
ACHE

Alabama Commission on Higher Education



2007 Accountability Report

Submitted to the Governor and
Alabama Legislature

December 7, 2007

**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**2007
ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT**

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Acknowledgement

The Commission gratefully acknowledges the actions of Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Legislature for:

*Increasing by one hundred percent (100%)
the appropriation to the Alabama Student Assistance Program*

and

*Increasing by nearly two hundred percent (200%)
the appropriation to the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
for the establishment of the Graduate Research Scholars Program.*

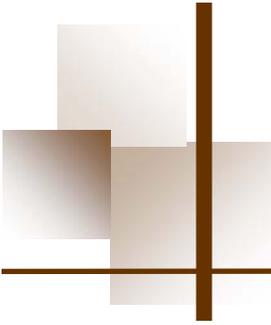
“The Commission cannot lead alone. Nor can it expect to lead by formal authority. It must lead by the goals it articulates, the quality of its analysis, its reputation for objectivity and fairness, and its capacity to enable and support others who can take a visible leadership role. The Commission must shape an agenda that makes the compelling case for the link between the future of Alabama and its higher education/postsecondary education system.”

The Report of the Seventh Quadrennial Evaluation Committee
a Committee to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
February 1999

Mission Statement

The Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs, and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State.

Adopted by the Commission on Higher Education on December 9, 1994



From the Executive Director: Transmittal of Report

In accord with Ala. Code §16-5-10 (9) (1975), the Alabama Commission on Higher Education submits Accountability Report 2007, its annual report of activities as directed by statute.

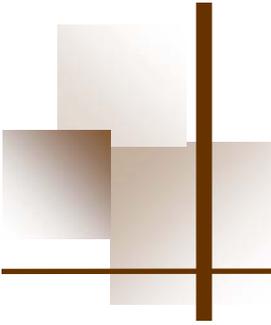
During the past year, the Commission's Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* has provided an opportunity for the Commission to become a conduit through which state level information, concerns, and reports of progress about higher education could be transmitted from the higher education community to selected government leaders and the public at-large.

A major focus of this long-range planning and reporting process was the initiation of the Eighth Quadrennial Review. The findings and overarching recommendations of the Quadrennial Review Committee to the Governor, Legislature, and Commission are intended to provide a framework for our activities in the next few years as well as lay the foundation for the next planning cycle. Accordingly, the Commission has committed to promote a public agenda rooted in a sustained, long-term campaign to raise the educational attainment of all Alabama's citizens by addressing affordability concerns, quality of educational oversight, and coordination of a state-wide educational system.

For additional information on the Commission's ongoing activities, please visit our website at www.ache.state.al.us.

*Dr. Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
December 7, 2007*





From the Chair: An Executive Summary

Demographic trends for Alabama forecast an economic challenge. The young working age population in the state is declining. To assure Alabama's place in a global economy, we will need high skill/high wage employers and an equally skilled workforce. In short, Alabama must increase in-state demand for a college educated workforce and the stakeholders in Alabama higher education (institutions, governmental leadership, business and industry) are committed to meeting that requirement. In 2007, we have taken affirmative steps toward that end.

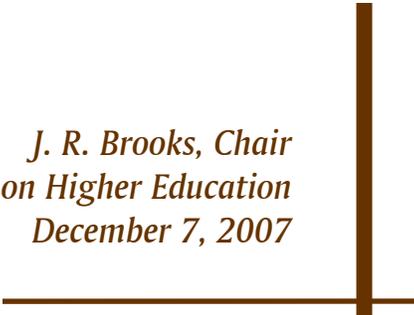
As a state-wide coordinating board, the Commission has become a *go to agency* for information about higher education. Whether the inquiry concerns student data, institutional information, minority programs, regional programs, library offerings, non-resident institutions operating in state, accreditation, new programs, existing programs, the academic program inventory, federal grants to higher education, scholarships, financial aid or statewide research and development activities, the Commission is the clearinghouse for citizens of this state and their leadership. As Accountability Report 2007 illustrates, the Commission welcomes this role and continues to seek additional avenues to improve information collection and delivery. This commitment is in keeping with the intent of the Commission's Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*; i.e. to communicate and promote the value, strengths, effectiveness, and needs of higher education to the public and the legislative and executive branches of state government.

A lesser known duty embraced by the Commission is as advocate for the students, faculty, and institutions of higher education in Alabama. Each year, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education with the advice of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents, makes a budget recommendation for higher education appropriation to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature.

Through lean years and times of economic growth, the Commission has sought full funding for many programs administered through its budget. In 2007, the recommendation of the Commission to double the appropriation to the Alabama Student Assistance Program passed into law. Qualifying state appropriations to this program ensure leveraging; i.e. receipt of matching federal dollars. The Alabama Student Assistance Program is the only state-level, needs-based financial assistance program in Alabama.

Similarly, substantial increases in funding were appropriated for the following programs: Alabama Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, and the Alabama Educational Grant Program. Alabama, her citizens, institutions, and economy, are the beneficiaries of these programs.

*J. R. Brooks, Chair
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
December 7, 2007*



The Roster of Commissioners by District Ala. Code §16-5-2 (1975)¹

Commissioners serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Legislature in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of the state supported institutions of higher education. The first meeting of the Commission was held on October 8, 1971.

The original legislation enacted in 1969 provided for a nine-member Commission with overlapping terms. (Act. N. 14, Special Session, 1969) The legislation was amended in 1979 to increase the number of Commission members from nine to twelve. (Acts 1979, No. 79-461, p. 816, §2)

¹The commission shall consist of 12 members. Ten of these members shall be appointed by the Governor; one shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. One person shall be appointed from each United States congressional district in Alabama and shall reside or maintain an office or place of business within the congressional district from which he is appointed, and the remaining members shall be appointed from the state at large with no more than two in number of the total 12 members being from the same congressional district.

The 12 members shall be citizens of the state and shall be selected, as far as may be practicable, on the basis of their interest in higher education. Appointees shall be selected without regard to political affiliation and appointments shall be of a nature as to aid the work of the commission and to inspire the highest degree of cooperation and confidence. No member of the commission shall be on the governing boards, be employed by or directly connected with any institution of higher education in the state, the State Department of Education or any county or other local board of education. No member of the commission shall serve past June 30th following his seventieth birthday. All members of the commission shall be deemed members at large charged with the responsibility of serving the best interest of the entire system of higher education in the state. No member shall act as the representative of any particular region or of any particular institution of higher education. New appointments to the commission shall be made so that the total membership of the commission is broadly representative of the total population of the State of Alabama.

The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the Governor of this state in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of state supported institutions of higher education. The initial membership of the commission and the term of each initial member is as follows in Section 16-5-3. Ala. Code §16-5-2 (1975)

Members of the Commission

Mr. J. R. Brooks. Chair of the Commission. A resident of Huntsville, Alabama, Mr. Brooks was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2000. He represents a district at-large until 2009.

Mr. Ralph Buffkin. A resident of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Buffkin was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2004. He represents the first congressional district until 2013.

Mr. Jeff Coleman. A resident of Dothan, Alabama, Mr. Coleman was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2006. He represents a district at-large until 2014.

