

SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, INC.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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VOORHEES
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A VOICE FOR INDEPENDENT HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Message from the Chair

What a year! For the SCICU team, it was a year of many changes. We wished our friend and CEO Jeff Perez all the best as the new leader of the SC Commission on Higher Education. We thanked Brenda Torrence, South Carolina's best Director of Finance and Administration for her 37 amazing years of service before she retires in April 2025. Finally, we wished Shay West continued success upon her departure in October 2024.

Despite these changes, the ship remains on course. We continue to benefit from the new ideas, remarkable work ethic, and can-do attitude of Emma Reabold our Vice President of Development and Campus Services. Each week Emma is actively looking at new ways to help our member institutions and their students. If you have some good suggestions, please call her today!

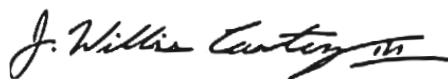
We recently announced that Robert Lloyd will be our new President & CEO. Robert joins us from Palm Beach Atlantic University where he was the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences. His other work experience is remarkable, from consulting around the world, to teaching international relations at Pepperdine, to working with an international nonprofit in Africa. We look forward to putting that energy and experience to use when he starts at SCICU in mid-January. Thank you, Search Committee and Find Great People, for your help!

At SCICU, everything comes down to supporting our member institutions and their students. Thank you to our loyal donors and supporters. Your support matters now more than ever! Thank you to the SCICU member institutions and their students; we continue to advocate for you at the state and federal level. Thank you to the SCICU Board of Trustees and Presidents for your ongoing commitment to the various SCICU committees and the Board of Trustees meetings.

Let's measure SCICU's impact by the numbers:

1. We distributed nearly \$400,000 in scholarships to 250 undergraduate students representing all 21 SCICU member institutions.
2. We distributed over \$140,000 in Lifeline Grants, representing all member institutions.
3. We distributed over \$70,000 in research grants to 21 undergraduate student and faculty research proposals.
4. This year, we exceeded our fundraising targets by \$30,000.
5. We recognized 21 recipients at the Excellence In Teaching Dinner.

Finally, after successful meetings at Claflin University in the spring and Columbia College in the fall I look forward to seeing our trustees, Presidents, and sponsors at our next SCICU board meeting at Converse University on April 10th, 2025!



J. Willis Cantey III
Chair, SCICU Board of Trustees
CEO, Cantey Tech



Message from the President

This Annual Report marks my recent appointment as the eighth president of SCICU. In mid-January 2025, I arrived in Columbia, eagerly anticipating the opportunities to support SCICU and its member institutions. The past months have been a whirlwind of activity. I was privileged to be part of a SCICU delegation to the annual NAICU meeting in Washington, DC. that included Presidents Dr. Natalie Harder from Coker, Dr. Anita Gustafson from Presbyterian College, and Mr. Keith Faulkner from Charleston Southern University. We had the opportunity to meet with South Carolina's congressional representatives and discuss concerns and opportunities for independent higher education in our state. I was greatly encouraged by the strong support of our representatives.

SCICU remains committed to supporting the needs of our member institutions. Our efforts encompass advocacy, fundraising for student grants and scholarships, building and supporting campus services, and enhancing SCICU's public profile. Despite numerous transitions in the year, SCICU continues to positively affect the lives of students and faculty through initiatives such as the SCICU Named Scholars Program, Student Lifeline Grants, Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research, and the Excellence in Teaching Faculty Awards.

As many of our institutions have faced transitions this year, so has SCICU. This year, we bid farewell to Brenda Torrence, who is retiring after 37 years of distinguished service in various roles at SCICU. We also welcome Ashleigh Hohmann as the new Director of Finance and Administration. She brings a wealth of experience that is already making a positive impact. Emma Reabold continues in her roles as Vice President for Development and Campus Services, going above and beyond to support SCICU during the presidential transition.

SCICU's success is attributed to a board and leadership team, with Willis Cantey at the helm, possessing the talent, experience, and dedication necessary to guide SCICU into a promising future. As I hit the ground running meeting the presidents of our member institutions, board members, and donors, it's exciting to be a part of the work being done by SCICU.



Robert Lloyd
SCICU President and CEO

Our mission is to strengthen South Carolina's independent colleges and universities through collaboration, governmental advocacy, fundraising, and public engagement so that every student may choose, afford, and earn an independent college education that fits their personal values, professional and social aspirations, and approach to learning.

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Front cover photo courtesy of Wofford University - Trevor Anderson

ALLEN UNIVERSITY
 Ph: 803/376-5700
 1530 Harden Street
 Columbia, S.C. 29204
 Website: allenuniversity.edu
 President: Dr. Ernest McNealey



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 864/231-2000
 316 Boulevard
 Anderson, S.C. 29621
 Website: andersonuniversity.edu
 President: Dr. Evans P. Whitaker

BENEDICT COLLEGE
 Phone: 803/253-5000
 1600 Harden Street
 Columbia, S.C. 29204
 Website: benedict.edu
 President: Dr. Roslyn C. Artis



BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 864/242-1500
 1700 Wade Hampton Boulevard
 Greenville, S.C. 29614
 Website: bju.edu
 President: Dr. Joshua Crockett



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 Phone: 843/863-7050
 9200 University Boulevard
 Charleston, S.C. 29406
 Website: charlestonuniversity.edu
 President: Mr. B. Keith Faulkner



CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 803/535-5000
 400 Magnolia Street
 Orangeburg, S.C. 29115
 Website: claflin.edu
 President: Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack

COKER UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 843/383-8000
 300 East College Avenue
 Hartsville, S.C. 29550
 Website: coker.edu
 President: Dr. Natalie Harder



COLUMBIA COLLEGE
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 1301 Columbia College Dr.
 Columbia, S.C. 29203
 Website: columbiacollege.edu
 President: Dr. John H. Dozier



COLUMBIA
COLLEGE



COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 803/754-4100
 7435 Monticello Road
 Columbia, S.C. 29203
 Website: ciu.edu
 President: Dr. William H. Jones



CONVERSE UNIVERSITY
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 580 East Main Street
 Spartanburg, S.C. 29302
 Website: converse.edu
 President: Dr. Boone J. Hopkins



ERSKINE COLLEGE
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 2 Washington Street
 Due West, S.C. 29639
 Website: erskin.edu
 President: Dr. Steven C. Adamson



FURMAN UNIVERSITY
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 3300 Poinsett Highway
 Greenville, S.C. 29613
 Website: furman.edu
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 Website: limestone.edu
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 100 West College Street
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 Website: morris.edu
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 2100 College Street
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 Website: newberry.edu
 President: Dr. Maurice Scherrens



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 Tigerville, S.C. 29688
 Website: ngu.edu
 President: Dr. Gene Fant, Jr.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
 Phone: 864/833-2820
 503 South Broad Street
 Clinton, S.C. 29325
 Website: presby.edu
 President: Dr. Anita O. Gustafson



PRESBYTERIAN
COLLEGE



SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 864/644-5000
 PO Box 1020
 Central, S.C. 29630
 Website: swu.edu
 President: Dr. William D. Barker



SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE
 Phone: 864/587-4000
 1000 Powell Mill Road
 Spartanburg, S.C. 29301
 Website: smcsc.edu
 President: Mr. W. Scott Cochran



VOORHEES UNIVERSITY
 Phone: 803/793-3351
 213 Wiggins Road (PO Box 678)
 Denmark, S.C. 29042
 Website: voorhees.edu
 President: Dr. Ronnie Hopkins



WOFFORD COLLEGE
 Phone: 864/597-4000
 429 Church Street
 Spartanburg, S.C. 29303
 Website: wofford.edu
 President: Dr. Nayef H. Samhat

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2024 Honor Roll of Support

During our 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following individuals, foundations, and corporations supported independent higher education in South Carolina by making gifts to SCICU.

On behalf of our member institutions and their students, as well as the SCICU Board of Trustees and staff, we extend sincere appreciation to the following for their support and commitment to Opportunities for Excellence.

Thank you!

A

Advance EDU / 1
Affinity LTC, LLC / 11
Allegiance Industries, Inc. / 3
Alwinell Foundation Trust / 55
Amick, Susan P. / 1
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B

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Bennett Family Fund, James & Cynthia / 6
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Budd Group / 1

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CBIZ / 3
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Council of Independent Colleges / UPS Foundation / 50
CourseDog / 3
Craig Gaulden Davis Architecture / 11

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Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation / 69
Dowd, M. Blake / 3
Duke Energy Foundation / 69
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E

Enterprise Holdings Foundation / 10

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Milliken & Company Charitable Foundation / 58

N

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U

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V

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Vedane, Caryn S. / 4
Virtual Care Group / 3
Vulcan Materials Company Foundation / 55

W

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Williams, Sharon C. / 5
Willis, Dale / 6
Wyche P.A. / 12



*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of donor information.
Should you note an error, please accept our apology and notify our office immediately.*

Donors by Gift Category

SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- Bailey Foundation, The
- Council of Independent Colleges / UPS Foundation
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Duke Energy
- Milliken & Company Charitable Foundation
- Sanders Family Foundation
- Security Federal Bank
- Sonoco Foundation
- South Carolina Student Loan Corporation
- Unum Group/Colonial Life & Accident

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Baruch Foundation, The Belle W.
- BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
- Daniel-Mickel Foundation, The
- Lane Foundation, Mills B.
- South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities Endowment
- South Carolina Student Loan Corporation

SCICU STUDENT LIFELINE GRANTS

- Alwinell Foundation Trust
- Amick, Susan P.
- Barnett Foundation Trust, Inc.
- Bennett, Family Fund, James and Cynthia
- Bentley, Jerry
- Campbell Consulting Group, The
- Cantey, Willis
- Coker, Charles W.
- Cook, Russell D.

- Davidson, Robert G.
- Dickson Foundation, Inc.
- Dowd, M. Blake
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- First Citizens Bank
- Freeman and Moore
- Garrison, John J.
- Groth, Stephen J.
- Hagler, Scott
- Hall, Steve
- Harrell, David
- Hartness, Becky and Bobby
- Jackson Family Donor Advised Fund
- Jackson, Michael
- Jolley Foundation, The
- King, Kathryn R.
- Kolb III, Wade S.
- LeFever, Michael G.
- Lesesne, Jr., Joab M. and Ruth O.
- Lynch, Dennis
- Maddrey Foundation, The
- Malloy Foundation, The
- Mayo, Jr., Earl L.
- McAbee, Jada
- McElveen, Donny
- McIver, Lucy Grey
- McNair, C. Clarke
- Network for Good
- Perez, L. Jeffrey
- Pinkston, Brandolyn
- Porter, Robert
- Ramsey, John C.
- Rawl, Walter P. & Sons, Inc.
- Reabold, Emma R.
- Reynolds, Richard
- Riordan, Michael

