Report on Financial Statements

For the year ended August 31, 2022

elliott davis

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Trustees South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. Columbia, South Carolina

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis as of August 31, 2022, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets – modified cash basis and functional expenses – modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position – modified cash basis of the Organization as of August 31, 2022, and the revenues, expenses, and changes in financial position – modified cash basis for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Organization and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control–related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedules of member college assessments and gifts and awards distributed are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Elliott Davis, LLC

Columbia, South Carolina January 25, 2023

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis

As of August 31, 2022

Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents			\$	519,309
Investments				4,330,219
Property and equipment				
Building	\$	121,531		
Building improvements		42,182		
Office furniture and equipment		26,736		
		190,449		
Less accumulated depreciation		170,161		20,288
Total assets			\$	4,869,816
Net Assets				
Without donor restrictions				
Undesignated	\$	2,802,586		
Designated by the Board for endowment		306,427		3,109,013
With donor restrictions				
Restricted for research grants and scholarships		720,803		
Restricted for endowment	_	1,040,000	_	1,760,803
Total net assets			\$	4,869,816

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis For the year ended August 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues			
Gifts and awards received	\$-	\$	\$ 569,351
Member college assessments	559,052	-	559,052
Unrealized and realized loss on investments, net	(731,602)	-	(731,602)
Interest and dividends, net	15,060	4,708	19,768
Special functions	24,204	-	24,204
Buy-in revenues	20,479	-	20,479
Miscellaneous	2,020	-	2,020
	(110,787)	574,059	463,272
Operating expenses			
Program services	1,056,147	-	1,056,147
Management and general	182,294	-	182,294
Fundraising	114,710	-	114,710
	1,353,151		1,353,151
Assets released from restrictions	709,434	(709,434)	-
Change in net assets	(754,504)	(135,375)	(889,879)
Net assets, beginning of year	3,863,517	1,896,178	5,759,695
Net assets, end of year	\$ 3,109,013	\$ 1,760,803	\$ 4,869,816

See Notes to Financial Statements

Statement of Functional Expenses – Modified Cash Basis

For the year ended August 31, 2022

	Program Services		Management and General		Fundraising		Total
Gifts and awards distributed	\$ 775,434	\$	-	\$	-	\$	775,434
Salaries, contracts and payroll taxes	183,440		136,604		70,253		390,297
Special functions	14,534		-		-		14,534
Staff pension plan and insurance	25,336		18,867		9,703		53,906
Depreciation	2,272		757		757		3,786
Dues	4,843		-		14,528		19,371
Printing and mailing	4,434		1,478		1,478		7,390
Travel and entertainment	5,259		2,922		3,506		11,687
Public relations	4,955		1,652		1,652		8,259
Maintenance contracts	4,388		1,463		1,463		7,314
Professional services	10,301		3,434		3,434		17,169
Office supplies	2,965		988		988		4,941
Meetings	1,390		1,390		695		3,475
Insurance	-		6,420		-		6,420
Telephone	1,913		726		660		3,299
Repairs and maintenance	6,760		2,253		2,253		11,266
Utilities	1,982		661		661		3,304
Consultant	270		90		90		450
Technology	4,575		1,525		1,525		7,625
Miscellaneous	 1,096		1,064		1,064		3,224
	\$ 1,056,147	\$	182,294	\$	114,710	\$	1,353,151

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Activities

Organization:

South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (the "Organization"), located in Columbia, South Carolina, provides gifts to member colleges with funds received from various benefactors. The Organization receives dues from its member colleges to cover operating expenses.

Basis of accounting:

The financial statements of the Organization are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such basis recognizes all revenues when received rather than when earned, and expenses when paid rather than in the period in which they are incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. If the Organization purchases an asset having an estimated useful life which extends beyond one year of acquisition, the expenditure is capitalized and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the asset. In addition, investment securities are recorded at fair value.

Annually, the Organization prepares checks for certain of its award programs by its fiscal year end and holds the checks pending receipt of all complete information necessary for the award. The Organization's policy is to expense these payments in the year the check is prepared in order to properly match the expense with the year awarded. As of August 31, 2022, these checks totaled \$435,700.

Net assets:

The Organization's net assets are classified as follows:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization's management and the Board of Trustees.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets that are subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of the Organization or by the passage of time (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished). Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Cash and cash equivalents:

The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents, except for temporary cash maintained in the Organization's investment brokerage accounts which are included in investments on the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis. The Organization places its cash deposits with high quality financial institutions. At times, deposits may exceed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance limits.

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Activities, Continued

Availability of funds for general expenditures:

The Organization has certain net assets that are available for general expenditures within one year of August 31, 2022 based on conducting the normal activities of its programs in the coming year. Accordingly, the related resources have been included in the quantitative information detailing the financial assets available to meet general expenditures within one year (See Note 2).

