



Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services  
Thursday, September 7, 2023

In-Person AND [Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 860 4386 4251      Passcode: 697629

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

#### AGENDA

1. Introductions/Approval of Minutes Dr. Hugh Mobley, Chair
2. Election of Committee Chair
3. Election of Committee Vice Chair
4. Other Business
  - a. Follow up: CAESS Meeting August 2, 2023
    - i. SC-PRRMT Ms. Thomas-Myers, Program Director  
SC State University
    - ii. College Transition Program Ms. Kathryn Harris, Program Manager
  - b. Committee Mission
5. Adjournment

#### 2023 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Thursday, December 7, 2023



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400  
Columbia, SC 29201

[www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)





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

August 2, 2023  
4:00 p.m.

### Committee Members Attending

Commissioner Hugh Mobley, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Batson  
Commissioner Terrye Seckinger  
Commissioner Cleveland Sellers  
Commissioner Doug Snyder

### Guests

Dr. John Catalano, USC Palmetto College  
Dr. David Staten, SC State University  
Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, SC State University

### Staff Members Present

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Ms. Kristin Brooks  
Dr. Mariam Dittmann  
Dr. Gerrick Hampton  
Ms. Kathryn Harris  
Ms. April Jones  
Ms. Alfie Mincy  
Ms. Christina Seale  
Ms. Yarley Steedly  
Ms. Tanya Weigold

### 1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tanya Weigold introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Hugh Mobley provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance.

Chairman Mobley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services' May 31, 2023 meeting. A **motion** was made (Snyder), **seconded** (Seckinger), and carried to approve the minutes.



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## 2. SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarter 4 Report (For Approval)

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk provided a brief overview of the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT), sharing that over the past five years (2018-2023), the average participants enrolled in the program is 77 students. Dr. Woodfaulk reviewed the 2022-2023 end of year program information, stating that 67 students were enrolled in Fall 2022, and 70 students were enrolled in Spring 2023. Dr. Woodfaulk highlighted data provided by South Carolina Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), stating that there were 1,447 teacher vacancies, indicating that the purpose of SC-PRRMT is to help close this gap.

Ms. Reinell Thomas-Myers, Program Manager for the Recruitment of Minority Teachers, presented SC-PRRMT's new strategic five-step plan. The five-step plan included 1) future recruitment efforts, 2) student registration procedures, 3) determination of forgivable loan amounts, 4) student progress and invention strategies, and 5) expansion efforts to increase online and satellite students. Ms. Thomas-Myers also stated that the program plans to sign MOUs with new school districts around the state in hopes to recruit additional students in the future from these districts.

Ms. Thomas-Myers shared background information, stating that in 2021 the program had the highest number of participants (87), but due to COVID and the decline in interest to go into a classroom, the amount of student recruits has slowly decreased over time. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the program hopes to have at least 80 students for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 and expand to 18 sites around the state. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated that as of May 2023, the program has a total of 272 graduates; 140 are placed in critical need areas; 249 are in critical need schools.

Ms. Thomas-Myers reported on the 2022-2023 academic year, stating that 22 students applied to the Fall 2022 semester (six were not eligible, six incomplete), and 17 students applied for the Spring 2023 semester (three ineligible, seven incomplete). Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that the main reason for an incomplete application is the student's inability to obtain final transcripts from a previous institution. Ms. Thomas-Myers reviewed 2022-2023 graduate information, sharing that eight students graduated, seven of which have gained employment in critical need areas. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared the average award amount for Fall 2022 was \$2,923, Spring 2023 was \$1,685, and Summer was \$2,664. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the program dispensed a total of \$324,482 during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Commissioner Batson asked how many sites the SC-PRRMT currently has. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that the program currently has 12 sites around the state. The program is hoping to add an additional three to five sites in the upcoming academic year.

