness event and providing resources to faculty and staff, encouraging them to take a break from their busy schedules to relax, reflect, and recharge.

Student Testimonials

"As a student, I feel like mental health matters. By taking care of your mental health, it can encourage others to take care of theirs, and it can shift the culture of mental health on campus."

- **Breon C., Sophomore, Business Administration, Class of 2027**

"I joined Beacon Buddies to ensure that everyone around campus is well, and in a great headspace."

- **Adrianna P., Freshman, Business Administration, Class of 2028**

Community Engagement/Outreach

- ✓ **Fall in Love with Your Health Fall Festival:** Partnered with local organizations to host an annual WACH health fair, attracting campus and local community attendees.
- ✓ **Back 2 School Block Party:** Collaborated with the Heart 2 Heart Foundation to host the annual Back 2 School Block Party and Book Bag Giveaway. The event supported over 2,000 local students and 1,000 parents/guardians, aligning with Heart 2 Heart's mission to raise awareness about heart disease while providing school supplies, free health screenings, and access to valuable community resources.
- ✓ **ParentSMART and The Sylvia Circle:** Collaborated with the Family Learning Center to deliver health education programs for teen mothers and fathers.



Looking Ahead 2025

Expansion Plans:

- Increased peer support programs (peer-led workshops).
 - Students will lead workshops with a focus on mental health promotion, physical wellness, and sexual health.
- Establish a peer support hotline on campus.
 - Provide students with an accessible, confidential, and empathetic resource for emotional support and guidance. It is designed to complement professional mental health services by leveraging the power of peer connection, relatability, and shared experiences.
- Introduction to the quiet on-campus space (The Bear Cave)
 - Provide students with a designated area to rest, reflect, and recharge on campus. The space will support overall well-being by addressing physical, mental, and emotional health needs.
- Implement storytelling platforms. (Bear Podcast, sharing circles)
 - Foster connection, understanding, and personal growth within the campus community. The platform will allow students to share their experiences, celebrate diversity, and build a more inclusive and empathetic environment.

New Initiatives

Nourish Now-Integrative Food Council (IFC):

- Is committed to addressing the complex and interconnected issues surrounding food access, sustainability, nutrition, and education within our campus community and beyond. This program aims to create a collaborative, inclusive space where students, faculty, staff, and community partners come together to engage in meaningful dialogue and action on food-related challenges on campus.



Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Establish the Nourish Now Food Council Structure

Objective: Form a diverse and representative Nourish Now food council that includes students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members to ensure a broad range of perspectives and expertise.

Goal: Conduct a Campus Food Assessment

Objective: Evaluate current food access, availability, and student needs through surveys, focus groups, and data collection to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.

Goal: Develop and Implement Food Security Initiatives

Objective: Launch programs such as sidewalk pantries, BEAR Market, Healthy Habits Hub, and partnerships with local food banks to address immediate food security needs and prevent food scarcity on campus.

Goal: Community Outreach

Objective: Provide initiatives and education for the community and special populations within the community. Offer targeted programs, workshops, and resources tailored to the needs of special populations, such as low-income families, seniors, and marginalized groups. For example, providing nutrition education classes to community members 55+ through the City of Rock Hill's Lifelong Learners program.

Goal: Launch Sustainability Projects

Objective: Initiate sustainable food practices on campus such as composting, reducing food waste, and sourcing local, seasonal produce.

Goal: Host Educational Events and Campaigns

Objective: Organize events like guest speaker sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns on topics related to nutrition, food justice, and environmental sustainability to educate the Clinton College community.

Goal: Collaborate with Local Community Partners

Objective: Build partnerships with local farms, food cooperatives, non-profits, and community organizations to expand food access, share resources, and create a supportive network for Nourish Now's initiatives.



Goal: Evaluate and Adjust Programs

Objective: Regularly assess the effectiveness of food-related initiatives and programs to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the Clinton College community, and make necessary adjustments based on feedback and results.

Goal: Advocate for Institutional Change

Objective: Work with the Clinton College administration and board members to integrate sustainability and food security policies into the college's long-term strategic planning, ensuring a lasting commitment to these value

Safe FolX:

- Is committed to reducing barriers to sexual and reproductive health by providing education and awareness around STI prevention. The program aims to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with STIs and create a supportive campus environment while also creating safe spaces.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Prevent STIs on campus.

Objective: Educate and create awareness around STI prevention.

Goal: Improve sexual health equity while reducing STI-related health disparities and health inequities (SRHE) to include addressing socioeconomic factors.

Objective A.: Expand culturally competent and linguistically appropriate STI prevention, care, and treatment services in communities disproportionately impacted by STIs.

Objective B.: Address STI-related social determinants of health.

Goal: Reduce stigma and discrimination associated with STIs.

Objective: Create a supportive campus environment and safe spaces.

Goal: Promote safe sex practices on and off campus.

Objective: Reduce the risks of infections and prevent unwanted pregnancy

Goal: To increase regular STI testing and screening on campus to a minimum of twice a semester.



Objective: Provide students with accessible and confidential testing services, leading to early detection, and treatment, and reducing STI transmission.

Actionable Items FY 25-26:

- Develop a community health dashboard for campus initiatives.
- Implement a health advisory council on campus.
- Develop wellness policies for Clinton College
- Create a WACH Monthly Newsletter for community marketing and branding.
- Secure donorship and sponsorship



MORRIS COLLEGE: The Senator John L. Scott, Jr. Institute of Network and Information Technology and Security (NITS)

Focus of Institute: Cybersecurity

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Provide scholarships to Cybersecurity-Esports major and minor (10)
2. Increase the number of students majoring and minoring in Cybersecurity-Esports
3. Commence fundraising activities for establishing CETICyber (Cybersecurity Hub)
4. Hire a professor in Computer Science-Cybersecurity Field.

