



From: Faculty Council, Midlands Technical College
(Janice Jake, Chair – 803.738.7171, jakej@midlandstech.edu)
To: South Carolina General Assembly and the State Commission
on Higher Education
The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education
Executive Council, Midlands Technical College
Midlands Technical College Commission
Subject: PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries)
Date: March 6, 2009

Through the following resolution, the Midlands Technical College Faculty Council hereby advocates the restoration of full funding for PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries) by the South Carolina General Assembly.

The faculty of Midlands Technical College recognize that PASCAL is a statewide academic library consortium, of which Midlands Technical College is a member.

Further, the faculty of Midlands Technical College also recognizes that PASCAL's funding has in the past been supported by the member colleges and the S.C. General Assembly.

Moreover, Midlands Technical College acknowledges that PASCAL has served the research needs of students in areas across the state by expanding access to information through a rapid delivery system and through access to online databases provided at shared cost, and that this service has especially benefited students in rural areas and at institutions with libraries whose holdings are less extensive than those commonly found at the state's main research academic institutions

In addition, member colleges have had to provide increased funding of this service because state funding for PASCAL was decreased by 90% in FY2008-2009, resulting in reduced services.

The faculty of Midlands Technical College anticipate that without reinstatement of legislative funding, PASCAL will cease to exist in FY2009-2010.

The consequence of the proposed cut in funding is that online and print materials provided by PASCAL will no longer be available to the majority of the 230,000 students and faculty of South Carolina academic institutions, although the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Study Committee has identified PASCAL as "the best current example for sharing inter-institutional costs for technology in South Carolina," and has recommended funding PASCAL at a cost of \$2.3 million.

In light of the above-noted points, Midlands Technical College asks the South Carolina General Assembly to consider reinstating PASCAL's funding and to support the inter-institutional cooperation that serves the students, faculty, and staff of South Carolina's colleges and universities.

As a direct beneficiary of PASCAL's resources and services, Midlands Technical College, through this Faculty Council resolution, urges the South Carolina General Assembly to fund PASCAL at the \$2.3 million recommended amount to provide for continued access to this otherwise-unavailable service comprising many valuable resources for research and development.