Mr. Thomas P. Davis. Vice Chair of the Commission. A resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mr. Davis was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2003. He represents the seventh congressional district until 2011.

Ms. Johnnie Jackson-McDougald. A resident of Opelika, Alabama, Ms. Jackson-McDougald was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2000. She represents the third congressional district until 2007.²

Mr. Drew Linn. A resident of Homewood, Alabama, Mr. Linn was appointed by Governor Bob Riley in 2005. He represents a district at-large until 2012.

Dr. William E. Powell, III. A resident of Montgomery, Alabama, Dr. Powell was appointed by Speaker of the House Seth Hammett in 2007. He represents the second congressional district until 2015.

Mr. Stephen W. Shaw. A resident of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Shaw was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley to the Commission in 2003. He represents a district at-large until 2012.

Ms. Missy Ming Smith. A resident of Huntsville, Alabama, Ms. Smith was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2006. She represents the fifth congressional district until 2015.

Dr. Roberta O. Watts. A resident of Gadsden, Alabama, Dr. Watts was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2000. She represents the fourth congressional district until 2008.

Mr. Ronald W. Wise. A resident of Montgomery, Alabama, Mr. Wise was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2003. He represents a district at-large until 2009.

NOTE: Currently, there is one (1) vacancy on the Commission. In compliance with Act No. 2006-630, this vacancy notice was posted to the website provided by the Alabama Secretary of State on December 19, 2006.

²The members of the commission shall continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have been appointed. Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)

Appointments, Vacancies, and Reappointments to the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)³

In 2007 the Senate confirmed Governor Bob Riley’s appointment to the Commission of Ms. Missy Ming Smith and House Speaker Seth Hammett’s appointment of Dr. William E. Powell, III.

³Members of the commission shall be selected for nine-year terms expiring on August 31 of the respective year. The current nine-members are subject to reconfirmation by the Senate and shall continue to the expiration of their respective terms subsequent to such reconfirmation, but shall continue to serve as appointed until such reconfirmation. In the event that the Senate shall fail to reconfirm a current member, the Governor shall with the advice and consent of the Senate appoint a replacement for the unexpired term. Of the three new appointees, one shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of three years, one shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of six years and one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of nine years.

The members of the commission shall continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have been appointed. In the event that the number of congressional districts shall change, incumbents on the commission shall complete their terms as members of the commission. If the number of congressional districts shall change, the membership will remain at 12 with the number of at-large memberships being adjusted, if necessary, so that each congressional district is represented. If the Senate is not in session or is in recess when the term of a member expires, the initial appointing authority shall make a temporary appointment of a succeeding member who shall serve subject to subsequent Senate approval of the appointment.

Vacancies and new appointments on the commission shall be filled by appointment of the ex officio officer responsible for the initial appointment. If the Senate is not in session or is in recess when the appointment is made, the appointee shall serve subject to subsequent approval of the appointment.

Any person who serves for five or more years as a member of the commission shall not be eligible for reappointment to succeed himself until the next vacancy occurs after his or her successor is named. Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)

Organization of the Commission, Executive Director, and Roster of Commission Staff

Ala. Code §16-5-4 (1975)⁴

The Commission met in four (4) regular Friday sessions during 2007. In addition, the Commission met as a Committee of the Whole an additional four (4) times as well as in one (1) special called meeting in February and one (1) study session on August 1. Agendas included discussions of the Commission's legislatively mandated activities, recommendations of the Eight Quadrennial Evaluation Committee, and administrative matters. The Commission is organized currently into three standing subcommittees: Executive, Academic Affairs, and Planning, Finance and Accountability. All meetings of the Commission and its sub-committees were conducted in accord with notice and other provisions of Act No. 2005-40, the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch was appointed by the Commission to the position of Executive Director effective July 1, 2006. In 2007, his appointment was confirmed by the Alabama Senate.

⁴The commission shall elect annually from its own members a chairperson and such other officers as it may deem desirable and shall adopt rules for its organization in the conduct of its business.

The commission shall hold regular meetings at such times as are specified in its rules. Special or additional meetings may be held on call of the chairperson, or upon a call signed by at least six members, or upon call of the Governor. The commission is encouraged to meet as often as seems desirable on the campuses of institutions of higher education in the state. The commission shall meet at least once every three months. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum at all its meetings but the approval of a new unit or program of instruction, or a new public institution of higher education, or the recommendation for a new unit of research or public service as provided in Section 16-5-8, shall require the concurrence of a majority of all the members of the commission. An agenda for the meetings in sufficient detail to indicate the terms on which final action is contemplated shall be mailed to the chairperson of each governing board and to the chief administrative officer of each public institution of higher education at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Any public institution of postsecondary education or the State Board of Education may place an item for discussion on the agenda of the next commission meeting by informing the executive director of the commission, in writing, of such request at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The commission may appoint a highly qualified person as its executive director who shall, with the consent and approval of the commission, select and supervise the commission's staff and perform such other duties as may be delegated to the executive director by the commission, within the amounts made available for the operation of the commission. The appointment of the executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate. Failure of the Senate to confirm the executive director shall result in his or her dismissal within 90 days thereafter.

The executive director shall, with the consent and approval of the commission, employ professional and clerical staff and other assistants, including specialists and consultants, upon a full-time or part-time basis as are necessary to assist the commission and the executive director in performing the duties assigned by this chapter. The number of employees, their compensation, and the other expenditures of the commission shall be within the limits and in compliance with the appropriation made therefore by the Legislature and within budgets that shall be approved from time to time by the commission. All full-time employees of the commission shall be eligible to participate in the state Teachers' Retirement System. Ala. Code §16-5-4 (1975)

The Commission's first professional staff of ten (10) members was recruited in 1972. Today, the Commission employs a staff of twenty-seven (27) persons under the supervision of an Executive Director. As required by statute, all full-time staff members participate in the state Teachers' Retirement System. Staff are assigned as follows:

Executive Director's Office

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director
Ms. Margaret Gunter, Director of Communications
Ms. Deborah Nettles, Administrative Assistant

Instruction, Planning and Special Services

Instruction

Ms. Ellen Haulman, Assistant Director
Ms. Margaret Pearson, Academic Program Review Analyst

Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

Dr. Sue Medina, Director
Ms. Emily Hankins, Secretary

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, Director
Ms. Nancy B. Lacey, Staff Associate
Dr. Jim Conely, Title II Staff Assistant
Ms. M. Elaine Webster, Administrative Assistant

Special Programs

Dr. Paul Mohr, Director

Research Services

Ms. Diane Sherman, Director
Ms. Subrena Simpkins, Staff Associate
Ms. Natalie Williams, Staff Assistant

Operations and Fiscal Services

Mr. Tim Vick, Director
Ms. Jacinta Whitehurst, Receptionist

Institutional Finance and Facilities

Ms. Susan Cagle, Director

Agency Fiscal Services & Accounting

Ms. Veronica Harris, Director
Ms. Teresa Hutcheson, Senior Accountant
Ms. Susan Davis, Accountant & Property Control Manager
Ms. Yolanda McCree, Accountant
Ms. Cheryl Newton, Student Assistance Coordinator

Technology Services

Mr. Walter Hutcheson, Director
Mr. Michael Clemons, Network Administrator
Ms. Shelia McFarland, Web Master/Software Specialist
Mr. Willie Darden, Senior Programmer
Mr. Stephen Mims, Programmer

Advisory Groups and Consultants

Ala. Code §16-5-5 (1975)⁵

Activities of the advisory boards to the Commission provide evidence of successful support of selected goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. In cooperation with the Commission, these groups analyze and evaluate on a continuing basis the present and future needs for instruction, research, and public service in postsecondary education in the state. Their deliberations are intended to ensure the highest possible quality of collegiate and university education to all persons in the state who are able and willing to profit from it.

