2011-2016 Strategic Plan

YEAR 2 REPORT
(*2012-2013*)

INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina State University Year 2 Strategic Plan Report represents accomplishments achieved during the 2012-2013 fiscal year in addressing the goals in this second year of the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan. The 2011-2016 Strategic Plan was completed in fall 2011 and approved by the SC State University Board of Trustees in February 2012.

Information in this report was compiled by the Office of Planning and Assessment from academic and administrative departments' annual reports and other university documents.

SC State University has had to address several challenges, including declining enrollment, decreased financial resources, multiple leadership changes, as well as negative public images over the past several years. Continuing this pattern, major changes occurred in 2012/13 as well. The year began with a new administration starting with the hiring of an Interim President, Dr. Cynthia Warrick in July 2012, followed by the hiring of several new senior administrators including new vice presidents for academic affairs and research, an associate vice president for finance and facilities, and an associate vice president for institutional advancement. The organizational structure was modified through the addition of the Division of Administration to which was named an interim VP. And, the leadership in the division of student affairs also changed.

Through all of the personnel and organizational changes, outstanding performance of the University is still evidenced by: maintaining accreditations of academic programs, support programs and the university; growth in the amount and quality of outreach services; the level of research and publishing that faculty and staff continue to achieve; and continuing to produce graduates who seek post-graduate study and/or enter the job market, many of whom become leaders in their fields.

Rita Jackson Teal, EdD
Interim Vice President for Administration/ Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness

VISION

SC State University will be one of the top public universities among peer institutions.

CORE VALUES

Access - accessible and affordable
Excellence - commitment to excellence as its top priority
Integrity - a solid reputation of integrity
Opportunity - to fulfill career dreams and goals
Respect - climate of mutual trust and respect

MISSION

South Carolina State University (SC State) is a historically Black public 1890 land-grant senior comprehensive institution of approximately 4,500-6,000 students. Located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, SC State University is committed to providing affordable and accessible quality baccalaureate programs in the areas of business, applied professional sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, engineering technology, education, arts, and humanities. A number of programs are offered at the master's level in teaching, human services and agribusiness, and the educational specialist and doctorate programs are offered in educational administration.

SC State University prepares highly skilled, competent and socially aware graduates to enable them to work and live productively in a dynamic, global society. Through technology and traditional methods of teaching and learning, research and service, the University enhances the quality of life of citizens and contributes to the economic development of the state and nation.

GOAL 1: Promote and Sustain a Student-Centered Environment

SC State University continues to promote a student-centered environment. Unfortunately, enrollment dropped significantly for the 2012/13 academic year primarily due to new financial aid regulations. Higher requirements for student academic progress had a negative impact on enrollment because of the higher percentages of academic progress; students were unable to receive federal financial aid through Pell or SEOG. Additionally, Parent Plus loan requirements changed and eliminated some parents who had previously been eligible for loans. Both of these factors played significant roles in the large decline in enrollment.

In spite of the enrollment challenges, the University continues to provide those services and co-curricular learning experiences that enhance the total development of students and promote diversity and inclusiveness in its programs and activities.

Listed below are examples of activities and services during the 2012/13 academic year that were designed to assist and engage students during their matriculation at the University.

- The Biology and Physical Sciences department has eight active student organizations for students to become members.

- A Freshmen Care Center was established in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences to centralize the advisement for freshmen students who major in biology, chemistry and physics. A team of faculty advisors are responsible for training, mentoring and nurturing freshmen students throughout the freshmen year especially through the registration and financial aid process.

- The Chemistry students established an American Chemical Society student organization and one of its majors was named a national ACS ambassador.

- The Department of Education established a student learning study room located in Turner Hall A-Wing, 1st Floor. The facility is available for student use Monday-Friday 9am-8pm. The department also implemented two operational computer labs with 20 computers in each lab. The labs are located on the D-Wing 2nd floor and A-Wing 1st floor.

- The Department of Education secured and fully implemented LiveText software for student use to track assessment data.

- The Department of English and Modern Languages held inductions into the National Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic Honor Society and Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

- The Modern Languages Program and the Chinese students, together with the Office of International Affairs, celebrated Chinese New Year festivities.

- The Department of English and Modern Languages offered $500 book scholarships to all English majors with a 2.75 average.