- Robbins, Mark
- Shannon, III, Edward M.
- Shaw, Hal and Minor
- Short, Kevin M.
- Simon III, David A.
- Smith Charities, Inc., John I.
- South State Bank
- Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc.
- Spinks Family Foundation
- Staton, Robert and Phyllis
- Torrence, Brenda S.
- United Community Bank Foundation, Inc.
- Vedane, Caryn S.
- Vulcan Materials Company Foundation
- Weaver, Sr., Brent A.
- West, Shay Shealy
- Williams, Sharon C.
- Willis, Dale

COLLEGE GUIDE SPONSORS

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- Sodexo
- South Carolina Student Loan Corporation
- Varsity Health LLC

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- CapinCrouse LLP
- Forvis
- GRP Wegman

- *IMA Higher Education*
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- *TIAA*
- *Total Comfort Solutions*
- *Varsity Health*

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- *Mercer*
- *Metz Culinary Management*
- *NFP*
- *Pioneer College Caterers*
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- *Total Comfort Solutions*
- *Varsity Health*
- *Virtual Care Group*

- *Wyche Professional Association*

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- *Sodexo*
- *South Carolina Student Loan Corporation*
- *Varsity Health*



SCICU Fundraising

Thanks to our generous donors for helping SCICU exceed our FY 2023-2024 fundraising goals and helping more students at our 21 member colleges and universities!



FY 2023-2024 Results by Program - \$570,674 total gifts

Scholars Programs	\$ 344,500	Business Partners	\$ 19,116
Student LifeLine Grants	112,540	Excellence In Teaching Sponsorships	9,436
Undergraduate Research	52,500	College Guide Sponsorships	2,250
In-Kind Gifts	12,115	Research Symposium Sponsorships	2,000
Meeting Sponsorships	13,518		

FY 2023-2024 Giving Opportunities with SCICU

Scholars Programs - Businesses and charitable organizations are encouraged to invest in student scholars at SCICU's 21 member institutions through programs they customize based on academic achievement, major area of study, financial need, or leadership.

Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program - In its third decade, this program funds research projects conducted by undergraduate students under faculty mentorship. The program gives students a taste of graduate-level research – from submission of proposals for competitive funding review to professional research symposium presentation of findings.

Student Lifeline Grants Program - Lifeline Grants help SCICU students persevere through financial crises, stay in school, and complete their degree. Campus financial aid directors select grant recipients who are identified as at-risk for dropping out.

SCICU Business Partners - This program is designed for businesses that seek opportunities to grow relationships with SCICU member colleges and universities. A \$500 annual fee gives partners listings on the SCICU website, regular features in the SCICU newsletter, listings in the SCICU annual report, and package discount opportunities to sponsor SCICU events.

SCICU Event/Program Sponsorships - Businesses and individuals are invited to sponsor SCICU events, including the annual Excellence In Teaching Awards Dinner, the SCICU College Guide, trustee meetings, and more.

SCICU Endowment - Designated gifts may be made to the SCICU Endowment that provide income to support donors' goals, including student scholarship, faculty development, research support, and other areas.

Emma R. Reabold, Vice President for Development and Campus Services, can help you invest in South Carolina's future through SCICU's 21 member colleges and universities. Call her today at 803-799-7122 or email at emma@scicu.org.

2023-2024 Scholarship and Grant Programs

The SCICU Scholars Program was developed in 1994 to encourage investment in individual student scholars attending SCICU member institutions. Investors supporting SCICU's scholarship and grant programs recognize the need to assist talented and deserving students in achieving their goals for obtaining a college education.

BAILEY FOUNDATION

\$1,000 scholarships given at all 21 colleges to traditional students who are S.C. residents living in Laurens County.

COLONIAL LIFE (UNUM)



\$2,000 scholarships for 9 traditional students who are S.C. residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, who have high financial need as determined by the FAFSA, and attend Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Columbia College, or Newberry College.

DOMINION ENERGY



Five \$1,000 scholarships are awarded at all 21 colleges and are available to traditional students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Student, parent, or guardian must be a current customer of Dominion Energy.

DUKE ENERGY



Nine \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to minority juniors or seniors pursuing engineering degrees (3-2 program or engineering major). Eligibility is open to persons of color or female students.

MILLIKEN FOUNDATION



\$2,000 scholarships are given to S.C. residents attending SCICU's five HBCUs (Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Morris College, and Voorhees University). Recipients must be full-time STEM majors with 2.5 or higher GPA and demonstrated financial need.

POWER:ED



Power:Ed, a philanthropic arm of S.C. Student Loan Corporation, funded \$50,000 in student completion grants designed to retain students and help them persist through financial challenges and graduate.

Power:Ed also provided \$25,000 to support student research participation among SCICU's five member HBCUs in the SCICU Undergraduate Research Program.

SANDERS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The foundation established by former SCICU Trustee Dan Sanders coordinates with the Furman University Bridges to a Brighter Future Program. This program assists at-risk youth with their educational goals. Up to 10 Furman Bridges participants will be selected annually to receive \$1,000 scholarships to attend a SCICU member college of their choice. Recipients will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors who have extenuating financial circumstances.