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Provided 10 scholarships to Cybersecurity-Esports majors at \$15,000 each
2. Increased the number of Cybersecurity majors to 44 and to 12 Esports majors
3. Hired a professor in Esports Video Game Design
4. Created a Fund-raising Team for the CETICyber and discussed the project with Mr. Charles Carither of the Cornerstone Fundraising Group

Achievements Made to Date:

of Students Impacted 56

#Number of Faculty Impacted 2

of Businesses

Community Persons Engaged 4

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

1. Hire a professor in Cybersecurity-Computer Science Field
2. Continue fund raising activities through various venues
3. Nurture Cybersecurity-Esports majors and provide support for them
4. Acquire advanced equipment to meet the needs of the exploding majors

Year to Date Expenditures:

Year to date expenditures as of December 2024 is **\$220,515.50**



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY: Business, Environment, Communications & Transportation (BECT)

Focus of Institute: The mission of the BECT Institute is to support South Carolina State University in building and sustaining inclusive programs that will foster innovation, educational and career opportunities for faculty, students, and the community through teaching, learning, research, scholarship, and service in the areas of business, environment, communication, and transportation

Goals for FY 24-25:

1. Develop an agile environment for innovation and research at S C State University
2. Enhance the career readiness and professional development of stakeholders.
3. Enhance societal impact through initiatives that promote prosperity and overall well-being within communities
4. Expand physical and financial resources

Goals Achieved to Date:

1. Sponsored a Faculty-Student Research Symposium with 31 presenters on various topics related to business, environment, communication and transportation. Implemented the BECT Education and Research Greenhouse which is enhancing the environment for innovation and research. Two faculty and five students are conducting experiments in the greenhouse.
2. Enhanced the professional development and career readiness of students through seminars and digital technology training. Also, students took 4-day coastal excursion trip to expose students to non-traditional career pathways in coastal and ocean science and a day trip to learn about environmental gardening. Provided training for students to take MOS certification tests. Sponsored a Communication Speaker Series for communication majors to learn and network with professionals in the field. Students participated in entrepreneurial training and assisted with market research for small businesses. Awarded five (5) students the Senator John Scott Memorial Scholarship of \$2,000 each. The scholarship fund was created by a BECT supporter and other donations.
3. Conducted a 6-month Small Business Accelerator program that provided training and funding to assist in sustaining and developing 10 community businesses and 2 student businesses.



- Received \$2.0M grant from US Department of Transportation to develop and implement an innovative SMART program using virtual reality to educate, raise awareness and reinforce the need for safety in operating commercial motor vehicles (CMV) in South Carolina.

Achievements Made to Date:

# of Students Impacted	<u>480</u>	#Number of Faculty Impacted	<u>25</u>
# of Businesses	<u>25</u>	# Community Persons Engaged	<u>52</u>

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

- Develop an agile environment for innovation and research at S C State University
- Enhance the career readiness and professional development of stakeholders.
- Enhance societal impact through initiatives that promote prosperity and overall well-being within communities
- Expand physical and financial resources

Year to Date Expenditures: July 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2024: **\$705,154**



VOORHEES UNIVERSITY: Rural Community Development Institute (RCD)

Focus of Institute: To provide mechanisms to improve the quality of life in rural communities and counties surrounding Denmark, South Carolina. <https://sciii.net/rcd-vorhees-university/>

BACKGROUND

To our dismay, the City of Denmark and the County of Bamberg in South Carolina, the home of Voorhees University, hold the infamous federal designations as a Promise Zone and an Empowerment Zone, rendering the areas among the poorest in the nation. As an act of Becoming Beloved Community, the strategic plan views the current disposition as an opportunity to employ the Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) at Voorhees University. The impetus for the RCDI is anchored in Matthew 25: "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. '" (Matthew 25 NIV). The Voorhees University Rural Community Development Institute team will operate based on the best and most promising practices as a systemic process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas. Recognizing that we must fight on many fronts to address the various needs of our underserved rural communities, the RCDI takes a holistic multidisciplinary approach to improve the quality of life in rural communities and counties surrounding Voorhees University. The undergirding philosophy for the RCDI is the critical importance of advancing educational opportunities from the "cradle" and throughout life in order to promote lifelong learning and development in an ever-changing world.

- Rural Community Development Institute's Vision:
To create and implement sustainable community initiatives that address the socio-economic well-being of Voorhees University's students, staff, faculty, and neighboring rural community citizens.

- Rural Community Development Institute's Mission:
Develop 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 of our rural community citizens by utilizing readily available natural and human resources to enhance economic possibilities and increase social mobility.

In accordance with our vision and mission, the RDCI will:

- Increase equity in education for low-income students in our disadvantaged communities,



- Provide support to increase access to rural healthcare services,
- Provide integrated solutions for community needs, including establishing community businesses and management structures through training.
- Identify grants and other fiscal and human resources that will assist communities in attaining goals toward becoming self-sufficient.
- Facilitate skills development and transfer, thus ensuring self-employment and job creation and,
- Hire grant management support and provide regular monitoring, engagement, evaluation, and training for grant personnel to ensure that grant projects meet their objectives and that strategies are developed to foster sustainability.