⁵The commission, in consultation with the agencies and institutions concerned with higher education in this state, shall analyze and evaluate on a continuing basis the present and future needs for instruction, research and public service in postsecondary education in the state, including facilities, and assess the present and future capabilities. The use of advisory groups and consultants, as deemed desirable, may be used to meet these needs in order to provide the highest possible quality of collegiate and university education to all persons in the state able and willing to participate. One such advisory committee shall be the council of presidents, consisting of the president of each public four-year institution of higher education, the State Superintendent of Education and the presidents of three public two-year institutions of higher education, to be selected by the Superintendent of Education. Ala. Code §16-5-5 (1975)

The Council of College and University Presidents

The Commission's enabling legislation mandated the formation and composition of the Council of College and University Presidents. This Council met three (3) times in 2007. Agendas included discussions of: The unified budget recommendation and the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. In 2006, the Council also heard a presentation on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Academic Alliance. Current members are:

Dr. Jerry Bartlett, President
Athens State University

Dr. Susan McBride, President
Jefferson Davis Community College

Mr. Bradley Byrne, Chancellor
The Alabama College System

Dr. William Meehan, President
Jacksonville State University

Dr. William Cale, Jr., President
University of North Alabama

Mr. V. Gordon Moulton, President
University of South Alabama

Dr. Carol Garrison, President
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Malcolm Portera, Chancellor
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Jay Gogue, President
Auburn University

Dr. Stafford Thompson, President
Enterprise-Ozark Community College

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor
Troy University

Dr. John G. Veres, III, Chancellor
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Vicki Hawsey, President
*G.C. Wallace State Community College,
(Hanceville)*

Dr. David Williams, President
University of Alabama in Huntsville

**Dr. Richard Holland, Chair
President**
University of West Alabama

Dr. Phillip Williams, President
University of Montevallo

Dr. Robert Jennings, President
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Robert Witt, President
The University of Alabama

Dr. Joe Lee, President
Alabama State University

The Alabama Council of Graduate Deans

Since 1971, the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans has reviewed proposals and made recommendations to the Commission regarding new graduate programs.

Dr. J. Mark Bateman, *Alternate*
Associate Provost
Samford University

Dr. Jeffrey Barksdale, *Alternate*
Associate Vice Chancellor/Academic &
Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Dianne L. Barron, *Member*
Associate Provost & Dean
Graduate School
Troy University

Dr. Kaye F. Brown, *Member*
Associate Vice President/Academic Affairs
& Dean/Graduate Programs
University of Mobile

Dr. William D. Carr, *Member*
Dean/College of Graduate Studies &
Continuing Education
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Bradley Creed, *Member*
Provost
Samford University

Dr. Fred J. Cromartie, *Alternate*
Chair/Sports Coaching
United States Sports Academy

Dr. Tom DeVaney, *Member*
Dean/Graduate Studies
University of West Alabama

Dr. Beverly Edmond, *Alternate*
Provost & Vice President/Academic Affairs
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Jeffrey Engler, *Alternate*
Associate Dean/Academic Affairs
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Audrey C. Eubanks, *Alternate*
Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of Mobile

Dr. George Flowers, *Alternate*
Interim Dean/Graduate School
Auburn University

Dr. David A. Francko, *Vice Chair/Chair-Elect*
Assistant Vice President/Academic Affairs &
Dean/Graduate School
The University of Alabama

Dr. B. Keith Harrison, *Member*
Associate Vice President/Academic Affairs &
Dean/Graduate School
University of South Alabama

Ms. Rebecca S. Hartley, *Alternate*
Coordinator/Graduate Studies
University of Montevallo

Dr. Donna P. Jacobs, *Alternate*
Dean/College of Education &
Coordinator/Graduate Studies
University of North Alabama

Dr. George Klersey, *Alternate*
EBSCO Professor/Accounting
Birmingham-Southern College

Dr. Debra M. Moriarity, *Member*
Dean/School of Graduate Studies
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Charles R. Nash, *Member*
Vice Chancellor/Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Brian Noe, *Chair*
Dean/Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Michael E. Orok, *Member*
Associate Provost/Academic Affairs &
Graduate Studies
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Joe Pittman, *Member*
Interim Dean/Graduate School
Auburn University

Dr. Jean M. Pugliese, *Alternate*
Associate Dean/College of Graduate Studies
& Continuing Education
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Lewis J. Radonovich, *Alternate*
Provost & Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Susan Rich, *Alternate*
Associate Dean/Life Science Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Jack Riley, *Member*
Dean/Graduate Studies
University of Montevallo

Dr. T. J. Rosandich, *Member*
Vice President & Chief Academic Officer
United States Sports Academy

Dr. Walter J. Sapp, *Alternate*
Associate Provost, Director of RCMI
Carver Research Foundation
Tuskegee University

Dr. John F. Schmitt, *Alternate*
Associate Dean, Graduate School Assistant
to the Provost & Vice President/Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama

Dr. N. Alan Sheppard, *Member*
Dean/School of Graduate Studies
Alabama State University

Dr. Alfred Smith, *Alternate*
Assistant Vice President/Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Dr. Tara Sudderth, *Member*
Dean/Business & Graduate Programs
Birmingham-Southern College

Dr. David Taylor, *Alternate*
Provost
University of West Alabama

Dr. Julio Turrens, *Alternate*
Director/Graduate Studies
University of South Alabama

Dr. G. Garry Warren, *Member*
Vice President/Academic Affairs &
Provost
University of North Alabama

Dr. Janet S. Warren, *Member*
Vice Chancellor/Academic &
Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Luther S. Williams, *Member*
Provost & Dean/Graduate Studies
Tuskegee University

The Council of Chief Academic Officers

The Alabama Council of Chief Academic Officers was established on June 9, 1971 to review and make recommendations to the Commission on proposals for new undergraduate programs. Current members are:

Dr. Denver Betts,
Vice President/Academic Affairs
Athens State University

Dr. Ed Roach
Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost
Troy University

Dr. Judy Bonner
Executive Vice President & Provost
The University of Alabama

Dr. Terry Roberson
Interim Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of Montevallo

Dr. Eli Capilouto
Provost
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. David Taylor, Chair
Provost
University of West Alabama

Dr. Pat Covey
Senior Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of South Alabama