- The Department of Visual and Performing Arts developed special workshops in mathematics and quantitative reasoning specifically for Music and Art Education majors.

- The Communications Program took 17 students to the South Carolina Association of Black Journalists Job/Internship workshop in Columbia, SC. After the workshop, students toured WLTX-TV Station in Columbia. The students participated in some mock weather report productions.

- Sixty-five (65) students participated in 1890 research projects in association with faculty members.

- The SCSU mobile app was launched to provide easier access to university information and website and is available for Android and Apple devices.

- The Honors College, in collaboration with the Kaplan Test Prep, sponsored two university-wide, on-campus workshops. Students in attendance registered to take the free Kaplan Test Prep exams in the areas of the GRE, GMAT, DAT, MCAT, and the LSAT. In addition, Kaplan provided workshop teachers to provide attendees with pointers and tips for navigating the graduate school application process and best practices for making high scores on graduate and professional school exams.

- The One Card Office was selected by students as the top non-academic customer service unit.

- The Department of Alumni Relations coordinated alumni chapter SCSU Foundation scholarships.

- The Department of Athletics provided opportunities for student-athletes to enhance personal development skills through the Life Skills Program.
  o PEPSI Co. Career Development Night for student-athletes
  o Read with a Bulldog – Reading program targeting elementary school students
  o Garnet and Blue Just Say No to Drugs Fall Festival

- The Police Department established Student Police Advisory Council to give students a voice in public safety initiatives on campus.

- Residence Life and Housing created a break pass that residents could use to validate their approval to remain on campus during the Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break.

- A total of 217 programs were provided to the residents in Residence Life and Housing, with 5425 (duplicates included) residents attending various programs. These programs were need-based and served to foster the holistic development of the student.

- The Department of Student Life and Leadership sponsored two Anti-hazing meetings and a four day workshop. The purpose was to educate advisors, student organization leaders, members and perceptive members about the policies and procedures regarding hazing laws and policies at the university. Greek organizations participated by performing a skit, step routine, mock trial, and other creative expressions demonstrating the effects of hazing, consequences of hazing, and/or proactive and preventative strategies to combat hazing. Student Organizations also provided booths that included information regarding the effects of hazing, consequences of hazing, and/or proactive and preventative strategies to combat hazing.

- There were two (2) new student organizations chartered for the 2012-13 academic school year. There are currently153 chartered organizations on campus and 86 were registered for the year.

- The office of Student Life and Leadership the University holds the charter of all nine of the National Pan-Hellenic organizations referred to as the "Divine Nine". In an effort to enhance campus life and improve the quality of Student Life, Greek organizations were given the opportunity to claim a designated area on campus surrounding the student plaza to signify the organizations pride.

- The Honors College sponsored a recruitment workshop convened by the Graduate School at Vanderbilt University to provide information on funding opportunities for students interested in summer research internships and admission to all disciplines for the Ph.D. programs at VU.

- The Registrar's/Veterans Affairs Office updated the Comprehensive Veterans Service Plan and met twice with Veterans and dependents of veterans to share the information

SC State University Presents
International Awareness Month 2012: "SCState.Global"
The Office of International and National Student Exchange Programs (OINSEP) at SC State University announced its calendar of events for International Awareness Month, which occurs in November. The 2012/13 year's theme was "SCState.Global" which signifies the global connection the University has in our internet-ready world.

GOAL 2: Strengthen the University's Performance through Enhanced Accountability and Efficient and Effective Processes

SC State University continues to assess its operations in order to maintain compliance with all oversight and accrediting associations, rules, regulations and policies through increasing training of personnel, more efficient and effective utilization of technology and operating in a fiscally efficient manner. Throughout 2012/13, faculty and staff participated in various internal and external professional development opportunities. With the new administration, changes were made in various departments to operate more efficiently, with greater focus on improving customer service.

Following are some of the efforts made to enhance accountability and to operate more efficiently and effectively.

- Social Work and Counselor Education programs underwent reaffirmation of accreditation in 2012/13 and were reaffirmed. Speech Pathology and Audiology and all Teacher Education programs were reviewed the previous year, but were informed in fall 2012 that they were reaccredited. In addition to these academic programs, the Child Development Learning Center was successful in receiving a new five-year term accreditation.

- The Office of Professional Training & Development coordinated 108 professional development seminars and activities with a total of 1,359 participants. Many of them focused on improving technology skills through Banner and other on-line resources.

