

# South Carolina College and Career Decision Day



#### Who Are We?

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) is a state agency committed to promoting access, affordability, and excellence within the state system of higher education.

The CHE acts both as an oversight entity on behalf of the General Assembly and an advocate for citizens of South Carolina as they seek opportunities to improve their lives and those of their families, through higher education.

#### Our College Access Programs:

College Application Month - Provide support through the college application process

College Goal SC - Provide support with completing the FAFSA

College Process Ambassador Program - Highlight college application and success resources to support the upcoming class of high school graduates

Individual Decision Day & College and Career Decision Day - Receive recognition and support for deciding on a college or embarking on a career path

#### College Access and College and Career Decision Day Committee Team:



Gerrick Hampton, Ed.D. Associate Director for Student Affairs ghampton@che.sc.gov



Kathy D. Rollins College Access Manager karollins@che.sc.gov 803-856-0137



Alantis Seckal College Access Consultant sseckal@che.sc.gov 803-856-0346



Committee members include volunteers and representatives from SC ETV, the SC Department of Education, the Carolina Association for Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO), Made You Look Marketing, USC TRIO/Upward Bound, among others.



Each year, the CHE hosts a state-wide College and Career Decision Day rally, bringing together high school seniors from across the state to celebrate and honor students who have committed to their next step — whether that's attending a college or university, enrolling in a community college or training program, serving in the military, or joining the workforce. The support of the community has helped us create an inspiring and memorable experience for these students as they embark on their future paths.



On average, more than 2,000 students from over 40 high schools across South Carolina participate in this annual event.

#### What happens at the event?

We typically gather at Boyd Plaza on Main Street. Once all participating schools have arrived, a selected band leads us in a parade down Main Street to the State House. There, several speakers — including community leaders and education advocates — congratulate the students and offer words of encouragement for their next chapter.

After the formal program, students enjoy live music, food trucks, and opportunities to connect directly with college representatives. They receive school merchandise, gather resources, and learn more about their future colleges, training programs, or other career pathways.

#### Who attends?

The event welcomes high school seniors, college and university representatives, military affiliates, the President of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, College and Career Decision Day Committee members, local news outlets, and special guest speakers.



## Highlights of Our Students Enjoying College and Career Decision Day

- https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BD3WmN8ey/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DJmOflhRsc9/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DJX0dNiMPON/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DJXzn8KM\_XD/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DJXfEcox-Up/
- https://www.instagram.com/p/DJWtwXRRoeK/?img\_index=1



### How You Can Get Involved?

This memorable event is only possible through the support of generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and local businesses donating their time and services.

**Sponsors** help cover vital costs that make the event successful and enjoyable for students, including event SWAG and giveaways, portable restrooms, tables and chairs, audio-visual equipment, stage setup, radio promotions, and more. Every contribution helps create a positive, well-organized experience for the thousands of students in attendance.

Volunteers are needed both on the planning committee and on the day of the event. Committee members help organize logistics and coordinate outreach in the months leading up to the rally. Day-of volunteers help manage Boyd Plaza, assist with unloading and loading buses, supervise parking areas, direct student groups, and support food truck operations to keep lines moving smoothly.

Food truck owners and local food vendors play a special role by donating their time and services to feed the large number of students and volunteers. All proceeds go directly to the food trucks, as students are encouraged in advance to bring money for food and drinks during the event.

Your involvement — whether through sponsorship, volunteering, or donating services — directly supports South Carolina students and helps us send them off into the next chapter of their lives with the recognition and encouragement they deserve.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