SECURITY FEDERAL



\$1,500 scholarships to one student each at Allen University, Benedict College, Columbia College, and Columbia International University. Recipients must be full-time S.C. residents with financial need and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

SONOCO FOUNDATION



\$42,000 for sixteen institutions scholarships for traditional students who are S.C. residents with demonstrated financial need.

S.C. STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION



\$2,500 scholarships are given at all 21 SCICU member colleges for traditional full-time undergraduate students who are S.C. residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have financial need as determined by FAFSA. The scholarships should be used to reduce the need for educational borrowing.

UPS FOUNDATION



\$3,500 scholarships at all 21 member colleges for traditional students who are S.C. residents with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

SCICU Business Partners

We would like to express thanks to the SCICU Business Partners. The program is designed to enable SCICU member colleges, their employees, and their students and families to obtain information about goods and services available from the companies and businesses that have chosen to become SCICU Business Partners.

ADVANCEMENT EDU

High Point, NC



CAPINCROUSE LLP

Lawrenceville, GA



AFFINITYLTC, LLC

Harrisburg, PA



CBIZ

Maitland, FL



ALLEGIANCE INDUSTRIES

Columbia, SC



COLLEGIATE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Lexington, SC



ARAMARK HIGHER EDUCATION

Greenville, SC



COLONIAL LIFE

Columbia, SC



BARTLETT JAMES

Bluffton, SC



CONCEPT 3D

Denver, CO



BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF SC

Columbia, SC



CORE EDUCATION

Alexandria, VA



BOLDYN

Austin, TX



CRAIG GAULDEN DAVIS ARCHITECTURE

Greenville, SC



THE BUDD GROUP

Winston-Salem, NC



DESIGN COLLABORATIVE

Charlotte, NC



CANTEY TECH CONSULTING

North Charleston, SC



DOMINION ENERGY

Richmond, VA



DUKE ENERGY
Greenville, SC



THE HOBBS GROUP
Columbia SC



DYNAMIC CAMPUS
Austin, TX



HOUSING.CLOUD
New York, NY



ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS
Columbia, SC



HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK
Charlotte, NC



FIND GREAT PEOPLE, LLC
Greenville, SC



IMA FINANCIAL GROUP
Greenville, SC



FORTIFYDATA
Kennesaw, GA



INSPERITY
SC



FORVIS
Charlotte, NC



MCMILLAN PAZDAN SMITH ARCHITECTURE
Spartanburg, SC



GIRAFFE WEB DEVELOPMENT
Greenville, SC



MERCER
Greenville, SC



GRP WEGMAN,
Bethalto, IL



METZ CULINARY MANAGEMENT
Sarasota, FL



HAYNSWORTH SINKLER BOYD
Greenville, SC



MILLIKEN & COMPANY
Spartanburg, SC



SCICU Business Partners *(continued)*

NFP
Greenville, SC



TIAA
Charlotte, NC



PEOPLE FIRST SOLUTIONS
SC



THRIVING WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
Columbia, SC



PHAROS RESOURCES, LLC
Abilene, TX



TOTAL COMFORT SOLUTIONS
Columbia, SC



PIONEER COLLEGE CATERERS
Olathe, KS



TRANSACT
Phoenix, AZ



POLLOCK COMPANY
West Columbia, SC



UPS
Columbia, SC



SCHOLARBUYS
Carpentersville, IL



UWILL
Boston, MA



SC STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION
Columbia, SC



VARSITY HEALTH LLC
Salem, OR



SODEXO
Spartanburg, SC



VULCAN MATERIALS
Atlanta, GA



SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
Hartsville, SC



WYCHE, P.A.
Greenville, SC



Celebrating the 2024 McLean-Smith SCICU Student of the Year – Karah Barry

Karah Barry, a junior double-majoring in criminal justice and psychology at North Greenville University, is the 2024 McLean-Smith SCICU Student of the Year. She also has a double minor in honors studies and American Sign Language.

Karah serves as the president of the campus' Criminal Justice National Honor Society and helps other students as a peer tutor and member of the Writing Lab. She volunteers in the First Year Experience and helps new North Greenville students navigate college. In the community, Karah volunteers with Wren Hospice in Greenville, serves as a volunteer camp counselor for elementary students, participates in local litter pickups, and works with the Friends of the Reedy River. Her excellence in academics, student leadership, and community involvement were celebrated at the SCICU Board of Trustees meeting held October 10, 2024 at Columbia College.

The McLean-Smith SCICU Student of the Year provides a \$3,000 scholarship to the student selected to receive the award. Nominees must be full-time students at one of our 21 member institutions, and they must be a Tuition Grant recipient. In addition, student nominees must perform well academically and demonstrate a commitment to public affairs, community services, and leadership.



(L-R) North Greenville University President Gene Fant, 2024 McLean-Smith SCICU Student of the Year Karah Barry, and SCICU Board Chair Willis Cantey.

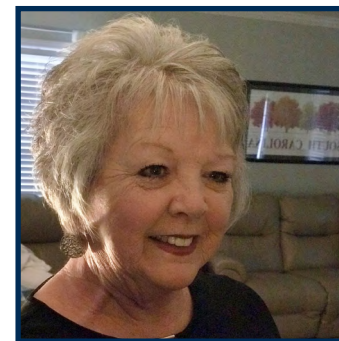
SCICU Hosts Human Resources Directors Gathering at Benedict College

On September 19, SCICU hosted human resource directors from many of our member institutions for a professional development gathering, sponsored by Mercer and Wyche, P.A at Benedict College. Members discussed current issues and opportunities at their institutions, and heard from experts in the field of hiring, benefits, and legal best practices. SCICU looks forward to continuing the development and support of the campus services providers at all of our member institutions.