- The Department of Residence Life and Housing created a Residence Life Coordinator manual to serve as a resource guide for the professional staff working in the residence halls.

- The Director of Residence Life and Housing implemented a weekly occupancy report requirement for the Residence Educators to submit every week to ensure accountability of the accuracy of their building rosters and to prevent student co-habitation from students who are not enrolled at the university or current students who do not have a housing application on file.

- To improve the registration validation process, UCITS added a channel in Bulldog Connection to display a green check when a student's schedule is secured and a red "x" when the schedule is not secured or registration completed.

- The Institutional Research (IR) staff prepared 221 internal reports for academic and administrative units to assist with meeting the goals and objectives of the university. In addition, 13 external surveys were prepared and submitted to federal agencies such as the U. S. Department of Education and National Science Foundation to ensure university compliance with federal regulations.

- All mandated CHE data files, student enrollment, faculty, courses, and disbursements, were prepared and submitted by IR staff to ensure the university's compliance and accountability to the State of South Carolina.

- The Department of Human Resource Management has worked with all areas of the University in their recruitment and employment efforts. In instances in which the university's online employment system did not solicit sufficient applicants to meet the department or university needs, other avenues were explored to accomplish the goal.

- The Police Department reorganized how special events are handled and coordinated. A meeting will be held with each organization and Student Affairs at least three (3) days prior to major events.

- The Campus Police revamped the twelve-hour summary reporting system to protect the privacy of student information and data.

- "Walking the Beat" Radio Show is a weekly radio show that airs at 10:00am every Wednesday. The show is produced and hosted by Officer Kenneth McCaster, and talks about safety, judicial and law enforcement issues in the university community.

- The University Bloodborne Pathogens Plan was revised and published through the Office of Professional Training & Development.

- The Health Center implemented an electronic medical record system (EMR) for student health records. As of August 2012, all health encounters with students are documented in an electronic record system. The student portal of the electronic system was implemented, which enables students to log-in to be seen at the health center. The component which will allow incoming students to input their health history and immunization information electronically is being developed.

- Cross-training was implemented in spring 2013 for Student Success and Retention Program personnel to strengthen the unit's implementation of services for greater efficiency.

- Football game traffic patterns were revamped for the safety of pedestrian walking areas.

- The Department of Athletics utilized Vendini software to effectively communicate with alumni, donors and fans through email blasts.

- The Department of Sponsored Programs migrated successfully SC State University from CCR (Central Contractor Registration) to SAM (System for Award Management) as required by the federal government to conduct all activities such as proposal submission through *e*RA systems (Grants.gov, Fastlane, eRA Commons), drawdowns, financial aid processing, etc.

- The Department of Sponsored Programs completed initial set-up phase for InfoEd an *e*lectronic Research Administration (*e*RA) system.

"Get Connected!" SC State University Launches Innovative Mobile Application
Thursday, February 14, 2013

At the click of a button, current and prospective students, alumni, and stakeholders can become connected to all aspects of SC State University. With the launch of a new mobile application, Apple IPhone and Android carriers can become more engaged with University happenings through this new, no-cost interactive tool.

The SC State mobile application introduces several features that include campus news, athletics, weather, events, student checklists, campus maps and social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter. Users of the app can also become involved in University poll questions, gain immediate access to the sounds of WSSB 90.3 FM radio station, contact the University's admissions staff, and view available courses. Additionally, the easy accessibility of Bulldog Connection allows students to access grades, course and billing information, accept financial aid awards and validate their enrollment at the University.

The Office of University Relations and Marketing wants to keep you informed of the latest happenings at SC State University. Log onto scsu.edu and click on the email correspondence icon to provide your contact information. You will begin receiving electronic notifications right away!

GOAL 3: Enhance Academic Programs and Academic Support Services to Meet Student and Other Stakeholder Needs

The faculty continues to pursue research and other scholarly opportunities for professional development and to better prepare students for their chosen careers or graduate study. In order to maintain quality academic programs and support services, multiple strategies are implemented, including lecture, on-line, video-conferencing and experiential learning. More Smart classrooms (a classroom equipped with computer and audiovisual equipment, allowing the professor to teach using a wide variety of media) were made available to faculty.