The RCDI partners with the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII) and is funded by the South Carolina General Assembly. www.sciii.net

Goals for FY 23-24:

- 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.**
 1. Outcome: At least two healthcare awareness events are hosted
 2. 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 RDCI's sustainability.**
 1. Outcome: The writing of at least one grant a year.
 2. 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.**
 1. Outcome: Hosted at least two events with stakeholders
 2. 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.
- 1) **Provide services that promote increased access to healthcare services and knowledge about our Voorhees University and the surrounding community.**

Background

The RDCI's Liberal Arts Innovation Center for Healthcare, Access, and Equity (LAIC) purpose is to provide services that promote increased access to healthcare services for our VU and surrounding community. The LAIC's mission is to model and test promising practices from a liberal arts and multidisciplinary education perspective to unite the best practices in rural and minority health disparities. The Center's liberal arts philosophy and guiding theoretical framework are anchored in the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP). The LAIC focuses on rural and minority healthcare, which is highly influenced by Rural Promising Practices, a national model designed and implemented by the Office of Rural Health (ORH) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. LAIC seeks to impact rural and minority health disparities from a liberal arts and multidisciplinary perspective. Ms. Scarborough, the Founding Director of the RDCI, works with a cross-functional rural healthcare team to centralize our efforts and work collaboratively to improve disease awareness and access to healthcare for our community members. Please meet RDCI's Rural Health Team below:

Black Aids Institute

- The Black AIDS Institute (BAI) initiative was developed to provide African American students with the requisite information necessary to provide them with the knowledge to achieve a level of protection against the onslaught of continued infection by HIV. The BAI host programming is focused on prevention, protection, and knowledge. The BAI course curriculum is being tested by inclusion within public health course finals. The BHIVE (Black HIV Epidemic) group will perform the final evaluation of the content and student outcomes. Embedding of the established BAI course curriculum was completed for **the January 2024 Spring semester** across introduction to public health courses.



- After completing the initial introduction, testing, and evaluation phase, we have found that the BAI HIV/AIDS course modules have significantly enhanced students' learning experience at HBCUs and the surrounding community. This reassures us of the program's effectiveness and potential to bring about positive change. As a partner in conjunction with BAI to develop and deploy a course that would offer African American students the opportunity to obtain knowledge and understanding about how the African American community is disproportionately suffering from the introduction of this disease into our community would benefit from a course of study to alleviate this surge. The public health courses selected to introduce this information to students at Voorhees were Introduction to Health Education, Chronic and Communicable Disease, and Community Health. It has been one year since the introduction of content in this manner. Students have responded positively to this information in demonstrating their knowledge uptake on tests, class discussions, and presentations. **Since the fall semester of 2023, approximately 80 students across multiple disciplines have benefited from this additional course content being applied to the courses taught.** In addition, these students qualify for a chance to participate in paid internships provided by the BAI organization. Now that the project's initial implementation and evaluation phase has been completed, the partner organizations are primed to take the following steps to introduce the content as a fully intact course. The designed course would cover approximately 15 modules and be self-directed. Adding a new course to the educational offerings at Voorhees University is now being considered for the fall semester. Also, the BAI organization has planned a meet and greet with first-generation students to float the course offerings and teach them how to protect themselves from acquiring this disease and family members moving forward.
- *2024 -Fall semester:* Upon further completion of the BAI course, the remaining requirements are to establish an internship with an organization that offers students an opportunity to work on issues relating to individuals who live with AIDS diagnosis. Establishing an internship required the collaboration of both BAI and the Family Health Centers, Inc., in determining what HIV outreach opportunities would be offered to the students who qualify to participate, given the completion of at least three modules from the approved course curriculum. The approval of the final responsibilities of each organization is still being discussed. The following requirement to comply with the HRSA grant was to explore the possibility of The Black AIDS Institute visiting Voorhees University this semester to speak with your first-year class. With our shared mission of addressing the health disparities in African American communities, especially in rural South Carolina, we believe this would be an excellent opportunity to engage students in conversations about the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis and prevention early in their college journey. The first-year students were chosen for this opportunity because the information provided would prepare them for possibly encountering this disease during their matriculation through graduation and working with Ms. Lauren Grayson, who will interact with the first-year students in this effort. Additionally, students enrolled in specific public health courses will have an opportunity to be a part of the BAI grant through the completion of embedded modules in three selected areas.



TOTAL:

of VU Students Impacted: 80

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 2

of Schools/Business: N/A

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: N/A

HBCU OUTLOUD Day (10/18/2023)

- Voorhees University Health Services and Tiger + partnered with the Human Rights Campaign to host its first HBCU OutLOUD Day outside of the Dining Hall on campus. HBCU OutLOUD Day is a day for HBCU students, faculty, and staff to reaffirm their commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and celebrate diversity milestones. https://www.hrc.org/campaigns/hbcu-outloud-day?gad_source=2&gclid=Cj0KCQiAwbitBhDIARIsABfFYIibr6COU5AC0SJSjteUsliNjLn7mIEGc5M8fNh8YWC2GN_TxRW3wCoaAvD2EALw_wcB Information on HIV/Aids, diversity, equality, and inclusiveness was shared with all participants, and fun, interactive engagement facilitated educational conversations and pamphlets that contained resources for support and services for the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Incentives were also given to participants.

TOTAL:100

of VU Students Impacted:90

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 9

of Businesses:1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 0

Blue Carpet Ball (11/8/2023)

- Tiger+ (VU LGBTQ+ Organization) hosted the first Homecoming event that promoted diversity, equality, and inclusion by self-expression through four categories. Best Dressed, Show Your Sole, Face-Off, and Everything But Clothes. Trophies were given to top-voted participants, and light refreshments were served to participants and attendees.

