



# F.A.C.E.

the

## FACTS

South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
spring 2005



## A Message from SCASFAA

The South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators appreciates all you do to assist college-bound students. You are our partners in educating our young people about the available financial aid resources. The Counselor Relations Committee seeks to increase your awareness of financial aid options and provide updated information about important issues.

This issue of F.A.C.E. the Facts will come to you via email due to lack of time to print. Please print this out and share it with your peers. It includes information from the Commission on Higher Education; the results from Paying For College Day; SC Teachers Loan program; Communication with parents and the Summer Internship Program.

If there are any issues you would like us to address in future newsletters or other ways in which our association can serve you, please let us know.

Please send your comments or suggestions to Meg Hurt at [mhurt@coastal.edu](mailto:mhurt@coastal.edu).

*Meg Hurt*

SCASFAA Counselor Relations Committee  
Chair  
Coastal Carolina University

## How Do You Notify Your Parents of Upcoming Events?

By Meg Hurt, Counselor Relations Chair

Determining the best way to notify your students' parents of upcoming events, special awards, etc. is always a challenge. We know that our students are not very good at providing important information to their parents and it is disappointing when there is a poor turnout at a special event or program.

Some schools provide handouts to their students; some mail newsletters home; some post things on their Web page. Socastee High School in Horry County has developed a very good method of communication.

Every summer when the pre-registration forms are mailed to prospective and returning students, they include a request for parent email addresses. Once received, they have a dedicated person who creates a list-serve of parent email addresses.

The fall semester begins and each teacher, counselor or staff member is responsible for providing information to that person who will create an email to send out to the parents.

They don't really have a schedule, but try to send at least one each week. During the year, they may send out two or three announcements each week, depending on the current events.

I asked them to send me a copy of their most recent announcement and it was very informative. It is not fancy, but it gets the message out to those who care. The email was sent out to their list-serve with an attachment. The announcements were typed in Microsoft Word. Some of the information included **Sports, Club/Activity News, Graduation, and News From Guidance**. It is in a very friendly format and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Maybe someone in your school would be willing to type up the list-serve of names and put together the various announcements. With our world becoming so electronic, what better way to get the word out?

Good luck to all!



# South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Program

By Earl Mayo, Deputy Director

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is administered by the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission and is made possible through an annual appropriation by the South Carolina General Assembly. The purpose of the program is to provide undergraduate grant assistance to allow South Carolina residents the **choice** of attending full-time an eligible in-state independent college that best meets their academic needs.

Students apply for a South Carolina Tuition Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The paper version of the FAFSA is available from all South Carolina high schools and colleges. Additionally, students may apply via the Internet by using the “*FAFSA on the Web*” found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). By submitting the FAFSA to the federal government’s processor and by listing the eligible South Carolina independent college of the student’s choice in the college choice section, the Tuition Grants Commission will be able to electronically receive the student’s application from the federal processor. The Commission will then use the application information to calculate South Carolina Tuition Grant eligibility. Also, since South Carolina Tuition Grants are available only to legal residents of South Carolina, students should be sure to accurately complete **all** questions on the FAFSA regarding state residency for both themselves **and** their parents (if providing parental income data).

The FAFSA should be submitted after January 1 of the year when the student plans to attend. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. **The Commission has an absolute deadline of June 30th each year and only eligible applications received by the federal processor through June 30 will be funded.** Applicants completing the “*FAFSA on the Web*” should pay special attention to selecting the **correct** application since more than one year’s application is available early in the application process. On-line applicants should also be sure to complete **all** steps in the process until they receive a message indicating their application is complete.

Financial need is a requirement to receive a South Carolina Tuition Grant. To calculate financial need for a South Carolina Tuition Grant, the Commission considers (1) family income, (2) family assets, (3) cost of the college selected, (4) number of family members in the household, and (5) the number of household members attending college. In addition to financial need, academic merit is required by state law to receive a South Carolina Tuition Grant. Entering freshmen must graduate in the top 75% of their final high school graduating class **OR** score at least 900 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) **OR** score at least 19 on the ACT **OR** graduate from high school with at least a 2.000 GPA on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale to meet the academic standard for eligibility. For upperclassmen, the academic standard for eligibility requires that recipients pass at least 24 semester hours of classes each year. Students who do not meet these academic standards are ineligible for a South Carolina Tuition Grant regardless of financial need.

Further questions about the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program should be addressed to the Financial Aid Office at one of the eligible participating colleges or to the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission.

## **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPATING SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES:**

ALLEN UNIVERSITY  
ANDERSON COLLEGE  
BENEDICT COLLEGE  
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY  
COKER COLLEGE  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE  
COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
CONVERSE COLLEGE  
ERSKINE COLLEGE  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY  
LIMESTONE COLLEGE  
MORRIS COLLEGE  
NEWBERRY COLLEGE  
NORTH GREENVILLE COLLEGE  
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE  
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE  
VOORHEES COLLEGE  
WOFFORD COLLEGE

**SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission**  
**101 Business Park Boulevard**  
**Suite 2100**  
**Columbia, SC 29203-9498**  
**PHONE: (803) 896-1120**  
**FAX: (803) 896-1126**  
**WEB: [www.sctuitiongrants.com](http://www.sctuitiongrants.com)**  
**E-MAIL: [info@sctuitiongrants.org](mailto:info@sctuitiongrants.org)**



# Paying for College Day February 19, 2005 Results

Thanks to all of the SC guidance counselors who helped promote this event in February. Approximately 35 SCASFAA volunteers assisted at nine (9) sites throughout the state. Unfortunately, there was not a very good turnout. Surveys were sent to the local presenters, with only four responses. Totals from those responses indicated that 116 persons attended "Paying for College" day. Even though attendance was not very good, SCASFAA feels the need to continue offering this program. Suggestions to increase participation include the following:

- Publicize much earlier (begin in December)
- Put paid advertisement in local newspapers
- Use radio promotion
- Involve more people/organizations, such as CHE, lenders, high school guidance counselors
- Research the possibility of hiring a Public Relations firm

We do appreciate all of your hard work trying to understand the financial aid process and encouraging your students and their parents to apply early. The cost of tuition has skyrocketed and our students need to understand all of the intricacies of financing their education.



