

**South Carolina  
Higher Education  
Tuition Grants Commission**

115 Atrium Way, Suite 102; Columbia, SC 29223 Phone: (803) 896-1120 Fax: (803) 896-1126

**REPORT ON CAPITOL IMPACT USE AND  
STATUS OF LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN**

Since January 2007, the Tuition Grants Commission has contracted with Capitol Impact annually to provide geocoded listings of all South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients. This information is used in two ways. First, it is used to provide to each participating college a list of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients attending their college with the corresponding South Carolina House member and South Carolina Senate member for each recipient. Second, the Commission provides a cover letter (see page 2 below for the 2017 letter) to each state legislator indicating the number of recipients from their legislative district with an estimated amount of total funds that those recipients receive in South Carolina Tuition Grants. Each legislator, along with the cover letter, receives a spreadsheet on a CD with the complete list of recipients from their district with the recipients' home addresses and name of the college each one attends. The use of Capitol Impact to provide the geocoded listings has significantly helped the Commission to refine this process.

The lists provided to the colleges enables them, should they decide to participate, to be involved in the SCICU Letter Writing Campaign at the beginning of each South Carolina Legislative Session. The positive impact of the Letter Writing Campaign for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program, which has been conducted for over 35 years, cannot be understated.

Also included below for the Commission's information are the letters of appreciation that are written last year after the legislative year closed to each state legislator and to the Governor.

**From:** [Harrison, Katie](#)  
**To:** [College Contacts](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayo, Earl](#)  
**Subject:** 2017 Tuition Grants Legislative Access  
**Date:** Friday, December 30, 2016 10:59:59 AM  
**Attachments:** [Instructions for Using Capitol Impact.pdf](#)

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Good Morning!

The Commission has been notified that all newly elected state legislators have been added to the Capitol Impact database, and that all Fall 2016 SCTG recipients are now updated with the geocoded information for their specific legislators. Attached is the "Instructions" document that each college should use for accessing and using this information. The website link is:

<http://www.ciclt.net/sctgc/admin.asp>

You may use this information right away for the 2017 Legislative Letter Writing Campaign especially with House members. **The state budget process will begin soon and the Commission will give its budget presentation to the House Ways & Means Higher Education Subcommittee on January 10th.** Letters to Senate members should be sent out in late February or early March prior to the Senate Finance Committee Meetings.

As noted in the Legislative Contacts Meeting with SCICU in December, please encourage your students to also have their parents write letters of appreciation to their State Legislators. If students have the same home address as their parents then the names of the legislators provided through Capitol Impact for the students will be the same for both. If the parents are at a different address, here is a link for them to find the information for their State Legislators:

[http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po\\_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=sctgc&State=sc](http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_districtlookup.aspx?ClientCode=sctgc&State=sc)

To access the Capitol Impact site, each college must use its "college-specific" User Name and Password (used by **all** individuals at the same college). Should you lose or forget your college's user name or password, please contact me so that I can provide them to you again. Your College's User Name and Password are:

User Name:  
**XXXXXXXXXX**

Password:  
**XXXXXXXXXX**

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

**Katie Harrison**  
*Deputy Director*

January 10, 2017

Honorable  
Senate/House District X  
Address  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Senator/Representative:

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is a state-funded program that has served the citizens of South Carolina for 47 years and serves to help many residents to afford to attend the South Carolina college that best meets their individual academic needs. During the current 2016-2017 award year, this “NEED-BASED” grants program is assisting over 13,200 students attending one of twenty-one eligible South Carolina non-profit independent colleges located across the State.

Currently, XXX students from your legislative district are receiving about \$XXX,XXX in South Carolina Tuition Grant assistance to help pay their college tuition. With this letter, I am pleased to provide a CD which includes a file listing the names and the addresses of the South Carolina students from your district receiving a Tuition Grant during the current school year.

As it has since its creation, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program continues to be a wise investment of state taxpayers’ monies providing both a significant savings for taxpayers and an invaluable long-term educational service for the State and its citizens. Since being created, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has saved the State about \$860 million over the cost of educating Tuition Grants recipients in the public college sector. Without this Program, most South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients would not have the funds necessary to afford the school they attend. It is important to note, too, that South Carolina’s independent colleges play a vital role in the educational and economic improvement of our state and its citizens which in turn contributes significantly to the future of our great State.

The Commission is very aware of the limited dollars available in South Carolina, and that funding for the 2017-2018 State Budget is restricted. As you make your decisions during the 2017-2018 State Budget process, we kindly ask that you please keep in mind both the immediate needs of the students served by the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program and the long-term value of this Program to the future educational and economic growth of our State.

The tens of thousands of students and their families who are having their educational dreams fulfilled through the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program are sincerely appreciative of your personal support of the Program. Thank you for your personal commitment and service to the State of South Carolina. Please contact me at 803-896-1120 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Mayo, Jr.  
Director

January 3, 2017

Honorable  
House/Senate District  
Address  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Senator/Representative :

As the Director of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, I would like to congratulate you on your recent election to the South Carolina Senate/House of Representatives. Your service to the State of South Carolina is appreciated and I look forward to working with you during your term.