To ensure that academic programs, as well as academic support services, meet the needs of students and stakeholders, each academic and academic support unit at SC State University participates in an annual assessment process. The final assessment report documents whether there is a need to retain current procedures or to revise those procedures to enhance the performance of students. An example of the success of this effort is illustrated under goal 2 with the continued accreditation of all of the programs that applied. Listed below are some of the services and activities provided to students to enhance their academic performance and to meet stakeholder needs.

- Introduction to the University Community has been redesigned to engage students in active learning activities and instruction that support their transition to the University community.

- The Business Program implemented a Bulldog Small Business Student Consulting Program to provide students with experiential learning and assist small businesses in the community.

- The Executive Speaker Series included an impressive list of 13 speakers that provided students the opportunity to network and learn.

- The Counselor Education program developed innovative workshops which enhance students' outcomes on the Praxis exam. Graduate students in this program achieved at or above a 98% passing rate.

- The Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, has been used as an opportunity to prep students for debates and prepare them for the LSAT.

- 1890 Extension offered an Introduction to Keyboarding class as well as the Introduction to Computers and Microsoft Word to assist students and stakeholders. The classes help individuals to evaluate and improve their typing skills, while becoming familiar with the computer keyboard. Participants learn how to operate a computer or use popular word processing software, such as Microsoft Word. In addition, individuals learn how computers function; how to create documents using Microsoft Word; navigate and search for information on the Internet; and utilize features of other software programs.

- The Early Academic Warning Alert System (EAWAS) is implemented for the fall and spring semesters to encourage teaching faculty and staff to report students who may be experiencing challenges in adjusting academically and socially to the University community.

- The Department of Athletics maintains an academic enhancement support services component for student-athletes through the Athletics Academic Enhancement Tutorial Program.

- During the year, undergraduate students received compensation through 1890 Research in the amount of $170,643.16 and graduate research assistants received $49,506.

- The Department of Residence Life and Housing worked with the Department of Student Success and Retention on the use of the Early Alert Warning system to alert the housing staff of students who are on the verge of failing their classes. The Residence Life and Housing staff would be responsible for meeting with those students and making them aware of the academic resources available to them.

- The teaching staff in SSRP participated in workshops with Dr. Bonnie Mullinix who facilitated redesigning the course to include an online or hybrid course offering for the upcoming academic year. A text was adopted that was also more economical for students to purchase.

- The Registrar's/Veterans Affairs Office completed transcript processes to fully implement Parchment E-Transcript for Fall 2013.

- The Registrar's/Veterans Affairs Office used Platinum Course Data to make some course offering decisions for Fall 2013.

Free services offered to Orangeburg County Small Businesses via New Program
The Bulldog Small Business Consulting (BSBC) Program is designed to provide a service to the small business community and to expose students to the real world of business before they graduate. Under the guidance of business professors and the SBDC Director, students will assist companies with bookkeeping, tax issues, financial management, cash management, market analysis, marketing plans, SWOT analyses, and inventory

SC State University Career Center & the Boeing Company
Presents....An Informational Session

IF YOU ARE AN ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, OR COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR, BOEING WANTS TO CONNECT WITH YOU!
November 14, 2012 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

GOAL 4: Expand and Increase University Resources to Ensure Fiscal Viability and Growth

A major emphasis at S.C. State University is to provide the necessary resources for the university to operate efficiently, as well as to provide financial support to students. Several strategies to achieve these objectives have included focusing on research, effective budget management and fund-raising. Although the fundraising climate was not as productive as expected in 2012/13, personnel continued to provide the necessary services to ensure that students received quality academic programs and support services. Some of the strategies implemented by several departments to assist with fiscal viability and growth are listed below.

- The Department of Biological and Physical Sciences continued to secure funding through federal grants for faculty recruitment and hiring. During the past year a Physical Chemist was hired with 100% funding from a federal grant. Funding for 50% of the salary of an existing biochemistry faculty comes from a federal grant.   In addition, the Department generates over $210,000 in release time to hire adjunct faculty to replace research scientists annually.

- 1890 Research through release time ($345,062.32) to faculty provides unrestricted funds for university use. This helps with the stability, viability and growth of the university.

- The Department of Athletics developed an Annual Giving Campaign Action Plan for Student-Athlete Scholarship support.

- The Department of Athletics worked with corporate sponsors to support various games to increase attendance by supplying food and prizes.