Dr. Rebecca Turner
Vice President/Academic & Student Affairs
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Beverly Edmond
Vice President/Academic Affairs & Provost
Alabama A&M University

Dr. G. Garry Warren
Vice President/Academic Affairs & Provost
University of North Alabama

Dr. John Heilman
Provost & Vice President/Academic Affairs
Auburn University

Dr. Janet S. Warren
Vice Chancellor/Academic & Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Charles Nash
Vice Chancellor/Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Evelyn White
Vice President/Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Dr. Lewis Radonovich
Provost & Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of Alabama in Huntsville

The Financial Advisory Council

On June 9, 1971, a Council of Business Managers was established. Subsequently the Financial Advisory Council replaced this organization as the advisory council to the Commission on financial affairs. Current members are:

Ms. Bonita Allen

*Dean of Business & Finance
G.C. Wallace State Community College (Selma)*

Dr. Michele Jarrell

*Coordinator/Institutional Research
Shelton State Community College*

Ms. Wanda C. Blake

*Interim Vice Chancellor/Financial Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery*

Ms. Cynthia Jarrett

*Vice President/Business Affairs & Treasurer
University of Montevallo*

Mr. James Bookout

*Vice Chancellor/Financial Affairs
Troy University*

Mr. Sam Lowther

*Senior Institutional Research Analyst
Auburn University*

Dr. Glenna Brown

*Associate Provost/Planning & Analysis
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Mr. Gene Murphree

*Vice Chancellor/Fiscal Services
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education*

Dr. G. Clint Carlson

*Vice President/Business Affairs
Jacksonville State University*

Mr. Raiford Noland

*Vice President/Business Affairs
University of West Alabama*

Mr. Doug Clark

*Vice President/Financial Affairs
Athens State University*

Mr. Ray Pinner

*Vice President/Finance & Administration
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Mr. Robert K. Davis

*Associate Vice President/Financial Affairs
University of South Alabama*

Mr. Charles L. Rucker

*Vice President/Business & Finance
Alabama A&M University*

Mr. Jim Fitzgerald

*Dean/Administration Services
Faulkner State Community College*

Dr. W. Steven Smith

*Vice President/Business & Finance
University of North Alabama*

Dr. Lynda Gilbert

*Vice President/Financial Affairs & Treasurer
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Cornelius Wooten

*Interim Vice President/Administrative Services
Alabama State University*

Dr. C. Ray Hayes

*Vice Chancellor/Financial Information
The University of Alabama System*

The Higher Education Information Advisory Group (HEIAG)

In 1996, the Legislature amended Ala. Code §15-5-7 (1975) to provide for the State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database) and the State University and College Electronic Faculty Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Faculty Database). This legislation called for an advisory group to assure that the expertise and concerns of institutions relative to these information systems would be provided to the Commission. Subsequently, HEIAG was recognized by the Commission as the institutional committee to provide input to the Commission on the formation of databases. The business of this advisory group is conducted through its steering committee. Current steering members are:

Ms. Mary Beth Adams

*Associate Director/Institutional Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Sue Baum

*Director/Computer Services
Enterprise-Ozark Community College*

Dr. Harriott Calhoun

*Director/Institutional Research &
Information Services
Jefferson State Community College*

Mr. Steve Fancher

*Director/Institutional Data & Reporting
University of Montevallo*

Dr. Priscilla Holland

*Assistant Vice President/Academic Research
University of North Alabama*

Mr. Sam Lowther

*Senior Institutional/Research Analyst
Auburn University*

Ms. Linda Lunsford

*Director/Institutional Effectiveness &
Development
Faulkner State Community College*

Mr. Lee Miller

*Information Systems Auditor
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education*

Ms. Patricia Pratt

*Director/Institutional Effectiveness &
Assistant to the Provost
University of West Alabama*

Ms. Marilyn Radford

*Assistant Director/Information Technologies
Calhoun Community College*

Ms. Diannah Rowser

*Dean/Students & Director of
Institutional Research
Reid State Technical College*

Ms. Diane Sherman

*Director/Institutional Research
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Mr. Dan Tennimon

*Director/Institutional Research
Troy University, Montgomery Campus*

The Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability

In 2007, the Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability (the Advisory Council) served two important functions that relate to the implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. The Council members provided feedback to the Commission on the implementation of the Accountability Agenda and served as points of contact at the institutional level. Current members are:

Dr. Judy Bonner

*Executive Vice President & Provost
The University of Alabama*

Mr. Kenneth J. Proctor

*Dean/College of Fine Arts
University of Montevallo*

Dr. Glenna Brown

*Associate Provost/Planning & Analysis
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. C. Fay Raines

*Associate Provost/Institutional Effectiveness
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Dr. Drew Clark

*Director/Institutional Research & Assessment
Auburn University*

Dr. Ed Roach

*Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost
Troy University*

Mr. Don Edwards

*Vice Chancellor/Operations & Planning
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education*

Dr. David Taylor

*Provost
University of West Alabama*

Dr. Daniel Howard

*Vice President/University Advancement &
Administration
University of North Alabama*

Dr. Rebecca O. Turner

*Vice President/Academic & Student Affairs
Jacksonville State University*

Mr. Frank Hurley

*Director/Institutional Research & Planning
University of South Alabama*

Dr. Janet S. Warren

*Vice Chancellor/Academic & Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery*

Dr. Teresa M. Orok

*Vice President/Institutional Research Planning
& Sponsored Programs
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Evelyn White

*Vice President/Academic Affairs
Alabama State University*

Dr. Susan Price

*Vice Chancellor/Instructional & Student Services
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education*

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

Alabama's academic librarians have worked together since the 1980s to strengthen library and other information resources needed for education and research. Their innovative cooperative organization, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), focused initially on sharing existing resources to assure that students, faculty members, and other researchers could obtain the information needed for instruction and research. NAAL's early accomplishments included:

- Creating a statewide database with holdings records for books held by all NAAL members – searchable in OCLC WorldCat from any networked workstation to identify library materials owned by NAAL members
- Sharing books and journals held by NAAL members via interlibrary loan without charge to students
- Awarding over \$2.5 million in grants to correct deficiencies in existing collections
- Funding the acquisition of expensive unique research-level resources that were beyond the economic capability of a single institution to acquire

These early programs demonstrated that collective action could significantly improve the quality of library services available to Alabama's academic community. The most remarkable accomplishment of these first years was a growing capacity to plan jointly for a common future. By carefully monitoring the external environment and anticipating changes in technology, NAAL librarians have forged an outstanding statewide program to advance higher education and have successfully expanded NAAL initiatives to benefit all Alabamians.