TOTAL:60

of VU Students Impacted:65

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 5



of Businesses: 3 (SC Pride, Human Rights Campaign, and Hope Health)

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 5

Homecoming-AIDs awareness (11/12/2023)

- 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.

TOTAL:250+

of VU Students Impacted:150+

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 25+

of Businesses:25+

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 25+

World Aids Day Program/HIV Testing (11/30/23)

- This event, “Stroll for A Cause, incorporated the Greek Fraternities and Sororities on campus to stroll, bringing awareness to HIV/Aids.” VU Health Services partner Hope Health provided testing, lunch, and incentives for all participants and attendees.

TOTAL:100

of VU Students Impacted:100

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 5

of Businesses:1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 0

Campus Against Dating Abuse (CADA) Project

- Voorhees University received a grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women department for \$300,000 over three years. The grant focuses on reducing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. During 2023-2024, the project director has engaged campus and community members Dean Hill, Chief Hale, CASA Family Systems, and the Denmark Police Department to develop a strategic plan to implement the grant. In December of 2024, we received approval from our grantor to start implementing our CADA strategic plan in 2025.



TOTAL:1

of VU Students Impacted:

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 5

of Businesses: 1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 3

USC HBCU Health Discovery Grant:

RIG Meeting (Rural Interest Group) (August 29, 2024)

- On August 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., Voorhees University's RIG members (Student Health Ambassadors) hosted the inaugural RIG meeting. This event introduced the concept of a Rural Interest Group and the importance of membership. Each student Health Ambassador discussed specific areas RIG focuses on, including food insecurity, chronic health diseases, mental health, and legislature and its impact on rural areas. Coach LaRonda Johnson also attended this event.

VU Students Impacted- 20

VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 1

Community K-12 Impacted-0

College and University Impacted-1

Community Person/Students- 1

July 2024 to August 26, 2024 - Community Health Worker Training

- From July 15, 2024, to August 26, 2024, four Voorhees University Student Health Ambassadors participated in Community Health Workers training with the USC's CHHA CHW Core Competency Training Program. On July 26, 2024, Nurse Williams also completed Community Health Worker Preceptor training. This training allows Nurse Williams to precept current and future Community Health Workers. Nurse Williams precepted for the VU Community Health Workers as they completed field work to obtain the required certification hours. On August 26, 2024, four Student Health Ambassadors took the Community Health Workers certification test. As of **October 9, 2024, three of the four students have passed their Community Health Worker's certification exam.**

VU Students Impacted- 4

VU Staff/Faculty Impacted-1



Community K-12 Impacted-0
College and University Impacted-1
Community Person/Students Engaged-1

Voorhees University Organization Fair (August 20, 2024)

- VU Student Health Ambassadors participated in the University’s Organization Fair and discussed the newly implemented VU RIG. They shared what RIG is about and its importance in impacting rural communities, as well as the upcoming inaugural meeting. Students could scan a QR code to sign up for VU RIG. We currently have 12 students who have signed up. They also discussed the CRPH organization and how its funding helps establish and support many entities that improve positive outcomes in rural communities worldwide.

VU Students Impacted- 100+
VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 25
Community K-12 Impacted-0
College and University Impacted-1
Community Person/Students-0

Bamberg Villa Back to School Bash (August 14, 2024)

- Three Student Health Ambassadors, Nurse Williams and Bethel United Methodist Church, participated in a Back-to-School bash at the Bamberg Villa. The adult community members were informed about chronic health diseases in rural areas, and school supplies were given to school-aged children. Hours spent at the event were counted towards CHW certification fieldwork.

VU Students Impacted- 3
VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 1
Community K-12 Impacted-30
College and University Impacted-1
Community Person/Students Engaged-25



Family Health Centers, Inc., Free Community Health and Wellness Fair/Back to School Bash (August 10, 2024)

- Two Student Health Ambassadors and Preceptor Nurse Williams participated in the event by having a table, giving out school supplies, stress balls, and mental health pamphlets to the community members, and discussing health and wellness information. Community members signed up to receive more information about future health and wellness events sponsored by VU and HBCU Discovery. Hours spent at this event counted towards the CHW training field hours. Nurse Williams was interviewed by DJ Prince Ice, who discussed the importance of health and wellness events in rural areas and the excitement of participating in the event.

VU Students Impacted- 2

VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 1

Community K-12 Impacted-80+

College and University Impacted-1

Community Person/Students Engaged-100+

August 10, 2024 - Annual Community Health Fair/Baby Shower

- One Student Health Ambassador, along with the preceptor and VU alumnae, Tracy Golden, participated in the event, assisting with giving out school supplies and engaging the community in health and wellness issues and literacy. Community members signed up to receive more information about future health and wellness events sponsored by VU and HBCU Discovery, and the hours spent at this event counted towards the CHW training field hours.

VU Students Impacted- 1

VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 0

Community K-12 Impacted-50+

College and University Impacted-1

Community Person/Students Engaged-75+

Under Nurse Suzzane A. Williams's leadership, Voorhees University has partnered with Dr. Danette Fraliz McAlhaney at Bamberg Family Practice to begin to offer telehealth services beginning in January 2024. The telehealth services will be partially funded through a grant from Bamberg Family Practice. In the future, this service should significantly impact VU students.