- As of June 30, 2013, university research efforts resulted in the following:
   - ° 65 projects awarded totaling $16.7M
   - ° 35 proposals pending totaling $19.4M
   - ° 2 projects not funded totaling $640,239
   - ° 102 submissions totaling $36.4M

- As a result of lower enrollment, two residence halls were taken off-line in the fall semester and the students were reassigned to other residence halls on campus to reduce the cost of utilities, energy, personnel and infrastructure.

- The Department of Alumni Relations established a Young Alumni Council. The Young Alumni Council will serve as advocates to assist in young alumni (under 45) engagement. This Council will have the task of implementing strategies to raise money and engage young alumni.

- The Department of Sponsored Programs successfully concluded the Higher Education for Development (HED)/ American Council on Education (ACE) audit and received over 75 percent reimbursement of the $68K outstanding receivable.

- The University collected $808,908 in release time and $904,461 in indirect costs for FY 2013.

GOAL 5: Foster Partnerships and Collaborations that Mutually Benefit and Support the University, Local, State and Global Communities

One of the main foci of the interim president was to renew and strengthen alliances and partnerships with the community, alumni, public, private and non-profit organizations. As the results below will illustrate more alliances and partnerships were developed. In addition, outreach programs offered through the 1890 Extension, TRIO and GEAR-UP programs, as well as academic departments and programs, continued to strengthen and broaden the relationship between the University and the community.

Research continued to be a primary focus for the University and the Office of Sponsored Programs, as stated previously, enhance its submission procedures, offered numerous workshops. Listed below are some of the results of the alliances, outreach and research efforts during 2012/13.

- College of Science, Mathematics, Engineering & Technology statewide partnerships include:
  - ° EPSCOR – Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant MOU, and cooperative agreement between SCSU, USC, Clemson and MUSC to allow faculty and research scientists to teach at SCSU.
  - ° Zeus Industries – donated a materials locker to the Biomedical Laboratory.
  - ° Arbogen, Greenwood Genetics Center, Zeus, industry partnerships for Master in Bioengineering program.
  - ° USC - online histology course offered to eight students, Spring 2013, at no cost.
  - ° One physics faculty member continued collaboration with the University of Michigan under a NASA award to launch a $150-million satellite to study tropical cyclone (hurricane) formation.
  - ° Faculty members continue to serve as Co-PI's of grants with research scientists from: Savannah River Site, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center, The Regional Medical Center, and the USC.

- Speech Pathology and Audiology increased partnerships with school districts and medical facilities to provide clinical practicum experiences

- The Department of Nursing increased relationships with community partners. Over the last year, Orangeburg School Districts 2 and 3 were added to the list of clinical agencies. The school districts are utilized for the community health clinical rotations. A partnership was also developed with Saint Xavier University School of Nursing in Chicago, Illinois. Exposure to new clinical agencies fosters student engagement and opens up avenues for potential employment of students upon graduation.

- The Institute for Public Health Research & Outreach (IPHRO) is a result of a partnership with SC State University, 1890 Research Program and the Regional Medical Center (RMC) of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. Through IPHRO, these two long-standing institutions in Orangeburg County will identify solutions to the complex and varied public health issues that impact South Carolina communities. The institute's initial focus will address targeting the epidemic of obesity and overweight-related conditions, which adversely affect every segment of the population.

PREVENTING OBESITY THROUGH APPETITE CONTROL & ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION
Principal Investigator: Dr. Liljana Bozinovska

- The Accounting Program hosted South Carolina Association of Accounting Educators Meeting which builds relationships with school across the state.

- The Business Program hosted a Business Community Luncheon to develop and increase partnerships with business community.

- The South Carolina State University 1890 Research and Extension Program completed a 2-year review conducted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD) and was successful in convincing them to re-obligate $800,000.00 in federal funds. The funds will be used to rehabilitate 16 owner occupied homes with an average cost of $25,000.00 per home.

- Fifteen (15) small businesses participated in the small business development education series sponsored by the 1890 Extension Program. On June 11, 2013, after successfully completing the program, all of the businesses qualified for and received a $10,000 grant to expand their businesses.

- The Department of Alumni Relations activated two new alumni chapters: Dallas, Texas and Houston, Texas.

- The Department of Alumni Relations engaged Boeing SC State University Alumni Group.