Alabama's academic librarians continue to demonstrate that cooperation improves and expands the quality and quantity of information available for all of Alabama's students, faculty, and other researchers. NAAL FY 2007-2008 priorities are:

- To expand access to global information;
- To assure access to information resources about Alabama;
- To share academic library resources regardless of where they are held;
- To develop partnerships to expand access to information; and
- To improve library accountability and performance.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Sustain an online union catalog of NAAL members' library holdings by contributing bibliographic records to OCLC WorldCat, an international union catalog.	OCLC WorldCat at http://worldcat.org enables any Alabamian to locate needed information resources by searching online. Entering a zip code number retrieves a list of local libraries holding the needed item.
Support the Alabama Virtual Library to assure equity, economy, and excellence in the provision of information services for ALL Alabamians.	Last year, Alabamians completed over 29 million searches, a 35% increase over the previous year, in the 60 AVL databases available at http://www.avl.lib.al.us . The State of Alabama funds the AVL to deliver current scholarly information via full text articles from more than 11,000 journals and newspapers; content from encyclopedias, handbooks, almanacs, and dictionaries; as well as content from electronic reference books covering such subjects as literary criticism, plays, essays, poetry, automotive repair manuals, health information, and many other topics.
Achieve financial savings through shared acquisitions of online research databases.	NAAL successfully negotiated discounted costs and favorable licensing terms for 86 research-level databases. Member institutions achieve substantial savings by subscribing to databases via NAAL.
Enrich knowledge about Alabama by contributing digital materials to <i>Alabama Mosaic</i> , the web portal for Alabama history. <i>Alabama Mosaic</i> is being developed to support instruction about Alabama history for K-12 students and support academic research about Alabama.	NAAL members continue to digitize unique historical materials held in their special collections and make these publicly available via http://www.alabamamosiac.org . In FY 2007, the addition of new software offers increased functionality and supports more digital formats for the online collection.
Develop an archival program to preserve locally created digital materials. After Hurricane Katrina, long-term preservation of digital assets emerged as a critical concern for the educational and cultural heritage communities.	A federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services enabled NAAL to create a statewide, low-cost, distributed preservation solution for public access digital collections developed by academic institutions, state agencies, and community cultural heritage organizations.
Share information resources among academic libraries without charge to students and quickly deliver requested library materials to the requesting library users.	NAAL libraries lent over 20,000 books and articles for library users in other NAAL institutions last year. Articles were delivered electronically within 24 hours; book deliveries averaged 4 days from date of request with MOST items arriving within 2 days of the request.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Assist in the development of a distributed archival program to assure long-term access to Alabama state publications posted online by state agencies.	During 2007, NAAL identified critical issues that will shape recommendations for the creation of a statewide program to catalog state publications to make them accessible to the public and preserve them for historical documentation and research.
Demonstrate that academic libraries deliver excellent value for the funds invested in their services and resources.	Twelve NAAL members participated in LibQual+2007, a nationwide online survey of library users. Data from these surveys document users' expectations for their academic libraries and their perceptions about the quality of the services and resources they receive.



Member Institutions of NAAL

General Members

Alabama A&M University	The University of Alabama
Alabama Commission on Higher Education	Troy University
Alabama State University	Tuskegee University
Athens State University	United States Sports Academy
Auburn University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Auburn University at Montgomery	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Birmingham-Southern College	University of Mobile
Faulkner University	University of Montevallo
Jacksonville State University	University of North Alabama
Samford University	University of South Alabama
Spring Hill College	University of West Alabama

Cooperative Members

Air University	Birmingham Public Library
Alabama Department of Archives & History	Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Alabama Public Library Service	Redstone Scientific Information Center
Alabama Supreme Court Library	

Affiliated Institutions

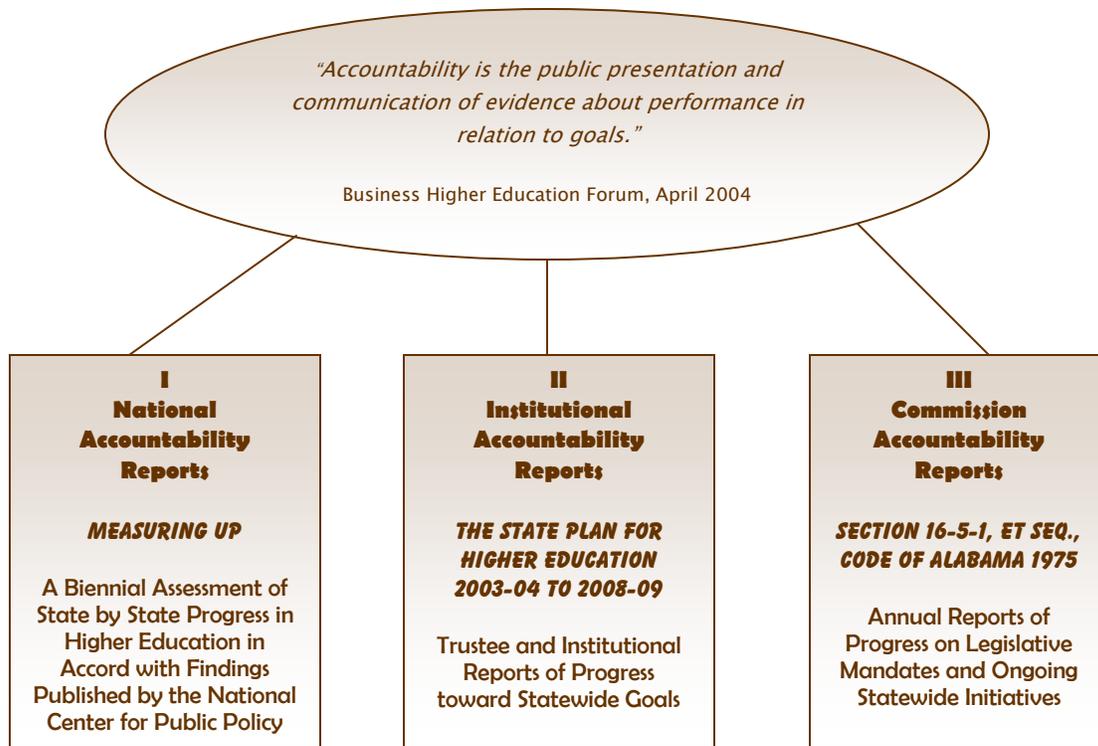
Concordia College	Oakwood College
Huntington College	Regions University
Judson College	Stillman College
Miles College	Talladega College

Long-Range Planning

Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)⁶

The comprehensive Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan) is at its mid-point as of 2007. This agenda is based on an underlying presumption: “Accountability is the public presentation and communication of evidence about performance in relation to goals.” (Business Higher Education Forum, April 2004). The State Plan outlines statewide goals for higher education; the Commission’s performance reporting model provides the forum for a broad ranging assessment of Alabama’s progress in meeting those aims. The following graphic explains the major components of this agenda:

**THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION'S
ACCOUNTABILITY AGENDA**
for the implementation of the
State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09



⁶The Commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them. Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)

National Accountability Reports

Measuring Up, a state-by-state report of progress toward national priority indicators (goals) for higher education, was completed in 2006. Prior reports included: *Measuring Up 2000*, *Measuring Up 2002*, and *Measuring Up 2004*. The 2006 report was the fourth in this series of biennial assessment reports designed to profile how well American higher education is meeting external demands. The state-by-state report was intended to provide the public and policymakers with information to assess and improve postsecondary education as well as support targeted strategies for change. The *Measuring Up* series was produced by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The final *Measuring Up 2006* report is available at <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/>.