SCICU honors Brenda Torrence's remarkable 37-year career as she retires

SCICU proudly honors Brenda Torrence for her extraordinary 37 years of dedicated service. Her unwavering commitment and countless contributions have been instrumental in advancing SCICU's mission and supporting South Carolina's independent colleges and universities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brenda for her remarkable legacy and wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.



Public Policy Update for SCICU Board Meeting – October 10, 2024

Thankfully all of SCICU's priorities were included in the budget passed for the state's fiscal year 2024-25, including:

1. Tuition Grants Commission is retaining \$20 million in lottery revenue.
2. CHE Needs-Based Program is retaining its lottery revenue of \$80 million. NOTE: The Tuition Grants Program gets about 15% of that, based on enrollment.
3. Merit Scholarships are fully funded at \$286 million in lottery revenue.
4. PASCAL is fully funded at \$1.5 million in lottery revenue.

In addition to this state budget support, SCICU member institutions are now included in the Nursing Graduate Scholarships Program. Up to \$90,000 in tuition reimbursement is available for each student who pursues graduate-level nursing educator credentials at four of

our institutions that offer eligible nursing educator programs.

There's more good news. Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship recipients at our member institutions who are majoring in approved education or accounting programs can be eligible for a \$2,500 scholarship enhancement each year starting with their sophomore year.

Please continue your prayers for our member colleges and universities that were impacted by Hurricane Helene. More than half of our member campuses sustained damages from the storm, and as of yesterday, classes have resumed at all schools ravaged by the storm. SCICU member colleges and universities are strong and resilient, and your continued support to these 21 institutions is now more important than ever.

Third annual Joint Higher Education Day held at S.C. State House April 9, 2024

Students from SCICU member institutions, public colleges and universities, and the technical colleges once again combined forces and held the Joint Higher Education Day on April 9, 2024..

Students met with their respective members of the House and Senate and were recognized in the House Chamber with a concurrent resolution. The day concluded with Lieutenant Governor, Pamela Evette on the North State House Steps for the Higher Education Day proclamation ceremony and remarks.



LT. Gov. Pamela Evette on the North State House Steps addressing students for Joint Higher Education Day.

SCICU Tuition Grants say, 'Thank You'

In 2024, Tuition Grants recipients at SCICU member colleges and universities sent 6,783 thank-you letters to their members of the S.C. Senate and House of Representatives.



SCICU Excellence in Teaching Awards

The hallmark of South Carolina's private, non-profit colleges and universities is the emphasis on individualized learning and student achievement. This can only be accomplished by a distinguished faculty working in a supportive environment that encourages and fosters serious inquiry, critical thinking, and a broader understanding of the world in which we live.

Each year, SCICU recognizes and celebrates outstanding faculty members with its Excellence in Teaching Awards. Each campus selects an Excellence In Teaching award winner, and SCICU is proud to award each recipient a \$3,000 professional development grant. This group of teacher-scholars represents many different academic disciplines and brings a rich diversity of education, experience, and interests to our campuses. SCICU was proud to recognize 21 outstanding faculty members as the recipients of the 2024 Excellence In Teaching Awards.



Benedict College's 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient is Dr. Desiree C. Bygrave (holding award), joined by colleagues from Benedict College and Willis Cantey, SCICU Board Chair.



Presbyterian College's 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award recipient is Dr. Mark Anderson (center, holding award), joined by PC President Dr. Anita Gustafson (left), family and colleagues, and Willis Cantey, SCICU Board Chair.

2024 Recipients

Excellence in Teaching Awards



Dr. Fayaz Kabani
Allen University
English



Mr. Bobby Rettew
Anderson University
Communication



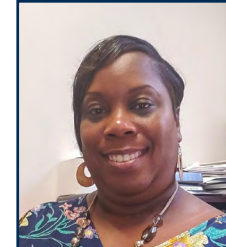
Dr. Desirée C. Bygrave
Benedict College
Psychology



Dr. Brian S. Vogt
Bob Jones University
Chemistry



Dr. Emily Thomas
Charleston Southern University
Mathematics



Ms. Erika L. Rhett
Claflin University
Mathematics



Dr. Margaret J. Godbey
Coker University
English



Dr. Gretchen M. Whitman
Columbia College
Teacher Education



Dr. Daniel Criswell
Columbia International University
Biology



Dr. Jeffrey G. Howard
Converse University
English



Dr. Alessandra Brivio
Erskine College
History



Dr. Christopher Hutton
Furman University
Music



Dr. Karl J. Trybus
Limestone University
History



Dr. John H. Day
Morris College
Physics



Mr. Keith William Ringer
Newberry College
Political Science



Dr. Martin R. Jones
North Greenville University
Business, Law, and Ethics



Mr. Mark Raymond Anderson
Presbyterian College
Art



Mr. James R. McDonald
Southern Wesleyan University
Criminal Justice and
Forensic Science