Recognizing that you are learning, at a very accelerated pace, about the many programs and services being offered by the State of South Carolina to our state residents, I would like to assist you by providing you with a very brief overview of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program.

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is the grandfather of the higher education student financial assistance programs offered by the State of South Carolina having been created by the General Assembly in 1970 and administered by the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission since its creation. This "NEED-BASED" program was created to help offset the cost of attending South Carolina independent colleges for our state residents, just as the State provides significant assistance to our residents to offset the cost of attending the South Carolina public colleges. The Tuition Grants Program assists the State in gaining maximum usage from all educational facilities located in our state, promotes healthy competition between the public and private college sectors, and gives South Carolina students a choice of attending the college that best meets their cultural and academic needs. Additionally, and most importantly at this critical economic time for our State, the Tuition Grants Program is a great investment of taxpayer funds because it saves the State tens of millions of tax dollars each year (almost \$860 million since 1970) that would be paid for these same students if they attended state-supported public colleges.

Since the beginning of the program in 1970, over \$910 million has been awarded to almost 425,000 eligible South Carolina students attending the twenty-one (21) participating independent colleges located in our state. These "need-based" grants are made directly to the students, not to the colleges, and about 13,200 grants averaging approximately \$2,850 will be made this year to eligible South Carolina students.

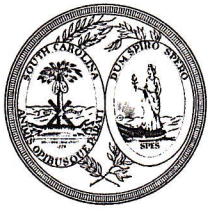
I have enclosed a flyer for the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program that contains quick facts on the program as well as a listing of the South Carolina independent colleges eligible to participate in the grants program. I encourage you to visit the Commission's website at [www.sctuitiongrants.org](http://www.sctuitiongrants.org) where you can get more information on the program and also link to the websites of the eligible South Carolina independent colleges.

The 2017-18 state budget process has already begun and many tough decisions will have to be made on how to spend limited state dollars. As you make your decisions, I hope that you will recognize the important contribution that the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program makes to the education, economy and future of our great State of South Carolina and, furthermore, how significant the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is toward enabling eligible South Carolina students to attend the colleges that best meet the students' needs.

Again, congratulations on your election, and please contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Mayo, Jr.  
Director



South Carolina  
Higher Education  
Tuition Grants Commission

115 Atrium Way  
Suite 102  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 896-1120  
Fax: (803) 896-1126

EARL L. MAYO, JR.  
DIRECTOR

August 26, 2016

Honorable Nikki Haley  
Governor  
State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

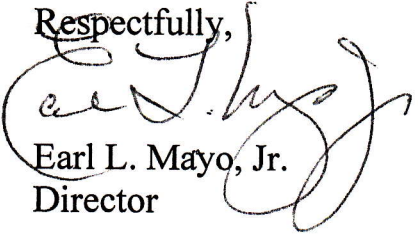
Dear Governor Haley:

Thank you for supporting South Carolina's college students!! Please accept this letter of appreciation for your continued support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the 2016-2017 State Budget.

Last year this state-funded program provided the necessary assistance for 13,340 South Carolina students to be able to afford to attend the South Carolina institution of higher education that best met their individual academic needs. With your generous support, this "NEED-BASED" grants program has been servicing South Carolinians for over 46 years and will assist about 13,350 more students during the 2016-2017 award year which starts this month at one of twenty-one eligible South Carolina independent colleges located across our state. Support of this program is greatly beneficial to South Carolina for both the immediate future as well as in the long-run as it plays a vital and needed role in the educational improvement of our state and its citizens which then contributes significantly to the future economic strength of our great State.

Please know that your personal support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the past and your future support are greatly appreciated by the hundreds of thousands of students and families that this Program has served, now serves, and will serve. We sincerely hope that you and your family are having a very enjoyable summer. Words cannot begin to express how much the Tuition Grants Commission and its staff appreciates your devoted service to our great State of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

  
Earl L. Mayo, Jr.  
Director

November 7, 2016

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
House/Senate District \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Street  
Hometown, SC 29XXX

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for supporting South Carolina's college students!! Please accept this letter of appreciation for your continued support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the 2016-2017 State Budget.

Last year this state-funded program provided the necessary assistance for 13,340 South Carolina students to be able to afford to attend the South Carolina institution of higher education that best met their individual academic needs. With your generous support, this "NEED-BASED" grants program has been servicing South Carolinians for over 46 years and will assist about 13,350 more students during the 2016-2017 award year at one of twenty-one eligible South Carolina independent colleges located across our state. Support of this program is greatly beneficial to South Carolina for both the immediate future as well as in the long-run as it plays a vital and needed role in the educational improvement of our state and its citizens which then contributes significantly to the future economic strength of our great State.

Earlier this year, we provided to you a CD that contained a file with the names and addresses of the South Carolina students in your district who received South Carolina Tuition Grants during the recently concluded 2015-2016 school year. We hope that you found this listing of program recipients helpful to know the profound impact of this program on the South Carolinians in your District. If for any reason you need another copy of this file, please contact the Commission and we will make one available to you.

Please know that your personal support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the past and your future support are greatly appreciated by the hundreds of thousands of students and families that this Program has served, now serves, and will serve. Words cannot begin to express how much we appreciate your service to our great State of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Mayo, Jr.  
Director