TOTAL:1



of VU Students Impacted:
of Faculty/Staff Impacted:
of Businesses:1
of Community Persons/Students Engaged:

Health and Wellness Readiness (July 27, 2024)

Student Health Ambassadors, led by Nurse Williams, facilitated a Health and Wellness Readiness Team during Welcome Week’s move-in day for New and Transfer students by using an alert system for medical emergencies, explaining the importance of mitigating healthy practices during high-temperature days, such as staying hydrated, encouraging appropriate hydration during the move-in process during high-temperature days, and encouraging rest periods, and knowing how the heat can affect chronic health diseases. This information was beneficial to students, parents, and staff. The Student Health Ambassadors gained experience engaging members of the university community and parents and received credit for fieldwork in the CHW training.

VU Students Impacted- 100+
VU Staff/Faculty Impacted- 25
Community K-12 Impacted-0
College and University Impacted-1
Community Person/Students Engaged-0

Juneteenth Celebration (June 19, 2024)

On Wednesday, June 19, 2024, the Rural Health Team and Dr. Sojourner participated in a community-centered event sponsored by the Bamberg Chapter of the NAACP. We had a table with information on hypertension and local resources and services available for more information and treatment. We also did blood pressure checks, and A & B Snack Shak partnered with us to give 50 free healthy wraps (veggie and turkey) to all participating community members who completed the blood pressure check and a survey.

Attendance Sheets- N/A

VU Students Impacted-0

VU Faculty/Staff Impacted-2

Colleges and Universities Impacted-1 (South Carolina State University—they had student community health workers who came to our table and helped out for a little while.)



Community Persons: (Directly) 54

Students Engaged: (Overall)125+

Cancer Screening Project (May 7, 2024)

VU’s Community Relations Liaison Officer, Dr. Sojourner, Dr. So and the Rural Community Health Team hosted a free Cancer Screening project on May 7, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 3:20 PM. The project, provided through the Clemson Rural Health Agency, was a resounding success. Services offered included breast and cervical cancer screenings for women ages 21—64, regardless of insurance coverage. Walk-up patrons were welcome to attend. The Voorhees University family, proud of their success, plans to include having the mobile unit return in the fall. Advertising in the community and on campus taught us that ensuring the process is continuous and intentional is very important.

Grant Writing Seminar (May 7, 2024)

The Rural Healthcare team held a grant-writing seminar for faculty, staff, and students to build the capacity of our rural campus and community and foster a grant-writing culture designed to strengthen the ability to secure grants focused on improving the health and well-being of underserved communities and increasing social mobility. Sixty-eight people attended. We conducted a survey to determine future programming needs.

TOTAL (estimates): 77 people

of VU Students Impacted: 3

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 68

Community Persons/Organizations: 5 or 6

Sickle Cell Awareness Day (March 20, 2024)

- Voorhees University hosted a Sickle Cell Day of Testing for VU and the local community. The purpose of this event was to bring awareness regarding sickle cell disease and its effect on the African American community. VU sought to increase individuals' knowledge about their status, provide linkage to care, and explain sickle cell disease's effects on maternal health. Participants were provided information about Sickle Cell and could be tested for free if they wished. VU will provide an opportunity for Sickle Cell testing again in September.

of VU Students Impacted:



of Faculty/Staff Impacted:
of Schools: 1
of Community Persons/Students Engaged:
TOTAL: 30 people attended, and 16 were administered a sickle cell test.

Women's Health Workshop (February 6, 2024)

- February 6, 2024, Denmark, SC – Voorhees University held its first Women's Health Workshop in Massachusetts Hall. Two workshop sessions were held: a morning session commencing at 10:00 am and an afternoon session at 1:00 pm. The event offered vital education on health matters specific to women and was free and open to the public. Dr. Michelle Rojas, Owner and CEO of Grace Medical Center in Columbia, SC, served as the guest speaker for the workshop. The morning session attendees enjoyed a nutritious breakfast, while those participating in the afternoon session will be treated to a wholesome lunch. This initiative is aligned with Voorhees President Ronnie Hopkins' commitment to promoting health and wellness following the success of the Men's Health and Wellness Workshop held in April 2023. <https://voorhees.edu/voorhees-university-hosts-inaugural-womens-health-workshop/> VU's Nurse Williams notes that Dr. Rojas was very intentional in the information that she delivered, and both sessions were packed with invested participants. Nurse Williams further stated that "this is the first of many exciting health and wellness-focused events that Voorhees University will have this semester in partnership with the Center for Rural and Primary Health and many other partners whose focus is to increase access to health and wellness resources and decrease the outcomes of healthcare disparities in rural areas. It was a wonderful time sharing and learning health and wellness tips with our community." The survey has been reviewed to determine future programming.

TOTAL: About 105 women attended, with 72 completing a survey.

of VU Students Impacted: 55
of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 30
of Schools: N/A/ Just VU
of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 20

Cupcakes and Condoms (March 19, 2024)

- On March 19, 2024, led by Nurse Williams, Voorhees University, the Episcopal Church, and many other partners brought to our community awareness about HIV/Aids. The Cupcakes and Condom event occurred in the Leonard E. Dawson Center foyer. The



purpose of the event was to increase awareness of HIV/Aids by expanding education, knowledge of resources, and linkage to care. We also sought to create a sense of camaraderie and strengthen the support system between the campus community and the surrounding community, which assists with decreasing the outcomes of stigma-related treatment and increasing advocacy surrounding HIV/Aids. VU students, faculty, staff, and community members enjoyed tasty cupcakes while learning about prevention, advocacy, and resources related to HIV/Aids. Participants played games, received prizes, and were provided condoms and other safe sex paraphernalia. Let's Stop the Stigma!!

