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CHE's Statewide Town Hall Tour

The CHE held its first town hall meeting to engage with members of the public on January 11th in Greenville. The meeting was well attended by parents, students, educators, college administrators and faculty, policymakers and members of the media and included remarks by the CHE Chairman, Tim Hofferth, and Interim President and Executive Director, Jeff Schilz. Discussion centered on growing concerns about rising tuition costs in higher education and barriers to access and affordability. Over 160 people total attended the event. To read more or watch coverage of the meeting, click on one of the links below:

[Packed House for S.C. Commission on Higher Education Greenville Town Hall](#)

[Greenville News: "SC higher ed chairman urges universities to 'rightsize,' cites high tuition statistics"](#)

[Greenville Business Magazine: "Higher Ed Commission Predicts 'Financial Knife Fight'"](#)

[The State: "How expensive is it to go to a public college in SC? Hold on to your wallet"](#)

The next town hall meeting will be Columbia tomorrow night, February 1st, at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce located at 930 Richland Street. The focus will again be on college access and affordability in South Carolina. In addition, scholarship personnel will be available 20 minutes before and after the event to answer questions students and families may have about state scholarships. All members of the public are welcome to attend. To view a flyer with event details, visit the front page of our website (www.che.sc.gov) and click on "[Columbia Town Hall](#)".

The future town hall meeting schedule is below, and information on specific locations will be distributed as details are finalized

[Charleston](#), Thursday, February 15, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

Lowcountry Graduate Center, 3800 Paramount Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405

[Rock Hill](#), Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Myrtle Beach](#), Thursday, March 15, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Spartanburg](#), Thursday, April 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Beaufort](#), Thursday, April 19, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Florence](#), Thursday, May 3, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Aiken](#), Thursday, May 17, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Anderson](#), Thursday, June 7, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

[Orangeburg](#), Thursday, June 21, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

For all events, please RSVP to Andrew Roof, administrative coordinator, at arroof@che.sc.gov or (803) 730-5638 if you plan to attend.

Academic Program Productivity Report

In a new study compiled by the CHE, 153 academic programs at the state's public institutions were noncompliant with standards set by the Commission. To fulfill its statutory charge of coordinating academic programming by reducing duplication and increasing effectiveness, the CHE regularly monitors enrollments and graduations within academic degree programs at the state's public institutions. In putting together the analysis, the CHE evaluated five years of data (2012 through 2016) under the framework of the revised standards approved by the Commission in January 2017. Under the new standards, institutions are required to meet **both** the enrollment and completion thresholds and initial results show that about 14% (153 programs) were considered not compliant.

The CHE provides the institutions with noncompliant programs the opportunity to explain these outcomes and develop improvement plans. The agency will continue to work with institutions to improve program offering efficiency and ensure that degree programs match with state and regional workforce needs.

To view the CHE's approved policies and procedures for the evaluation of program productivity, click the link above or go to the "[Academic Policies](#)" page of our website and click on "[Program Productivity](#)".

2017 Statistical Abstract Finalized

Each year, the CHE publishes data on the state's institutions of higher learning in the *South Carolina Higher Education Statistical Abstract*. This document is a comprehensive, single-source compilation of tables and graphs which report data frequently requested by the Governor, legislators, college and university staff, other government officials and the general public. The data included in the document is submitted to the Commission via the Commission on Higher Education Management Information System (CHEMIS) and the *Abstract* would not have been possible without the assistance of the college and university institutional representatives.

The 2017 *Abstract* includes the most recent statistics on enrollment, degrees awarded, faculty, scholarships and grants, tuition and fees, funding, and other factual data.

To view the data, click the link above or go to the "[Data and Publications](#)" page of our website and click on "[2017 South Carolina Higher Education Statistical Abstract](#)".

Meeting of Four-Year College and University Chief Financial Officers (CFO's)

On January 24th, the Commission on Higher Education convened the first meeting of the CFO's of the state's four-year colleges and universities. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage dialogue and to work toward developing a standard methodology for calculating the "cost-to-educate" students at South Carolina's public institutions. The need for a standard methodology came at the request of the Senate Education Tuition and Scholarship Subcommittee meeting on November 8, 2017. Some Senators asked that CHE work with the institutions of higher learning to work toward a common, high-level formula to determine the cost-to-educate each student.

Based on the feedback from the CFO's at the meeting, a working group will be established to develop the formula, with the goal of having a final formula identified by May.

In addition to the focus on the cost-to-educate, the CHE heard feedback from the CFO's regarding the most efficient way for institutions to submit data to the Commission. To reduce duplicity and increase efficiency, the CHE's data collection team will develop a reporting system for financial information to be electronically reported into CHEMIS, the same way as other data reported to the agency.

Presentation of Budget Request to House Ways and Means Subcommittee

The CHE presented its annual budget request to the House Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical Colleges subcommittee yesterday, January 30th. The agency looks forward to working with the members of the subcommittee and later, the full House Ways and Means Committee to provide all requested information regarding the CHE's statutory responsibilities and the most effective way to accomplish those mandates.