Investments:

Investments are valued at their fair values in the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis. Unrealized gains and losses are included as a change in net assets. For purposes of determining gross realized gains and losses, the cost of securities sold is based on historical cost. See Note 3 for additional information on fair value measurements.

Property and equipment:

Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. The Organization capitalizes all purchases of property and equipment in excess of \$500. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method for financial reporting purposes based on estimated useful lives of the assets which range from 3 to 39 years.

Income taxes:

The Organization is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and similar state statutes and therefore has made no provision for income taxes in the accompanying financial statements.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board provides guidance on the Organization's evaluation of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes. Management has evaluated the Organization's tax positions at August 31, 2022 and concluded that the Organization had taken no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of this guidance. The Organization is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Revenue recognition:

Gifts and awards, member college assessments and other support received are recorded as support without donor restrictions or support with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets – modified cash basis as net assets released from restrictions. When a restriction expires in the same period in which the revenue was received, it is recorded as an increase to net assets without donor restrictions.

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Activities, Continued

Expense allocation:

The costs of providing various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets – modified cash basis and functional expenses – modified cash basis. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

Expenses of the Organization include:

Program services - Program expenses include costs of advancing higher education in South Carolina through fundraising, scholarships, and research, as well as by facilitating collaborative activities among the member colleges.

Management and general - Management and general expenses include the general, administrative, and operating costs of the Organization.

Fundraising - These expenses include direct and indirect activities undertaken to solicit contributions from donors.

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to more than one program or supporting function. Therefore, these expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. Payroll and related expenses are allocated based on management's estimate of time and effort. The remainder of expenses are allocated based on direct costs to programs or fundraising activities with the remainder allocated to management and general.

Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of changes in net assets during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Subsequent events:

These financial statements have not been updated for subsequent events occurring after January 25, 2023, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 2. Availability and Liquidity

Assets available for general expenditure, that are without donor or other restrictions limiting their use within one year of the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis date of August 31, 2022, are comprised of the following:

Assets at year end	\$	4,869,816
Less amounts not available to be used within one year due to:		
Liquidity - property and equipment		20,288
Endowed funds - board designated and donor restricted		1,346,427
Assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$</u>	3,503,101

As part of its liquidity plan, the Organization has a policy to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations become due. The Organization invests excess cash in short-term investments, including money market accounts, and has the ability to redeem certain investments as necessary to meet its obligations.

Note 3. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

- Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Organization has the ability to access.
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:
 - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets.
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

Note 3. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at August 31, 2022.

Cash and cash equivalents: Valued at cost which approximates fair value.

Equity securities: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Government securities: Valued using pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities.

Mutual and exchange traded funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Organization are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Organization are deemed to be actively traded.

Fixed income securities: Valued using pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities. This includes basing value on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Organization's assets at fair value at August 31, 2022:

		Level 1	 Level 2	<u> </u>	evel 3	 Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	43,904	\$ -	\$	-	\$ 43,904
Equity securities		1,380,710	-		-	1,380,710
Government securities		12,155	134,669		-	146,824
Mutual funds		1,683,027	-		-	1,683,027
Exchange traded funds		1,000,620	-		-	1,000,620
Fixed income securities		_	 75,134		-	 75,134
	<u>\$</u>	4,120,416	\$ 209,803	\$	-	\$ 4,330,219

Note 4. Investments

Investments consist of the following at August 31, 2022:

		Cost	 Fair Value
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	43,904	\$ 43,904
Equity securities		1,296,375	1,380,710
Government securities		161,601	146,824
Mutual funds		1,670,706	1,683,027
Exchange traded funds		961,015	1,000,620
Fixed income securities		89,765	 75,134
	<u>\$</u>	4,223,366	\$ 4,330,219

These funds include board designated and donor restricted amounts that are set aside for the purpose of providing an income stream for identified purposes and activities.

Note 5. Employee Benefit Plans

The Organization has a 403(b) defined contribution retirement plan (the "Plan") covering all eligible employees. The Organization contributes 100% of the first 5% of eligible compensation that all newly hired eligible participants contribute to the Plan. Employer contributions totaled \$25,149 for the year ended August 31, 2022.

The Organization also provides a voluntary tax-deferred annuity plan covering eligible employees who choose to participate. Participants may elect to contribute a portion of their before-tax compensation.

Note 6. Operating Lease

The Organization maintains a lease on a copier. Lease expense totaled \$7,315 for the year ended August 31, 2022. The Organization's future minimum payments under this lease at August 31, 2022 are as follows:

2023	\$ 4,500
2024	1,500
	<u>\$ 6,000</u>

Note 7. Endowments

Certain of the Organization's investments have been contributed by donors as endowment funds. Net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Trustees to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

August 31, 2022

Note 7. Endowments, Continued

Interpretation of relevant law:

The Board of Trustees of the Organization has interpreted the South Carolina Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (SCUPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Organization classifies as net assets with donor restrictions (a) the original value of gifts donated to the endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the endowment, and (c) accumulations to the endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund.

