

CHE News of Note

- At the September Commission Meeting, Mr. J. T. McLawhorn, President of the Columbia Urban League, accepted certificates on behalf of several high school students who worked at CHE this summer as a part of the Summer Work Experience Leadership Program. Mr. McLawhorn stated that the program engaged the students in a positive work experience and provided them with valuable exposure to the value of a college education.
- Work is underway for a legislated committee charged with making recommendations on a strategic plan for S.C. higher education to meet state needs as can be addressed by higher education. Mr. Dan Ravenel, CHE Vice Chair, has been appointed to chair the committee. Other members include: Dr. Layton McCurdy (CHE Chair), Mr. Boone Aiken III, Col. Claude Eichelberger, Representative Jerry Govan, Dr. Doris Helms, Mr. Scott Ludlow, Mr. Robert Marlowe, and Dr. John Montgomery. For additional information about the committee, please see: <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/HiEdStudyComm.htm>.
- After 34 years of service to the CHE, Ms. Lynn Metcalf retired from her position of Director of Finance, Facilities, and MIS. Everyone at CHE wishes Lynn a happy retirement as she begins this new chapter in her life. Mr. Gary Glenn has been named Acting Director of Finance, Facilities, and MIS.
- On November 1, the two Governor's Professor of the Year awards were announced at a press conference and a luncheon which followed. The award for two-year institutions went to Mr. Galen DeHay, head of the Science Department at Tri-County Technical College; and the award for four-year institutions went to Ms. Nancy Duffy, Assistant Professor of Nursing and head of the undergraduate nursing program at Medical University of South Carolina. These awards focus on excellence in teaching and academic advising among South Carolina's public and private institutions of higher education.
- In the fiscal year 2006-07, the Commission licensed 11 new institutions, five of which were degree-granting institutions.
- Good news for S.C.'s students! CHE staff have been working to implement the following legislated changes to state-funded scholarship programs:
 - Beginning their sophomore year, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients will receive up to \$7,500 per year (compared to the previous amount of \$6,700), and those majoring in eligible math or science programs will receive up to \$10,000 per year.
 - LIFE Scholarship recipients majoring in eligible math or science programs will receive up to \$7,500 beginning their sophomore year, an increase of \$2,500.
 - SC HOPE has increased from \$2,500 to \$2,800.
 - The new SC National Guard College Tuition Assistance Program will allow for qualifying members of the National Guard to receive benefits up to a maximum of four thousand five hundred dollars an academic year not to exceed a cumulative total of eighteen thousand dollars to earn a first one-year certificate, first two-year program or associates degree, or first bachelor's.
- SC GEAR UP has begun year three of the grant to help students along the I-95 Corridor. Over the summer, SC GEAR UP collaborated with the USC Academic Enrichment and Conferences Department to provide on-campus workshops for the eighth grade GEAR UP students who represented 22 middle schools along the I-95 Corridor.
- An Assessment of South Carolina Higher Education Facilities Conditions and Measuring Deferred Maintenance was presented to the Commission at its October meeting. The report updated previous studies and indicated a \$797 million backlog across 918 facilities at public colleges and universities.
- The S.C. Higher Education Foundation has begun planning for the Lightsey Society's second annual Higher Education Hall of Fame Banquet which will be held on April 3, 2008. Secretary Richard Riley will be honored as the second laureate inducted into the S.C. Higher Education Hall of Fame.

News from PASCAL, the Partnership Among South Carolina's Academic Libraries

By now we hope that everyone in South Carolina has heard about PASCAL and its amazing collection of online electronic resources for use in all our public and private institutions of higher education. The collection consists of millions of articles in electronic form built around a collection of well over 13,000 journal titles in core academic disciplines, health sciences, and business. Included are up-to-the minute issues of the key journals of the scientific record such as Nature and Science Online.

The PASCAL group has also been working on implementing "PASCAL Delivers," its latest project to tie higher education institutions closer together. Simply put, PASCAL Delivers will get books (and potentially other materials) from any participating library to any user in another library within three days. Twenty-four hours in some cases!

What we have found from research done by the state's PASCAL team is that even the largest of our library collections – the University of South Carolina system – has had its effective collection size more than doubled by this electronic "card catalogue" and rapid delivery system. Our smallest libraries have increased their "collections" thousands of times. In the process, the new system is creating more economic efficiency in library purchasing; better and faster service for library users (students, faculty and staff); better opportunities for

regional economic development; and significant increases in available "brain power" through our libraries. By the middle of the Fall 2007, PASCAL Delivers was operational in 39 of our public and private institutions. The remaining 19 and the State Library will be brought into the system over the spring and summer of 2008.

"We've come a long way baby," since the days in the early 1990s when only some of our libraries were fully automated and only a few shared materials actively with others. Vision by library leaders and the CHE, coupled with funding from the General Assembly since FY 2004-05, has made all this possible in a short period of time. Our libraries can and will be doing more cooperative programming. Of course, continued state funding will be needed in order to improve and advance our students' learning opportunities and the state's economic development in relationship to other states and countries.

Meanwhile, academic libraries – public and private – have demonstrated their willingness and ability to move the state into the future by cooperating with each other for the common good. See <http://pascal.sc.org> for additional details.