## The Guidance Counselor Internship Program Summer 2005

The Guidance Counselor Internship Program will again be offered this summer. Currently we have ten (10) colleges/universities that are willing to participate and fifteen (15) guidance counselors have sent in their applications. The interviews are in process and we hope to place all counselors with their college choice by the end of May. The colleges/universities are listed below:

Aiken Technical College	Aiken
Benedict College	Columbia
Coastal Carolina University	Conway
College of Charleston	Charleston
Florence-Darlington Tech	Florence
Furman University	Greenville
Horry-Georgetown Tech	Conway
Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech	Orangeburg
Technical College of the Lowcountry	Beaufort
University of SC, Beaufort	Beaufort

The financial aid offices throughout the state welcome your assistance in their offices this summer. We hope to be able to provide you with the tools you need to help your seniors apply for federal financial aid along with scholarships. Once all of the counselors are placed and working, the SC Student Loan Corporation will have a workshop/evaluation meeting on Thursday, July 7, 2005 for all counselors. The intent of this workshop is to share experiences with others.

Thank you to all who have provided your applications for "summer work." We should all grow together this summer.

# SC Teacher Loan Program

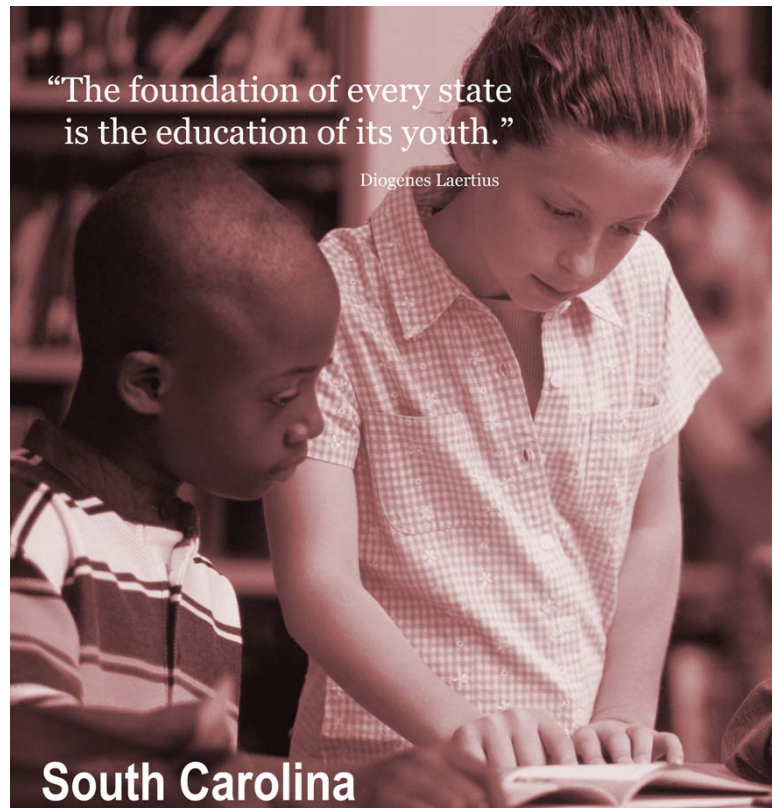
The most precious resource in the world is a child. The South Carolina Student Loan Corporation recognizes the tremendous role that teachers play in molding the future of our state, nation and world.

In 1984, the state established the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program in order to encourage qualified individuals to share in this esteemed calling. Since then, we have awarded over 15,000 Teacher Loans to people committed to ensuring that South Carolina's young people are given the opportunity to grow and learn and to march confidently into a bright future. Recipients of the Teacher Loan can have a portion or their entire loan forgiven by teaching in a critical subject or geographic area.

In 2001, we expanded the Teacher Loan Program to include the Career Changers and Critical Needs / PACE Certification Program. Career Changers are intended to assist people who are changing careers in order to enter the teaching profession. The PACE Certification Program enables degreed individuals, who otherwise do not meet certification requirements, to gain employment in the public schools in a critical need subject area, teaching position, and/or in a critical geographic area where teacher shortages exist, as determined annually by the State Board of Education.

Any student who wishes to apply, can download an application at [www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org). After the students fill out the form and sign it, they should mail it to the education department of the school they will be attending. Funding is limited and the priority deadline is June 1.

As always, if you have any questions, please call us at 800-347-2752.



“The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.”

Diogenes Laertius

## South Carolina Teacher Loan Program

South Carolina's most precious resource is its children. The South Carolina Teacher Loan Program was established in 1984 to encourage qualified individuals to enter the teaching profession. Recipients of the Teacher Loan can have their loan cancelled by teaching in a geographic or subject area of critical need.

800-347-2752 [www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org)



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