- UCITS began discussions with Hewlett Packard (HP) in October about its needs and, in December, HP donated to the University a blade server solution (multiple servers and storage in one unit) valued at more than $73,000.

- The Department of Athletics implemented the Business Alliance that allowed local businesses to partner with SC State Athletics.

- The Department of Athletics continued to develop and support community-focused events such as Rally on the Square, Chamber of Commerce Events and targeted community organizations.

- The Department of Athletics increased exposure of Corporate Sponsors and Athletics by implementing creative in-game promotions such as Deserving Divas with State Farm.

- The Department of Sponsored Programs collaborated with Voorhees College (Center for Excellence in Rural and Minority Health) on the submission of a grant application to SC DHEC/CDC, and received funding.

- The Department of Sponsored Programs hosted the DOE-EM Conference, which was attended by the nine partnership schools (eight in SC and one in GA).

- The 1890 Extension Program sponsored a total of 1,271 workshops/trainings across the state of South Carolina to assist participants, with a special emphasis on the underserved or resource-limited population, on various topics. Workshops/Trainings were held on estate planning, land-use, alternative farm enterprises, risk education, etc.

- The 1890 mobile technology unit was able to take technology to the people and approximately 2,910 individuals were served statewide.

- In March 2013, SC State University was named as one of the newest associate members of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) university consortium during their 68th annual meeting of the ORAU Council of Sponsoring Institutions held in Oak Ridge, Tenn. ORAU's member institutions benefit from its position as the principal resource for engaging academia in the research and education related actions of UT-Battelle/Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Y-12 National Security Complex/National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy. Access to those entities will offer greater opportunities for research funding and higher visibility.

- In collaboration with the Department of Student Success and Retention, Kmart sponsored a VIP Back to Campus Program. During welcome weekend, Kmart provided the campus with a free shuttle bus service that transports students to the nearest Kmart store location and back. Special door prizes and discounted items were available to the students.

- Residence Life and Housing partnered with the Orangeburg County Sheriff Department to sponsor a safety awareness program.

- The office of Student Life and Leadership partnered with local children's organizations such as OCAB Head Start Program and Connie Maxwell Children's Home for the annual Adopt-A-Child Program. This year, 213 children were sponsored and presented gifts that appeared on their wish list due to the support of several student organizations, departments, community organizations and individual faculty, staff and students.

- Accounting faculty and students in collaboration with IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program helped about 50 low income individuals and families complete their 2012 Federal Income Tax.

- The Honors Colleges of Claflin and SC State Universities collaborated to serve as site co-hosts for the 2012 National Association of African American Honors Programs (NAAAHP) held in the fall 2012. Fourteen HBCUs and over 200 delegates (deans/directors, faculty/staff, students) from honors programs/ honors colleges participated in this annual conference.

- **Shaping Our Community: University Village to Offer All-Star Summer Youth Camp** – SC State's University Village will host their third annual Camp All-Stars, a camp geared towards the improvement of the state of South Carolina test scores and character building with local students between the ages of five to 16 years of age. Camp All-Stars is a six week program which will begin on Monday, June 10, 2013 through Friday, July 26, 2013. The summer youth camp will be held Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in University Village's Club House.

- SC State University's James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center hosted a four-week National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) for rising ninth, 10th and 11th grade students beginning with and orientation session on Sunday, June 16, 2013. The commuter institute provides career orientation and educational experiences to motivate secondary school students toward professions in the field of transportation.

- A Financial Literacy Conference was held in April 2013 as a free workshop open to the public and included the following topics, among others: PAY YOURSELF FIRST (Understanding Ways to Save Money and Savings Options to Save Toward Your Set Goals); OWNING YOUR OWN HOME/DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (Understanding the home buying process and how to obtain down payment assistance); PAYING FOR COLLEGE (Learn how financial security make life easier when paying for college; IDENTITY THEFT (Learn how to protect yourself from predators who steal your identity and what steps you should take if this happens); FINANCIAL RECOVERY/ REBUILDING YOUR CREDIT (Learn how to recover financially and rebuild your credit after a financial-setback; BUILDING AND MAINTAINING GOOD CREDIT (Learn how your credit history will affect your credit future); and BUILDING WEALTH (Learn how to create and preserve personal wealth and gain financial independence).

2013 Financial Literacy Conference