



# SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

*Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.*

111 Executive Center Dr  
Suite 242  
Columbia, SC 29210  
(803) 896-1120  
info@sctuitiongrants.org

Katherine H. Harrison  
Executive Director

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGE TO AGENCY MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

### ***Current Mission Statement:***

The mission of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to administer a state-funded, need-based tuition grants program for the State of South Carolina designed to assist eligible South Carolina residents with demonstrated financial need the opportunity to attend certain in-state, accredited independent colleges on a full-time enrollment basis. This mission serves:

To help offset the higher education costs of attending independent colleges for South Carolina students just as the state offsets the higher education costs of our state residents attending SC public colleges; and,

To gain maximum usage of the available independent college facilities located in our state by assisting eligible students to afford the cost of independent colleges and thereby help in the education of our state citizenry; and,

To preserve the dual system of public and private higher education in our state which provides healthy competition between the two sectors; and,

To save the state tax dollars that would have to be appropriated via the automatic state per student subsidy that would go, regardless of financial need, to all independent college students if they migrated into the SC public college system; and,

To give eligible South Carolina students a choice of attending the college that best meets their academic needs.

### ***Proposed Mission Statement:***

The mission of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is to provide access and opportunity for more South Carolinians to pursue a post-secondary education by providing need-based tuition grants to students who choose an independent higher education.

### ***Program Goals:***

The primary goals associated with the agency's mission are:

- To provide eligible South Carolinians with the choice to attend the college that best meets their individual academic needs
- To help offset the cost of attending an independent college or university, just as the state offsets the tuition costs of residents attending its public colleges
- To preserve the dual system of public and private higher education in our state, which provides healthy competition and innovation among all sectors
- To support optimal use of college facilities available at independent colleges and universities throughout the state
- To save the state tax dollars that would otherwise be appropriated at a higher cost, via state subsidies to public colleges, if students choosing to receive an independent higher education migrated into the public college system

***Current Vision Statement:***

Provide increased state economic benefits and a more educated citizenry by enabling more South Carolinians to obtain a college education by providing financial assistance in the form of need-based state tuition grants to qualified South Carolina residents electing to attend on a full-time basis certain eligible accredited South Carolina independent junior and senior colleges.

***Proposed Vision Statement:***

Providing opportunity and promoting choice while supporting South Carolina's post-secondary attainment goals

***Examples/References:***

(Iowa) Mission Statement:

We advocate for and support Iowans as they explore, finance, and complete educational opportunities beyond high school to increase family and community success.

(Iowa) Vision Statement:

All Iowans can achieve an education beyond high school.

(Illinois) Mission Statement:

Providing Illinois students with information and assistance to help make education beyond high school accessible and affordable.

(North Carolina) Mission Statement:

We help North Carolina pay for education. We are the State agency that promotes access to education by administering financial aid and savings programs, informing students and families about paying for education, teaching educators about financial aid administration, and advocating for resources to support students.

(California) Mission Statement:

Promoting educational equity by making postsecondary education affordable for all Californians.

(California) Vision Statement:

Transforming lives by creating educational opportunities for the state's diverse population, driving its social and economic well-being to ensure a promising future for all.

(Tennessee) Mission Statement:

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission is relentlessly focused on increasing the number of Tennesseans with a post-secondary credential. We pursue this goal by innovating for student access and success, creating a policy environment conducive to increased degree attainment, and protecting students and consumers.