We did not take attendance, so we cannot categorize the individuals who attended.

of Schools: 1

TOTAL: 60 people attended.

Outcomes: The VU rural health team has met its goal of holding two healthcare events. For each event, we have documented participation, and these numbers will be used as our baseline to gauge future health awareness events. When we fully implement our newest grant, USC's HBCU Discover Health grant, we predict that we will have an even greater impact on our VU and local community citizens.

2) Implement the United States Department of Education's Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Grant Program designed to help students in rural communities walk into career pathways.

The Rural Community Development Institute received a four-year to improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among rural individuals by developing high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/rped/index.html> The team consists of the following individuals:

SC Works hosted a Voorhees University Career Fair (September 18, 2024)

- SC DEW, lower Savannah, hosted our Workforce Development Month event at Voorhees University, where Ricky Clemons, the Voorhees University Business Workforce Development Liaison, helped spearhead the event. Together, we helped the Voorhees students prepare for success with our workshops, which included refining their resumes, teaching them how to represent themselves at a career fair, and connecting them to job opportunities and community resources. Ms. Donna Miller, the business



consultant for SC DEW, stated that "because of our collaboration, the event was a success, with 17 employers, 22 community organizations, and 319 local community and students attending the September 18, 2024, SC WORKS Job Fair." Ms. Tameka Johnson, regional manager for SC DEW Lower Savannah, commented, "SC DEW looks forward to partnering with Mr. Clemons and the Rural Community Development Institute team at Voorhees University again in the future to support even more students and community members."

- We were thrilled to have had SC Works host such a dynamic career fair, a significant event that has positively impacted our community. It allowed students and community members to engage directly with employers from various industries and connect with community resources. Events like these are vital in fostering connections, building skills, and opening doors to meaningful careers. By bringing together students, local talent, and businesses, we're helping to strengthen the workforce and create a brighter future for our entire community. This event has been a highlight for Voorhees University due to the large turnout of students, people from the community, employers, and community resources. The Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) at Voorhees University looks forward to a future partnership with SC Works.

of VU Students Impacted: 143

of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: 20

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: **153 Community People, 17 employers, 22 community organizations.**

SC Works hosts a Career Readiness Workshop with its Voorhees University partner (September 11, 2024)

- On September 11, 2024, Donna Miller, a Business Consultant from SC Works, hosted a career readiness workshop in preparation for the upcoming STEM 201 Career Pathways Course 201 career fair. During this time, she focused on students preparing themselves before the career fair (resume, grooming, pitch, dress, how to engage with employers, and always being ready to interview). Ms. Miller reviewed students' resumes and provided feedback.

of VU Students Impacted: 20

of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: 2

of Colleges and Universities Impacted: 1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 1 community person



UNCF (Student Professional Development Programs) visit Voorhees University (September 24, 2024)

- Taliah Givens, Program Director, and Sierra Willams, Program Coordinator, visited Voorhees University on September 24th and discussed what the SPDP offers: It offers an eco-system of career readiness services to thousands of students through programs structured to help students. Mr. Clemons organized Voorhees University's students to participate and take advantage of the opportunity to:
 - Navigate from college to early-stage career attainment
 - Secure paid summer internships
 - Provide industry-sector career exposure & preparation
 - Grow in resume, interview, networking, leadership, and other vital professional skills
 - Reduce financial and other potential barriers to degree completion

of VU Students Impacted: 141

of VU Faculty/Staff Impacted: 5

of Colleges and Universities Impacted: 1

of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 2 Community

Outcomes: The Rural Community Development Institute team developed partnerships and collaborations with governments, businesses, community members, and other stakeholders to increase workforce/employment opportunities in our rural communities.

3) Search for additional funding to find additional funding to implement the RCDI's goals and objectives and enhance the RDCI's sustainability.

The RCDI focused significant effort on finding additional funding to achieve its objectives and increase the RDCI's sustainability. Three grants were written. The following two were funded:

University of South Carolina's HBCU Health Discovery Program (November 2023)

- The RDCI director, Ms. Cathy Scarborough, and members of the Rural Healthcare team, Suzanne Williams, L.P.N. and Kendall M. Williams, DrPH, MS. Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for Public Health School of Science, Technology, Health, and Human Services and Executive Director, Liberal Arts Innovation Center for Healthcare Access and



Equity (LAIC), received a grant from the University of South Carolina’s HBCU Health Discovery Program. The purpose of this grant is to:

- 1) Support HBCU-led initiatives for their students and the surrounding community that define health equity from their context.
- 2) Prepare and inspire the next generation of highly skilled and influential health leaders to impact their campus and community.
- 3) Create a sustainable pipeline of diverse students entering the healthcare workforce with mentorship and networking opportunities.

[file:///C:/Users/Cfranklin/Downloads/HBCU%20Health%20Discovery_One%20Pager%20\(6\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Cfranklin/Downloads/HBCU%20Health%20Discovery_One%20Pager%20(6).pdf)

- This \$500,000 two-year grant will address healthcare disparities in our underserved communities through outreach, education, and advocacy for increased healthcare access and an impact on the healthcare career pipeline.