Dr. Judy Mirick
Spartanburg Methodist College
Physics and Physical Science



Dr. Chandra B. Singh
Voorhees University
Economics



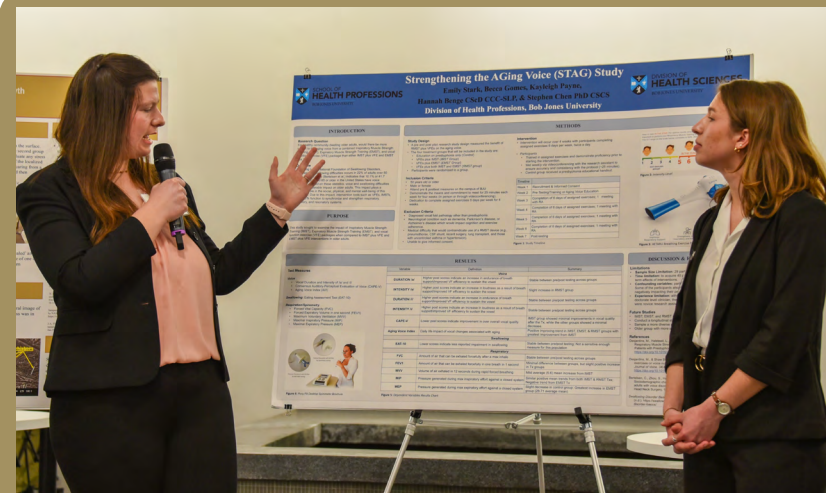
Dr. Nancy M. Williams
Wofford College
Philosophy

SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Program

Initially developed in 1995, the SCICU Undergraduate Student/Faculty Program increases research opportunities for undergraduate students attending SCICU member institutions. Research projects are selected for funding based on rigorous subject-area expert review. Participating students have opportunities to develop professional research and presentation skills, the benchmarks of highly-qualified professional researchers.



2024-2025 Research Symposium Group Photo



Bob Abigail Woo and Michaiah Pierce from Bob Jones University present their poster on Examining the Effects of Integrative Training for Advancing Balance & Cognition in Seniors: The ABC Pilot Study

Research projects completed in December 2024. Research findings were presented at the February 20, 2025 Research Symposium.

Institution	Student(s)	Faculty Sponsor(s)	Research Topics
Anderson University	Rachel Vondergeest	Dr. Chad Rodekohr	Testing for Optimal Conditions for Plasma Formation in Cylindrical Magnetron Sputtering
Benedict College	Trissania Lawrence	Dr. Larry Lowe	The Effects of Insertional Mutations on Acid Phosphatase Activity in Arabidopsis Salk Mutants Grown Under Simulated Lunar Light Cycle Conditions
Benedict College	Candice Lawrence	Dr. Samir Raychoudhury	Study the Difference Between BaP and FLA Function on ER-positive and ER-negative Breast Cancer Cells
Benedict College	Godwin Umechiedo	Dr. Naima Naheed	Relation Between Electrical Resistivity Tomography and Inverse Problem
Bob Jones University	Abigail Woo and Michaiah Pierce	Dr. Stephen Chen	Examining the Effects of Integrative Training for Advancing Balance & Cognition in Seniors: The ABC Pilot Study
Claflin University	Kadrian Porter	Dr. Randall Harris	Role of the luxI and luxR Quorum Sensing Genes in Serratia marcescens Biofilm Formation
Coker University	Ouranos Johnson	Dr. Gita Mohanty and Dr. Joseph Flaherty	Investigating the Bioremediation Potential of Selected Microbes

For the 2024-2025 research cycle, a total of 20 research proposals involving 24 students from 12 SCICU member institutions were awarded research grants totaling \$71,734 in the spring of 2024. Project research concluded in December 2024. Student researchers presented their project findings via oral, multimedia, and poster presentations at the SCICU Research Symposium on February 20, 2025. Listed below are the students, faculty sponsors, and the project titles for the research projects selected for funding in 2024.

Research projects completed in December 2024. Research findings were presented at the February 20, 2025 Research Symposium.

