

**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 2016 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 about 25 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.

January 19, 2016

Honorable Name
Address
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Representative/Senator:

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is a state-funded program that has served the citizens of South Carolina for over 45 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 2015-2016 award year, this “NEED-BASED” grants program is assisting over 13,350 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 \$850 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 2016-2017 State Budget is restricted. As you make your decisions during the 2016-2017 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 of the long-term value of this Program to the future educational and economic growth of our State.

The 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

August 6, 2015

Honorable _____
House/Senate District _____
_____ Street
Hometown, SC 29XXX

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

Thank you!! Please accept this letter of appreciation for your continued support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the now completed 2015-2016 State Budget.

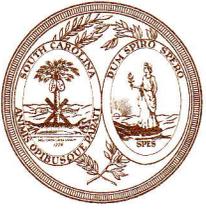
This state-funded program last year provided the necessary assistance for 13,350 South Carolina students enabling them to afford to attend the South Carolina institution of higher education that best met their individual academic needs. With your generous support, this "NEED-BASED" grants program has been servicing South Carolinians for over 45 years and will assist about 13,350 students during the 2015-2016 award year starting this month at one of twenty-one eligible South Carolina independent colleges located throughout our state. Support of this program is greatly beneficial to South Carolina for both the short-term and in the long-run as it plays a critical role in the educational improvement of our state and its citizens which in turn contributes significantly to the economic strength and future of our great State.

Earlier this year, I 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 2014-2015 school year. I hope that you found this file listing 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 in the future is greatly appreciated by the hundreds of thousands of students and families that it has served, now serves, and will serve. I sincerely hope that you are having a very enjoyable summer. Thank you so much for your service to the State of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

Earl L. Mayo, Jr.
Director



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EARL L. MAYO, JR.
DIRECTOR

August 6, 2015

Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor
PO Box 12267
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Haley:

Thank you!! Please accept this letter of sincere appreciation for your support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the 2015-2016 South Carolina State Budget.

This state-funded program last year provided the necessary assistance for 13,350 South Carolina students enabling them 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 now been serving South Carolinians for over 45 years and will assist another 13,350 students during the 2015-2016 award year that starts this month at the twenty-one participating South Carolina independent colleges located throughout our state. Your support of this program is very beneficial to South Carolina for both the short-term and in the long-run as it plays a critical and needed role in the educational improvement of our state and its citizens which in turn contributes significantly to the economic strength and future of our great State.

Please know that your personal support of the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program in the past and in the future is greatly appreciated by the tens of thousands of students and families that it serves. I sincerely hope that you and your family are having an enjoyable summer and that you will accept the Commission members' and staff's gratitude for your devoted service to the State of South Carolina.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Earl L. Mayo, Jr.", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble or flourish.

Earl L. Mayo, Jr.
Director