Institutional Accountability Reports

Annual Boards of Trustees Report

On December 7, 2007, the Chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents presented to the Commission the fourth in a series of reports from the eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that govern Alabama's public institutions. This report, *Boards of Trustees Report, Volume Four Progress Toward Statewide Goals for Alabama Higher Education*, documents the activities of the public higher education sector from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. Individual board of trustee reports depict the range of opportunities Alabama higher education has to offer, the return on investment it provides to the citizens of this state, and signals a commitment to accountability and performance. Taken together the eleven (11) reports demonstrate the cooperative willingness of Alabama's highly diverse, higher education community to support public policy initiatives such as the Commission's Accountability Agenda.

Boards of Trustees Report, Volume Four Progress Toward Statewide Goals for Alabama Higher Education will be disseminated in January 2008 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, selected leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate, the state Finance Director, to all contributing Boards of Trustees, and to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

Institutional Accountability Reports: Institutional Presentations in 2007

Selected presidents of Alabama's regionally accredited institutions gave oral presentations on issues that involved institutional progress toward the broad goals set within the State Plan (*Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*). These presentations were informal and non-prescriptive in terms of design and afforded Commissioners the opportunity to engage in public dialogue with the chief executive officers of four (4) institutions. Written materials accompanying the presentations were posted to the Commission's website. Presenters in 2007 follow:

September 21, 2007	Dr. Richard Holland , <i>President, University of West Alabama</i> Dr. William Cale, Jr. , <i>President, University of North Alabama</i>
December 7, 2007	Dr. Robert E. Witt , <i>President, The University of Alabama</i> Dr. Phillip Williams , <i>President, University of Montevallo</i>

Commission Accountability Reports

There are two (2) components to the Commission's accountability reporting: The Annual Accountability Report to the Governor and Legislature (this report) and the Report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review of the Commission.

Commission Accountability Reports: Accountability Report 2007

This report, the fourth in a series of reports for the five-year planning cycle outlined in the State Plan, provides evidence of the Commission's compliance with legislative mandates and statewide initiatives. Under its Accountability Agenda for implementation of the State Plan, the format for this annual report to the Governor and Legislature was modified so as to address the annual activities of the Commission juxtaposed to statutory mandates.

The present report, *Accountability Report 2007* will be disseminated in January 2008 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, selected leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate, the state Finance Director, the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents, the State Superintendent of Education, and to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

*Commission Accountability Reports:
The Eighth Quadrennial Review*

A full report of the Eighth Quadrennial Evaluation Committee was presented to the Commission by committee chair, Dr. Aims McGuinness on March 7, 2007. The report was disseminated to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education. The report remains available to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us. A summary of findings of the Eighth Quadrennial Evaluation Committee may be found on page 91 of this report.

Databases

Ala. Code §16-5-7 (1975)

State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System⁷ (Alabama Statewide Student Database)

In 1996, the Alabama Legislature amended the Commission's statute to require the Commission to obtain specific information from each two-year and four-year public institution of higher education so as to establish a student unit record data system (Act 1996, No. 96-509, p. 647). The Alabama Statewide Student Database contains a combined total of approximately 4.7 million student records submitted during the past nine (9) years. From this data, the Commission produces multiple reports.

⁷The commission, after affording a full opportunity to two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education and the public to be heard, shall design and establish a state university and college electronic student unit record system to provide comprehensive, meaningful, and timely information pertinent to the formulation of decisions and recommendations by the commission. The information submitted by the public institutions of higher education shall be in comparable terms that meet the specific format for the student unit records as established by the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in complete and full consultation with the Chancellor of the Postsecondary Department of Education, and the Chairman of the Council of College and University Presidents. The reports developed through the system shall conform to the procedures established by the commission. The data elements of a student record shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Biographical and demographic data elements; previous educational experience data elements; current educational activity data elements; residency status and whether the student pays tuition as a resident or a nonresident student. Ala. Code §16-5-7(b) (1975)

The database shall be configured to possess the capabilities to include: (1) Reports to individual high school officials and the State Board of Education using information captured by the student unit record database concerning the progress made by their respective graduates within the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. Using data captured through the system, the commission shall generate reports to assist legislators, the Governor and educators in informed decision making on education issues. (2) Reports on student retention and graduation rates. (3) Reports on student transfers across sectors, institutions, and within institutions. (4) Reports on the status of out-of-state students. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (e) (1975)

The format used to collect student data shall be developed by the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in complete and full consultation with the Chancellor of the Postsecondary Department of Education, and the Chairman of the Council of College and University Presidents. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (h) (1975)

Notable Achievements in 2007

Three new retention reports were produced for the first time this year as spin-offs of the original retention report. Each of these reports tracks a cohort group of first-time degree-seeking students to determine how many are currently enrolled in public institutions and how many have been awarded some type of completion from an Alabama public institution.

All two-year and four-year public institutions submitted production data on their students for the Summer 2006, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007 terms to the Commission.

High School Report

Identifies the number of high school graduates who enrolled in Alabama public institutions of higher education in Fall 2006. The report also provides the number of students who took remedial math and/or remedial English courses.

Transfer/Migration Report

Identifies the number of students who have transferred to and from Alabama public institutions.

Retention Report

Tracks first-time degree-seeking freshmen students for enrollment and completions.

Tuition Residency Report

Provides summary information on the types of tuition paid by students.

***State University and College Electronic Faculty
Unit Record System⁸
(Alabama Statewide Faculty Database)***

In 1996, the Alabama Legislature amended the Commission's statute to require the Commission to obtain specific information from each two-year and four-year public institution of higher education so as to establish an institutional faculty database (Act 1996, No. 96-771, p. 1421).

No activity reported for 2007.

⁸The commission, after affording a full opportunity to the two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education and the public to be heard, shall design and establish a state university and college information system, to include an electronic faculty unit record system, in order to provide comprehensive, meaningful, and timely information pertinent to the formulation of decisions and recommendations by the commission and the Legislature. The information, including the data components required by the electronic faculty unit record system, submitted by the public institutions of higher education shall be in comparable terms and shall meet the specific requirements as established by the commission and the reports developed through the system shall conform to the procedures established by the commission. Ala. Code §15-5-7 (i) (1) (1975)

In order to promote accountability, the commission shall establish a uniform electronic faculty unit record system for the purpose of obtaining information on faculty work loads at two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education in the state. Each two-year and four-year public institution in the state shall report annually to the commission its individual faculty work loads. The commission shall then forward a summary of this information to Governor and the Legislature and the Chair of the Council of College and University Presidents and the State Board of Education. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or permit the commission to set standards or establish policies for public institutions of higher education concerning faculty and staff hiring, promotion, or retention. This authority shall rest solely with the governing board of the institution. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (i) (2) (1975)

Data Collection Requirements of the Federal Government⁹

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) reports are submitted throughout the year to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the United States Department of Education (USDE) as required by law. The Commission has been designated as the state coordinator of IPEDS data for Alabama's public and private institutions. Under provisions of this federal mandate, the Commission reviews certain information from each institution of higher education. The scope of each report is determined by the federal government and varies from year to year. Principal report topics include the following: Institutional characteristics, human resources, student enrollment, student completions, student financial aid, graduation rates, and institutional financial reports.