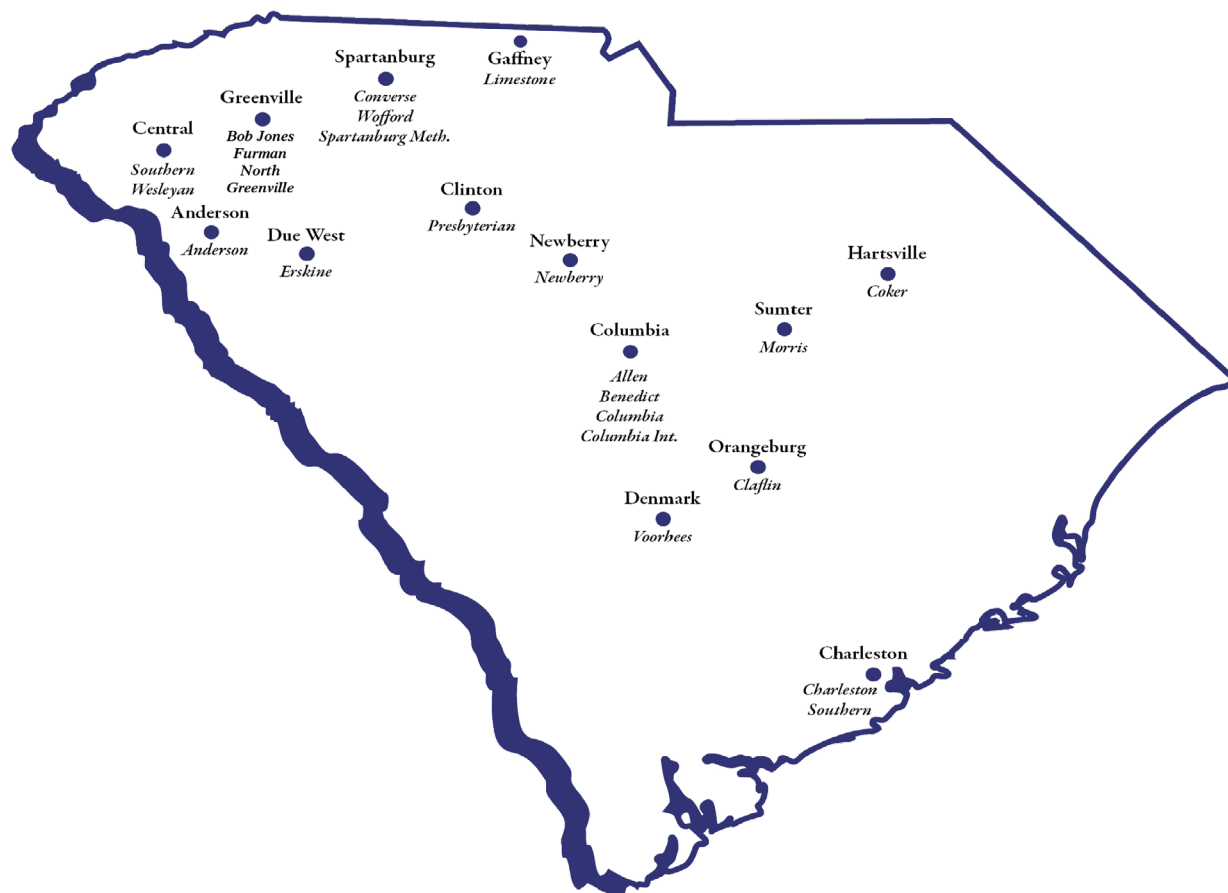
Institution	Student(s)	Faculty Sponsor(s)	Research Topics
Coker University	Walji Dadem	Dr. Richmond Adebiaye	Interpreting Gender Bias in Undergraduate Business and STEM Degree Programs
Coker University	Cheryle Toney	Dr. Gina Bennett	Midwifery in Charleston: Contextualizing Women's Roles in Healthcare in the Eighteenth Century
Coker University	Haylie George	Dr. Jennifer Borgo Raia	How Methodology Impacts Biodiversity Surveys in Salamanders: A Comparison of Natural Cover Versus Plywood
Columbia International University	Joshua Neath	Dr. Alexander Manzewitsch	Using the Solvophobic Effect as a Catalyst in Synthesizing Sterically Strained Products
Converse University	Caroline Blair	Dr. Jeffrey Howard and Dr. Allison Vick	Baruch Family Archival Research
Converse University	Paisley Stepp	Dr. Mark Bohler	The Effect of High Ambient Temperature on Appetite Regulation in Rats
Converse University	Chloe Cleland and Emily Whitlow	Dr. Monica McCoy	Assessing Associations Between Beauty and Goodness for Female and Minority Targets
Furman University	Riley Kopechinski	Dr. Onarae Rice	Can PTSD-like Behaviors Be Mitigated Through Dopamine D3 Receptor Antagonism in Female Rodents?
Furman University	Paige Hemmer	Dr. Alexander Francis-Ratte	"Digging" for Similarities Between Proto-Japanese-Koreanic Language and Old Chinese
Presbyterian College	Rivers Krask	Dr. Caleb Tatebe	Investigating the Bonding Nature of Tellurium in Organometallic Coordination Complexes
Southern Wesleyan	Anna Bolter and Rylee Overfelt	Dr. Jeffrey Mohr	A Species Survey of the Herpetofauna at Hobcaw Barony
Voorhees University	Tatianna Lindsay	Dr. Latrice Jones	The Role of Mathematics in CyberSecurity
Wofford College	Elizabeth Hamm Mills and Emma Williams	Dr. Ramin Radfar	Metformin and its Effect on Dihydrofolate Reductase Inhibition by Methotrexate