Commissioner Snyder asked Ms. Thomas-Myers why the program seems to lose approximately two-thirds of the participants from junior to senior year. Ms. Thomas-Myers explained the biggest retention challenge is a student's ability to pass the PRAXIS. Ms. Thomas-Myers shared that SC-PRRMT is looking for ways to help students receive certification. Dr. Staten shared that the new SC State President, Alex Conyers, plans to invest significant resources to help the program's retention and graduation rates. Dr. Staten further stated that he is working on acquiring resources from Department of Education to help students pass the PRAXIS exam. Commissioner Snyder and Chairman Mobley asked SC-PRRMT to address the PRAXIS failures.

Commissioner Seckinger asked Ms. Thomas-Myers if the program has collaborated with either the SC Department of Education or Columbia College to discuss available resources that can help students pass the PRAXIS. Ms. Thomas-Myers stated the program has had conversations with Columbia College and plans to discuss potential workshops. Commissioner Snyder and Seckinger encouraged the program to look into more opportunities to collaborate. Commissioner Seckinger also suggested, as a recruitment tool, to put students into a classroom, to experience firsthand if teaching is the correct career path for them.

Commissioner Batson **motioned** approval of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers Quarter Four/Annual report. Commissioner Sellers **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

### 3. College Transition Scholarship Annual Report (For Approval)

Chairman Mobley provided a brief overview of the College Transition Program (CTP). Ms. Kathryn Harris explained that the CTP programs are comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities. She stated the programs can focus on anything from academics to career skills, immediate job ready skills, and/or independent living skills, and varies by individual. Ms. Harris reported that as of April 2023, the U.S. Department of Education had approved 165 programs throughout the nation, and that SC has been home to five of the approved programs (Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Winthrop, and USC-Columbia). Ms. Harris shared that South Carolina has a new CTP program, USC-Aiken PACER LIFE.

Ms. Harris provided some background information for the CTP program:

- The SC General Assembly approved Proviso 11.19 in 2013-2014.
- In FY2015-2016 SC General Assembly approved need-based funding for the CTP programs in the amount of \$179,178 in 2015-2016.
- In FY2016-2017 the SC General Assembly increased the need-based grant funding to \$350,000, with a maximum award amount was \$7,500 per student.
- In FY2021-2022 the SC General Assembly included Proviso 3.5, appropriating \$750,000 to establish the CTP Scholarship. The award amount was \$5,000.

- In FY2022-2023 the SC General Assembly approved Proviso 11.12 appropriating \$700,000 of Need-based Grant funding; the award amount was increased to \$10,000. The SC General Assembly also approved Proviso 3.5 appropriating \$4,105,597 for the Scholarship; the award amount increased to \$10,000.

Ms. Harris reported that 35 eligible students participated in the CTP Need-based Grant program in academic year 2022-2023 throughout the state. She stated that the CTP Need-based Grant total disbursement for 2022-23 was \$289,946.

Ms. Harris provided the background for College Transition Program Scholarships. She stated Proviso 3.5 enacted by the SC General Assembly established the CTP scholarship. Ms. Harris shared that the 2023-24 Proviso included a provision to collaborate with both the SC CTP institutions as well as the newly established South Carolina Inclusive Post Secondary Education Consortium. Ms. Harris shared that in addition to an increase in funding for the overall program, additional money was provided (\$250,000) to give to the Consortium.

Ms. Harris provided an overview of the College Transition Scholarship Program and eligibility requirements. She stated that the CTP Scholarship was established during the 2021 legislative session for residents enrolled in CTP. Ms. Harris stated the CTP Scholarship award was up to \$5,000 per year in 2021-22 and was increased to \$10,000 per year in 2022-23 as directed by the Proviso. Ms. Harris indicated eligible students can receive both the CTP Grant and the CTP Scholarship at the same time for up to eight terms of funding.