⁹The commission shall be the state coordinating agency for all data collection requirements of the federal government which require state level coordination and relate to postsecondary education. The commission shall make every effort to minimize the reporting burden on the institutions by using the existing reports of the federal government. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (c) (1975)

The information provided by each institution to the commission ... shall be subject to audit by the commission or by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (f) (1975)

The commission shall immediately report to the Legislature the failure of any public institution of higher education to comply ... by means of written notice delivered to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation-Education and the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (g) (1975)

Programmatic Review and the Articulation and General Studies Committee

Ala. Code §16-5-8 (1975)

Activities associated with new and existing program review, program viability, off-campus offerings, and the Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System support all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*.

New and Existing Program Review¹⁰

The ACHE Academic Inventory provides a comprehensive listing of all programs approved by the Commission for Alabama's two-year and four-year public colleges and universities. Programs are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy, a system developed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

¹⁰The Commission on Higher Education is authorized to review periodically all new and existing programs and units of instruction, research, and public service funded by state appropriations at the state universities and colleges and to share with the appropriate governing board, through the president of the institution, and state Legislature, its recommendations. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (1) (1975)

The governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of any new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the commission for its review, evaluation, and approval. No state funds shall be expended by any public institution on any new unit or program of instruction which has not been approved by the commission. Any plan submitted to the commission, or its staff, and not receiving final action by the commission within 10 months of submission shall be considered approved. The term "new unit of instruction," includes the establishment of a college, school, division, or institute, and includes the establishment of any new branch or campus. The term does not include reasonable extensions or alterations of existing curricula, or programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs. The commission may, under its rulemaking power, define the character of the reasonable extensions and alterations. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (c) (1975)

Nothing in this or any section, however, shall be construed to prohibit any institution of higher education in this state from seeking and securing by separate bill the approval of the Legislature for any new unit or program of instruction, research, or public service denied approval by the commission, in which case the action of the Legislature, when approved by the Governor or otherwise upon becoming law, is final. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (f) (1975)

New and Existing Program Review: New Academic Programs

The following new instructional programs were approved by the Commission during the period covered by this report:

Alabama A&M University

*Bachelor of Science in Construction Management
Master of Engineering in Material Engineering*

Alabama State University

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Auburn University

Master of Design-Build in Design-Build

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Homeland Security

Drake State Technical College

Associate in Applied Technology and Certificate in Culinary Arts

Faulkner State Community College

Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Emergency Medical Services (Paramedic)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Masters in Engineering in Engineering with Tracks in Construction Engineering Management and Information Engineering and Management

University of South Alabama

*Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Services
Master of Science in Civil Engineering (MSCE) in Civil Engineering*

New and Existing Program Review: Extensions and Alterations of Existing Programs and Units of Instruction

The following were approved by the Commission on Higher Education during the reporting period as reasonable extensions or alterations of existing academic programs:

Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Transfer of the Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Automotive Technology from Enterprise -Ozark Community College to G.C. Wallace State Community College (Dothan)

Auburn University

Merger of the Bachelor of Science in Operations Management into the Bachelor of Science in Transportation and Physical Distribution and Name Change to the Bachelor of Science in Supply Chain Management

Calhoun Community College

Addition of Options in Entrepreneurship and Real Estate to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Business

Addition of Options in Industrial Maintenance and Electronic Instrumentation to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Electrical Technology

Addition of an Option in Programming to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Computer Information Systems

Addition of Options in Calibration, Technical Management, and Military Technology to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Military Technology

Jacksonville State University

Addition of Concentrations to the Existing Master of Science in Computer Systems and Software Design

Addition of a Concentration in Athletic Administration to the Existing Master of Public Administration

Addition of a Concentration in Coaching to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education

Jefferson State Community College

Addition of Options in Microcomputer Applications, Computer Programming, Networking, and Web Technologies to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Computer Science

Addition of Options in Landscape Horticulture, Plant Production, and Turfgrass to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Agriculture

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

Addition of an Option in Network Administration to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Computer Science

Troy University

Addition of a Concentration in International Economic Development to the Existing Master of Business Administration

Addition of a Concentration in Hospitality and Tourism Management to the Existing Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Addition of a Concentration in International Economic Affairs to the Existing Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Business and Management

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Addition of a Track in Middle School Mathematics to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Addition of a Track in Medical Equipment and Supplies Distribution to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Industrial Distribution

Addition of a Concentration in Philosophy and Political Economy within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Economics and the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Addition of an Option in Forensic Chemistry to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

University of North Alabama

Addition of an Option in Culinary Arts to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences

University of West Alabama

Addition of a Track in Criminal Justice to the Existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Sociology

New and Existing Program Review: Post-Implementation Review of Academic Programs

As a part of Commission approval of new academic programs, proposing institutions agree to post-implementation conditions for their new programs. The conditions generally set standards for enrollment, graduates, and the employment of graduates of the program over the first five years of operation. The standard for each of these categories is based on projections in the program proposal for the five-year period. The conditions also may require accreditation of the program or a report on the results of licensure examinations, if appropriate. A final part of the post-implementation report is a general assessment of the program that notes successes or challenges.

Programs that do not meet post-implementation conditions are subject to deletion from the Academic Program Inventory. If there are unusual mitigating circumstances, an institution may request alterations to the post-implementation conditions or an extension of the post-implementation review period.

The following programs were recognized in this reporting period as having met post-implementation conditions:

Auburn University, *Master of Technical and Professional Communication*

Enterprise-Ozark Community College, *Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Power Plant Technology*

Jacksonville State University, *Master of Science in Education in Reading Specialist*

Jefferson Davis Community College, *Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Drafting and Design Technology*

Troy University, *Master of Public Administration in Public Administration*

University of Alabama at Birmingham, *Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BSBME) in Biomedical Engineering*

University of Alabama in Huntsville, *Master of Science in Management Information Systems*

University of South Alabama, *Master of Science in Instructional Design and Development*

G.C. Wallace State Community College (Hanceville), *Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Machine Tool Technology*

Gadsden State Community College, *Certificate in Masonry*

Jacksonville State University, *Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management*

The following programs were deleted from the Academic Program Inventory during this reporting period, as the result of or prior to post-implementation review:

Bevill State Community College, *Certificate in Surgical Operating Room Technology*

Calhoun Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Advanced Electronics Manufacturing*

Northwest-Shoals Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Environmental Technology*

G.C. Wallace State Community College (Hanceville), *Associate in Applied Science in Fire Science*

The Commission approved an alteration of post-implementation conditions for the following academic program during this reporting period:

Troy University, *Master of Science in Sport and Fitness Management*

*Program Viability*¹¹

Legislation enacted in 1996 required the Commission to report on minimum degree productivity standards for all existing programs of instruction at public two-year and four-year institutions. In June 2007, the Commission reviewed twelve programs that were granted waivers of non-viability in February 2003.