Educational and Economic Impact of Independent Colleges and Universities

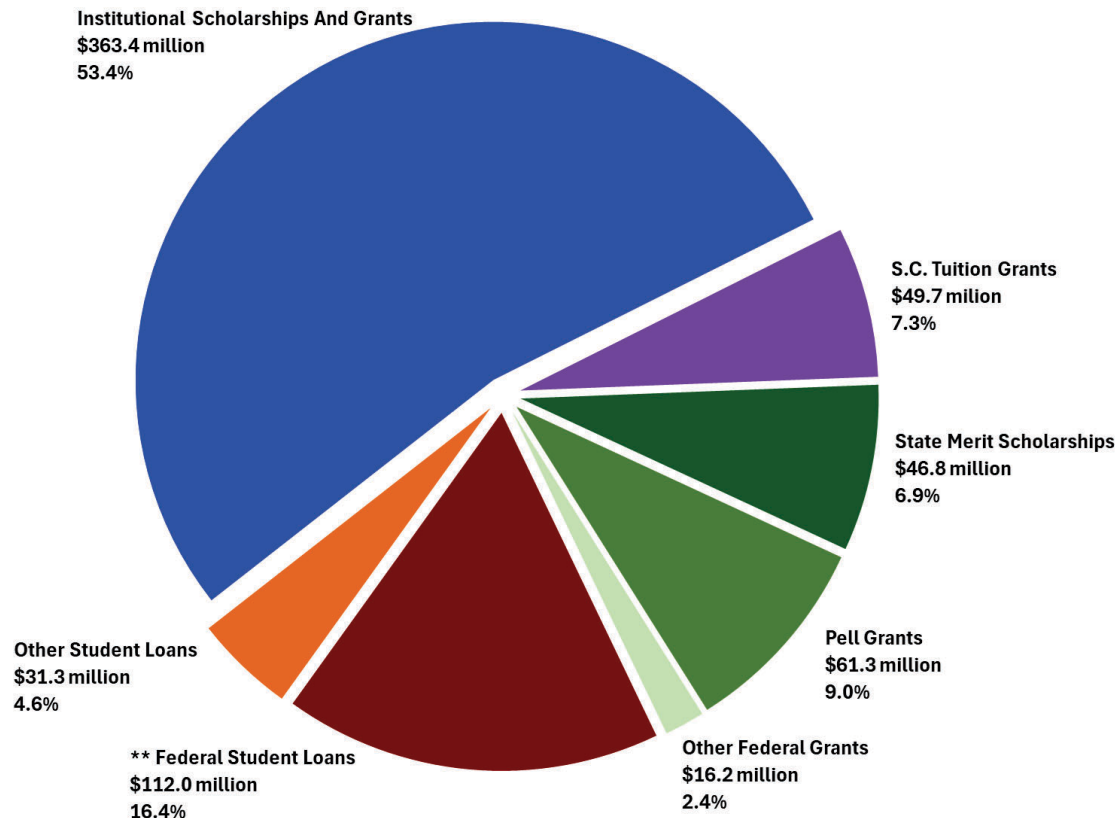
SCICU represents 21 independent colleges and universities, each with a unique historical and cultural background. Many also have a strong faith-based emphasis. SCICU's member institutions currently include five historically black colleges and universities and two previously all-women's colleges that are now co-educational.

SCICU member colleges and universities:

- Enrolled **36,185** total students (Fall 2022)
 - **30,874** undergraduate students (23% of S.C.'s total undergraduate enrollment at four-year institutions)
 - **65%** of undergraduate students are S.C. residents
 - **47%** identify as minority
 - **6,103** graduate students
- Provided **\$363 million** in institutional aid to undergraduate students (AY 2022-23)
- Awarded **5,700** bachelor's degrees (22% of S.C.'s bachelor's degrees) and **2,037** graduate degrees during AY 2022-2023
- Employed more than **8,400** faculty and staff and several thousand student workers (Fall 2023)
- Contributed more than **\$1 billion** in business expenses and payroll to South Carolina's economy (AY 2022-2023)



Student Financial Aid Sources by Category SCICU Member Colleges and Universities – 2022-2023 Academic Year



- SCICU institutions invest substantially in the success of students. At \$363.4 million, or 53.4% of all financial aid, institutional scholarships and grants are the largest single source of student financial aid.
- Nearly four-fifths of the SCICU average student financial aid package does not require repayment by students. Federal grants/work study, state merit scholarships, tuition grants, and institutional scholarships collectively account for 78.7% of student financial aid for students attending SCICU member colleges and universities.

Data Sources:

IPEDS (Pell Grants, Other Federal Grants, Federal Student Loans, Other Student Loans)

SCICU Institutional Research Survey (Institutional Scholarships and Grants)

S.C. Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission (Tuition Grants)

S.C. Commission on Higher Education (State Merit Scholarships)

****Federal Student Loans -- Only includes loans with the student as the named borrower (Parent PLUS loans excluded). Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) grants funded under the CARES Act are reported as Other Federal Grants (not Title IV) in Student Financial Aid.**

FINANCIAL CONDITION: September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

The financial statements of SCICU are audited by The Hobbs Group, P.A. which has issued its unmodified opinion. The following is drawn from their 2024 audit. Total assets of \$5,437,274 on August 31, 2024 compares to \$4,898,954 on August 31, 2023.

Because our member colleges and universities are assessed dues to underwrite the entire administration and operating costs of this non-profit organization, 100 percent of all contributions raised from donors are distributed to the members for scholarships without any reductions for fund-raising costs. Gifts and awards totaling \$673,985 were distributed during the fiscal year.

SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the year ending August 31, 2024

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 508,607	
Prepaid Expenses	10,464	
Investments	<u>4,904,554</u>	5,423,625

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Building	\$121,531	
Building improvements	42,182	
Office furniture and equipment	<u>26,736</u>	
	190,449	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>176,800</u>	13,649

Total Assets \$ 5,437,274

NET ASSETS

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Undesignated	\$ 3,577,030	
Designated by the Board for endowment	<u>266,495</u>	<u>\$3,843,525</u>

WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS 1,593,749

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$ 5,437,274

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS — MODIFIED CASH BASIS

For the year ending August 31, 2024

REVENUES

Gifts and awards received	\$ 515,130
Member college assessments	565,040
Unrealized and realized gain on investments	563,238
Interest and dividends	137,985
Special functions	45,742
Buy-in revenues	40,957
Miscellaneous	<u>2,700</u>

Total Revenues \$ 1,870,792

EXPENSES

Gifts and awards distributed	673,985
Operating costs	<u>658,487</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>\$ 1,332,472</u></u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 538,320

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR 4,898,954

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$ 5,437,274





SCICU Team

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carrie@scicu.org



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scicu.org



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SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES MEMBERS