Ms. Harris provided the demographic information for the CTP Scholarship Program. She reported that 62% of the students were white/non-Hispanic, 26% were black, 9% were Asian and 3% were reported as unknown. Ms. Harris stated 53% were male, and 47% were female. Ms. Harris indicated that 86% of the recipients participated in the residential program and 14% participated in a non-residential program. Ms. Harris shared that 59 students were awarded the CTP Scholarship for Academic Year 2022-23, and the total amount awarded was \$575,000, with a total disbursement of \$870,000 since the inception of the program last year. Chairman Mobley asked if the demographics of the programs reflect the demographics of the state. Dr. Woodfaulk stated staff would review this information and report back to the committee.

Ms. Harris shared that Proviso 3.5 indicated that CHE in cooperation with the CTP programs, must collect and report recipient and other information to measure the effectiveness of the program. Ms. Harris shared that it was determined the programs would model after the National Core indicators on Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD). This would allow the programs to compare themselves nationally among peer programs. Ms. Harris shared that NCI-AD was started in 1997 and currently 49 states contribute data. Ms. Harris reported three comparison measures SC would use, stating that this data is from the 2021-2022 academic year. The three measurement data points included, 1) Individual takes classes, training, or other actions to get a job (national average: 17%, SC average:

50%), 2) Individual has a paid community job (national average: 16%, SC average: 25%), 3) Individual has their own home or apartment (national average: 15%, SC average: 12%). Commissioner Seckinger recommended CTP programs do a parent survey to discuss the effectiveness of the programs.

Ms. Harris conveyed that CHE started tracking persistence and retention data in 2021-22. She stated that continued collection and expansion of data will assist CHE to determine if the CTP Scholarship program improves student outcomes. Ms. Harris reported that there was a total of 297 CTP graduates from 2013-2023. She stated that the retention rate from year 1 to year 2 was 98% and 85% from year 2 to year 3.

Commissioner Snyder inquired about Winthrop's decline in CTP Need-based Grant participants. Ms. Harris explained that as a border institution, Winthrop's CTP program may be enrolling out-of-state students. Commissioner Seckinger asked if CTP programs are required to give SC residents priority. Ms. Harris stated that each program sets their own admission requirements.

Commissioner Seckinger asked about the safety of students participating in CTP programs. Dr. Woodfaulk shared that residential students are monitored 24 hours a day. Dr. Woodfaulk further stated that CHE staff would request additional information from the CTP programs regarding their safety protocols.

Commissioner Batson asked if CHE has approached the SC Technical College System regarding the creation of additional CTP programs. Ms. Harris shared that some of the current CTP programs partner with their local two-year institutions to provide classes to the CTP participants, however, there are no CTP programs at any of the 16 technical colleges or USC regionals. Ms. Harris continued, stating that there is interest from two-year institutions in providing CTP programs. Chairman Mobley asked CHE staff to develop a proposal to expand CTP programs to this arena.

Commissioner Snyder **motioned** approval of the College Transition Scholarship Program 2022-23 Summary Report. Commissioner Seckinger **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

#### **4. Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (For Information)**

Dr. Woodfaulk provided a brief update on the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act. The Tucker Hipps Transparency Act in Act 265 of 2016 required SC four-year public institutions, with exception of the Medical University of SC (MUSC) and The Citadel, to maintain reports of actual findings of certain misconduct by the fraternity and sorority organizations.

She stated the permanent continuation of the Act was passed by the SC General Assembly on April 26, 2019. The reports are listed on each institution's website. The institutions are required to update their reports at least forty-five calendar days before the start of the fall and spring academic semesters.

Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the institutions must provide the required reports under this section on their websites in a prominent location for a period of four years. Institutions must notify CHE within fourteen days calendars that the reports have been updated. The report of findings and violations for each institution were provided to the Committee.

#### 5. Other Business

There was no other business presented at the meeting.

#### 6. Adjournment

There being no additional items before the Committee, Chairman Mobley requested a motion for adjournment. A **motion** (Snyder) was made, **seconded** (Seckinger) to adjourn the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