The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment fund is classified as net assets with donor restrictions until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Organization in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by SCUPMIFA.

In accordance with SCUPMIFA, the organization considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- 1. The duration and preservation of the fund;
- 2. The purposes of the Organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund;
- 3. General economic conditions;
- 4. The possible effect of inflation and deflation;
- 5. The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments;
- 6. Other resources of the Organization; and
- 7. The investment policies of the Organization.

Endowment net assets consist of the following at August 31, 2022:

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Donor-restricted endowment funds	\$-	\$ 1,040,000	\$ 1,040,000
Board-designated endowment funds	306,427		306,427
Total endowed net assets	<u>\$ 306,427</u>	<u>\$ 1,040,000</u>	<u>\$ </u>

Changes in endowment net assets are as follows for the year ended August 31, 2022:

	 hout Donor estrictions	With Donor Restrictions	 Total
Endowment net assets, September 1, 2021 Unrealized and realized gains (loss) on investments, net	\$ 446,419 (73,992)	\$ 1,040,000 4,708	\$ 1,486,419 (69,284)
Appropriation for expenditure Endowment net assets, August 31, 2022	\$ (66,000) 306,427	\$ (4,708) 1,040,000	\$ (70,708) 1,346,427

The endowment balances are included in investments as of August 31, 2022.

Note 7. Endowments, Continued

Funds with deficiencies:

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor or SCUPMIFA requires the Organization to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. There were no cumulative deficiencies of this nature that are reported in net assets with donor restrictions as of August 31, 2022.

Return objectives and risk parameters:

The Organization has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowments while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Organization must hold in perpetuity or for donor-specified periods. Under this policy, as approved by the Board of Trustees, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to produce investment returns of at least 5% plus the consumer price index as of December 31 of each calendar year annually while assuming a moderate level of investment risk.

Strategies employed for achieving objectives:

To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Organization relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Organization targets a diversified asset allocation of 20-40% fixed income investments and 60-80% equity based investments to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending policy and how the investment objectives relate to spending policy:

The Organization has a policy of appropriating for distribution each year 4.5% of its endowment fund's average fair value calculated using a three year average. In establishing this policy, the Organization considered the long-term expected return on its investment assets, the nature and duration of the individual endowment funds, many of which must be maintained in perpetuity because of donor-restrictions, and the possible effects of inflation. Accordingly, over the long term, the Organization expects the current spending policy to allow its endowment to grow at an average of 5% annually. This is consistent with the Organization's objective to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets held in perpetuity or for a specified term as well as to provide additional real growth through new gifts and investment return.

Note 8. Risks and Uncertainties

The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" and declared it to be a pandemic. Actions taken around the world to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus include restrictions on travel, and quarantines in certain areas, and forced closures for certain types of public places and businesses. The coronavirus and actions taken to mitigate the spread of it have had and are expected to continue to have an adverse impact on the economies and financial markets of many countries, including the geographical area in which the Organization operates. During 2020, Congress passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) and various other acts extending and supplementing the benefits which amongst other provisions, provide emergency assistance for individuals, families and businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

It is unknown how long the adverse conditions associated with the coronavirus will last and what the complete financial effect will be to the Organization. Further, COVID-19 may result in health or other government authorities requiring the closure of the Organization's operations, its member colleges or businesses of the Organization's suppliers, which could significantly disrupt the Organization's operations and the operations of its member colleges.

Schedule of Member College Assessments For the year ended August 31, 2022

Allen University	\$ 12,137
Anderson University	56,543
Benedict College	19,629
Charleston Southern University	50,082
Claflin University	28,382
Coker University	24,345
Columbia College	24,141
Columbia International University	23,740
Converse University	25,713
Erskine College	22,001
Furman University	38,240
Limestone University	30,321
Morris College	11,028
Newberry College	27,831
North Greenville University	39,231
Presbyterian College	28,596
Southern Wesleyan University	25,118
Spartanburg Methodist College	26,594
Voorhees College	10,186
Wofford College	35,194
Total member college assessments	\$ 559,052
-	

South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. Schedule of Gifts and Awards Distributed

For the year ended August 31, 2022

Allen University	\$ 27,200
Anderson University	41,524
Benedict College	43,849
Bob Jones University	37,406
Charleston Southern University	38,408
Claflin University	36,151
Coker University	37,284
Columbia College	36,238
Columbia International University	32,881
Converse University	36,255
Erskine College	33,804
Furman University	61,401
Limestone University	33,360
Morris College	20,700
Newberry College	47,250
North Greenville University	33,867
Presbyterian College	38,597
Southern Wesleyan University	37,374
Spartanburg Methodist College	32,262
Voorhees College	20,700
Wofford College	 48,923
Total gifts and awards distributed	\$ 775,434