The United States Department of Education’s Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Grant (December 2023)

- The RDCI director, Cathy Scarborough, and Corey Amaker, Ph.D. Vice President, Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Technology, both co-principal investigators and a part of the grant writing team, received a \$1,965,332.00 United States Department of Education's Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Grant (“RPED”) Program. The purpose of this grant is to:

Improve rates of postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and completion among rural students through the development of high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the region. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/rped/index.html>

- Twenty-two institutions of higher education were selected from the competitive grant process. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-445-million-improve-postsecondary-education-access-and-completion-students-rural-communities>



- This \$1,965,332.00 four-year grant will be used to implement VU’s Quality Enhancement Plan. VU’s QEP is focused on student learning and alignment with the guided pathways framework. Guided Pathways is “rooted in the belief that education should focus on helping ALL students navigate pathways leading from school to college to career” (NPI national education summit in Washington DC on March 16th, 2023). The Strengthening Guided Pathways Project will provide each student with a structured academic and career pathway from entry to attainment of high-quality credentials and employment in high-wage, in-demand regional jobs. <https://abcnews4.com/news/local/voorhees-university-awarded-nearly-2-million-for-rural-student-transition-program-education-news-wciv-news-4>

Outcomes: The University of South Carolina’s HBCU Health Discovery Program awarded Voorhees University a two-year grant for \$500,000. The RCDI was also awarded \$1,965,332.00 from the United States Department of Education’s Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Grant for a four-year term. The RDCI exceeded its goal of writing at least one grant a year by writing three grants. Additionally, the RDCI was successfully awarded two grants for a total of $\$1,965,332.00 + \$500,000 = \$2,465,332$. These grants have the potential to impact VU’s campus and neighboring citizens in our rural community in the future.

4) Develop partnerships and collaborations with governments, donors, businesses, local schools, colleges/universities, community members, and other stakeholders.

The Becoming Beloved Community and RCDI teams have focused on developing relationships/partnerships with our numerous stakeholders. As noted above, VU GEAR UP has entered into partnerships/collaborations governed by MOUs, with public schools in ten local counties. We attend (and present when asked) the Bamberg County Council (1st Monday) and Denmark Town Council (3rd Monday) meetings to strengthen our relationships/partnerships with our neighboring communities. On October 19, 2023, a UNCF corporate and Community Luncheon, where six corporate/business and six community organizations participated, along with faculty, staff, and students. On January 10, 2024, Voorhees University met with four members of the local USDA to learn who we can work more closely with; RCDI, faculty, and staff also attended this meeting. Finally, in order to help our surrounding community, 75% of our faculty and staff participate in Christmas Toys for Tots. Three hundred forty-three toys, books, and bicycles were collected. These items are estimated to impact approximately 200 local and surrounding area children.

TOTAL (estimates):

of VU Students Impacted: 30

of Faculty/Staff Impacted: 25



of Businesses: 6 (UNCF) and the USDA
of Community Persons/Students Engaged: 30

Outcome: We hosted at least two events with stakeholders. The UNCF event helped raise funds for VU student scholarships and allowed students, faculty, and staff to network with community businesses and organizations. The meeting with the USDA was informative, and VU looks forward to working with the USDA on future projects.

Projected Goals for FY 25-26:

- 1) Continue to implement enrichment programs in our high-poverty middle and high schools, increase student participation, and work towards our goal of impacting 5,361 students and their families.
- 2) Provide services promoting increased healthcare education, access, and outreach for VU and the surrounding community. Implement our new healthcare-related grant. Hold at least three healthcare awareness events and facilitate VU's four student healthcare ambassadors' engagement with community members.
- 3) Implement the United States Department of Education's Rural Postsecondary Economic Development Grant Program to help students and people in rural communities develop career-guided pathways and/or enter the workforce.
- 4) Search for additional funding to implement the RCDI's goals and objectives and enhance the RDCI's sustainability: Write at least one new grant during the 2025-2026 cycle.
- 5) Continue to develop new partnerships and collaborations with governments, donors, businesses, communities, and other stakeholders. Host at least two stakeholder events with the BBC.

Additional Comments:

- Voorhees University would like to thank the South Carolina Legislature, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and the South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information for providing Voorhees University with this transformational funding.



South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information 2024-25 FY Annual Report
Submitted by: Dr. Gwynth Nelson



Reports from the following:
South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information Headquarters
Allen University
Benedict College
Claflin University
Clinton College
Morris College
South Carolina State University
Voorhees University

SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTES OF INNOVATION & INFORMATION
Proposed Budget for FY 25-26

Projected carry forward amount from FY 2024-25: \$100,000

Proposed Budget Request FY 25-26: \$508,767.54

PERSONNEL

Executive Director (12 months @ \$13,905 per month)	\$166,860.00
Fringes @ 37%	\$ 61,738.20
Executive Assistant/Office Manager (12 months @ \$5,515.16 per month)	\$ 66,182.00
Fringes @ 37%	\$ 24,487.34
Sub-Total of Salaries for Personnel	\$319,267.54

PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

PR/Marketing Specialist (12 months @ \$5,200 per month)	\$ 62,400.00
Fringes @ 25%	\$ 15,600.00
Project Manager Specialist (12 months @ \$4,500 per month)	\$ 54,000.00
Fringes @ 25%	\$ 13,500.00
Global Program Specialist (12 months @ \$5,000 per month)	\$ 60,000.00
Sub-Total for Program Specialists	\$205,500.00

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Catering/Rentals (Conference Rooms for Events)	\$ 10,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultant Services and space rental for staff trainings, Institute Directors Forums and Presidents Retreat to include conference and event expenses.	

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Office Use Stationery, Promotional Items Etc.	\$ 5,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office useables to include stationary, printing ink, etc.	

COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING

Brochures, Posters, Advertisements, Website Maintenance, Etc.	\$ 15,000.00
Web Maintenance, Local and National Advertising of Institute events and achievements, brochures, public relations, social media, content creation, email marketing, and other channels used to reach target audiences. Specifically, this line-item expenditure includes the following:	

- Expenses for traditional media like print, television, radio, as well as digital advertising on platforms and search engines, social media, and display ads for the various schools and their programs sponsored by the Institutes.

Public Relations (PR):

- Budget allocated for press releases, media outreach, influencer marketing, and event management to generate positive brand perception and use in generating grant funds by the individual schools.

Content Marketing:

- Costs associated with creating and distributing blog posts, videos, infographics, and other

content to attract and engage potential customers.

Social Media Marketing:

- Budget for managing social media accounts, paid promotions, and content creation across platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

Email Marketing:

- Expenses for email campaigns, list management, and automation tools to nurture leads and communicate with foundations, corporations, federal and state agencies and other potential funding sources.

Website Maintenance:

- Costs for website updates, hosting, and technical support.

Design and Creative Services:

- Costs associated with graphic design, logo development, marketing materials, and other visual assets.

Marketing Events:

- Expenses for attending industry conferences, trade shows, and hosting events.

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION

Conferences/Work Sessions/Outreach

\$ 15,000.00

- Annual White House HBCU Conference, Washington, DC, National Science Foundation And Department of Defense Conference, Baltimore, MD, National Institutes of Health Forum and Quarterly Meetings, Bethesda, MD, American Council on Higher Education Annual Meeting

OTHER

Sponsorships, Memberships, Etc.

\$ 5,000.00

Staff Development

\$ 10,000.00

SC Higher Education CHE Administrative Support Staff

\$ 24,000.00

Sub-Total for Other

\$ 39,000.00

OVERALL FY 25-26 PROPOSED TOTAL

\$608,767.54

Projected carry forward from FY 24-25

\$100,000.00

Proposed Budget Request FY 25-26

\$508,767.54



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
and College Goal SC Update
Student Services Committee
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
*February 6, 2025***

College Goal SC

- **FAFSA Completion Campaign**
- **Events run from October to March**
- **Attend an event in your area to receive assistance from College Financial Aid Reps and trained local community partners**

www.sccango.org

➔ **Tool kits, handouts, resources, videos**



SOUTH CAROLINA
can go to college

CHE Staff Approach to FAFSA Completion in South Carolina

- Highlight the importance of FAFSA completion
 - National data, SC data, County Data
 - Educators and Student Awareness
- Host College Goal SC trainings
 - Virtual trainings for host sites
 - Feedback forum
- College Goal SC toolkit
 - Most up-to-date resources
 - Templates for promoting events
 - Recordings to trainings



College Goal SC Results*

- **67 College Goal SC events were held in 2024-25 (14 were FSA ID events in Fall 2024)**
- **526 reported attendees**
- **362 FAFSA's were reported as submitted at events**
- **56 Volunteers from higher education institutions, communities and partnering agencies attended College Goal SC Events**

*based on 27 end of event reports submitted by the deadline



Challenges with “Better FAFSA” Implementation

- ▶ Delaying the release of the form until December (form is traditionally released in October) placed students and institutions behind in the aid awarding process.
- ▶ Various errors with electronic version of the form prevented submission for families.
- ▶ Delays in submission and processing also caused delays in providing Student Aid Reports. This meant that many students were faced with choosing a college without a clear understanding of what assistance they could receive.
- ▶ No State in the U.S. saw an increase in FAFSA completion for the 2024-25 cycle.



Impact of the challenges faced with “Better FAFSA” Implementation

- ▶ While it cannot be solely blamed on the “Better FAFSA” delay, a report from the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) reflected a 5% decline in freshmen enrollment in Fall 2024, compared to Fall 2023. This decline was impacted by the delay in the FAFSA, and processing issues.
- ▶ Among public four-year institutions who serve high number of PELL Grant Recipients (an indicator of financial need), the number of PELL Grant recipients declined by 6% for Fall 2024).
- ▶ Among independent four-year institutions who serve high number of PELL Grant Recipients (an indicator of financial need), the number of PELL Grant recipients declined by 10% for Fall 2024).



Impact of the challenges faced with “Better FAFSA” Implementation

- ▶ Through December 2024, for the class of 2024, there have been 2,267,187 (54.7%) completions in the U.S.. This represents a 9.6% decrease compared to last year.
- ▶ Through December 2024, for the class of 2024, There have been 32,313 (57.2%) completions in the South Carolina, a 9.7% decrease compared to last year.

FAFSA for 2025-26

- The U.S. Department of Education opened the 2025-26 FAFSA on November 21st. Processing of forms at the Federal level has also begun.
- College Goal South Carolina, South Carolina's statewide FAFSA completion program, registration is currently open through CHE, with programming already underway.



FAFSA Toolkit

FAFSA Toolkit on the CHE website: <https://che.sc.gov/new-fafsa-completion-toolkit>

- CHE FSAID Worksheets:
 - [For Students](#)
 - [For Parents](#)
 - [For Anyone](#)
- [Pro Tips for the FAFSA Form](#) (Federal Student Aid)
- [Whose Income Do I Report?](#)
- Playlist: [2025-26 FAFSA how-to videos](#) (uAspire)
- [FAFSA Process... Next Steps](#) (EducationQuest Foundation)
- [Is My Parent a Contributor When I Fill Out My FAFSA Form?](#) (FSA)
- [Federal Financial Aid Estimator Tool](#) (FSA)



Questions?