¹¹As a part of its program review process, the commission shall enforce, monitor, and report on minimum degree productivity standards for all existing programs of instruction at public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education. Productivity standards shall be based, primarily, but not exclusively, on the annual average number of degrees conferred during a five-year period for senior institutions and a three-year period for two-year institutions, as verified by the commission. Minimum productivity standards will vary by degree level. The annual average number of degrees conferred constitutes a productivity standard by which programs shall be deemed viable or non-viable. The data source for degrees awarded per category per institution will be the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) annual completions survey. The viability standard annual graduation rates shall be: A diploma, certificate consisting of 45-90 quarter hours; associate or baccalaureate degree program, 7.5 graduates per year; a masters degree program, 3.75 graduates per year; an education specialist degree program, 3 graduates per year; and a doctoral degree program, 2.25 graduates per year. In vocational and technical programs, a student who leaves the program for purposes of gainful employment, in the same field of study as the program, having obtained the skills in said program, shall count as a graduate. For two-year technical and vocational college programs, a student who completes 40 quarter hours or equivalent programs shall be deemed and counted as a graduate for purposes of viability standards. It is the responsibility of the institution to document and verify to the reasonable satisfaction of the commission that the student should be counted as a graduate as provided in this section. This documentation shall include the name of the specific employer and the point in said program that student obtained said employment. The commission shall identify non-viable programs and notify the institution in writing of that determination. The institution has three years from the date of that notification to meet the minimum productivity standard. Failure to meet the minimum productivity standard within the three years will result in the phase-out of the identified programs within three years. New programs approved by the commission within two years prior to May 20, 1996, shall not be subject to this subsection for a period of five academic years. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (2) (1975)

An institution may request a waiver of the non-viability of a program that does not meet the minimum productivity standard due to the unique and extraordinary characteristics of that program. The request for a waiver must be made in writing to the commission and the justification for the waiver must be documented by the institution. Factors that the commission may consider in a decision to grant the waiver shall include, but not be limited to: The employment and placement of program enrollees in that program-related area of employment; the transfer of program enrollees to other institutions for purposes of educational advancement; the success of program graduates; the lack of duplication of that program in the state; market demands; other unique aspects of the program; and the objectives and requirements of Knight v. Alabama. The commission shall grant or deny the request for the waiver and notify the institution and its respective governing board in writing of that determination. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (3) (1975)

The commission shall annually report to the committee, the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Council of College and University Presidents the status of programs determined to be non-viable. This report shall include information for each institution and its respective non-viable program offerings. The annual report shall also list any programs not meeting the minimum standard as set forth in this section which were granted waivers by the commission along with the commission's rationale for granting the waiver for said programs. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (4) (1975)

The commission shall seek through the use of advisory committees to study needless duplication of education, research, or service programs and programs which are not adequately provided in the state, and shall make findings and recommendations to the institutions, the Governor, and the Legislature that would strengthen the total program of higher education in the state. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (b) (1975)

**Program Viability:
Programs Meeting Viability Standards**

The following programs were removed from the list of non-viable programs:

Alabama A&M University, *the Bachelor of Science in Physical Science*

Lawson State Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Office Administration*

The University of Alabama, *the Master of Science and the Master of Science in Commerce in Operations Management*

**Program Viability:
Deletion of Non-viable Programs from Academic Program Inventory**

The following non-viable programs were deleted from the Academic Program Inventory:

Athens State University, *the Bachelor of Science in Instrumentation Technology*

Central Alabama Community College, *Certificate in Heating and Air Conditioning*

Lawson State Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Electronic Engineering*

Snead State Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Business*

Trenholm State Technical College, *Associate in Applied Technology in Dental Lab Technology*

**Program Viability:
Programs Granted an Extension to the Waiver of Non-viability**

The following programs were granted an extension to the waiver of non-viability and will be monitored until June 2009. At the end of the extended review period, the programs will be phased out, unless they are viable or a waiver request is granted by the Commission.

Alabama A&M University, *Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science, Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, Bachelor of Science in Music Education*

Lawson State Community College, *Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice*

Off-Campus Offerings¹²

The Commission on Higher Education approved a revised policy on off-campus instruction on March 2, 2007, compiling in one document Commission requirements related to instruction, financial affairs, and institutional research. In addition, the revision provided a definition of off-campus instruction and designated off-campus service areas for four-year institutions. A primary feature of the revised policy was the addition of guidelines for the approval and regulation of off-campus programs. References to distance education instruction were removed from the off-campus policy and a separate distance education policy was developed.

Institutions submit reports for each off-campus site annually. All sites, exempt and non-exempt, must be in full compliance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges (SACS/COC) guidelines and criteria pertaining to curricula, faculty, administration, equipment, learning resources, and student services. Council on Occupational Education (COE) guidelines apply to institutions (technical colleges) accredited by that agency.

The Commission's guidelines for the regulation of off-campus instruction provide for the following exemptions:

- Sites at which the Fall 1978 registrations exceeded 500 class enrollments
- University sites that were operated prior to 1960
- Sites located on military reservations
- Business and industry sites where only their employees are enrolled in the off-campus courses
- Off-campus prison sites where courses are taught exclusively for inmates and prison employees

¹²The commission shall have the authority to authorize and regulate off-campus offerings, new or existing; except courses taught at business and industry sites intended exclusively for employees of business and industry. An exception to this off-campus authority is provided for the branch campuses of universities or branch campuses of junior colleges in existence at the time of passage of this chapter whose fall 1978 registrations exceeded 500 class enrollments and branch campuses of universities operating prior to 1960. For those branches which began operating since 1960, the commission shall present its recommendation for the continuation or termination of each branch with full findings of fact to the Legislature before a public joint meeting of the Education Committees of the House and Senate no later than the fifth legislative day of the 1981 Regular Session of the Legislature. In making the recommendation, the commission shall not use the ratio of full-time faculty to part-time faculty and/or a requirement to attend the main campus for degree completion as a part of its judgment of the quality of a program or branch campus. The education committee of each house shall report to its respective house with a concurrence or non-concurrence on each recommendation of the commission. Debate on each recommendation shall be limited to one hour of continuous uninterrupted discussion for each recommendation and at the end of the time, it shall be mandatory that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall in their respective houses call for a recorded vote. The resolution by simple majority of both houses is required to affirm a commission recommendation. No more than one branch shall be continued or terminated in one resolution. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (d) (1975)

Colleges and universities conducting off-campus offerings on military reservations are exempt from the commission's regulatory review and approval authority for those offerings on the military reservation. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (g) (1975)

- Courses offered on an individual study basis Study Abroad
- High school sites where courses are taught exclusively to high school students enrolled in early admission, accelerated or dual enrollment/ dual credit programs
- Two-year college sites located within their respective State Board approved service areas
- University sites located within their respective off-campus service areas

***Off-Campus Offerings:
New Sites Exempt from Commission Approval***

Alabama Southern Community College at Alabama Southern Life Tech Institute, Thomasville

Alabama Southern Community College at Wilcox Central High School, Camden

Bevill State Community College at First Baptist Church, Mt. Olive

Drake State Technical College at Union Chapel Education Complex, Huntsville

Reid State Technical College at Jefferson Davis Community College, Atmore

***Off-Campus Offerings:
New Sites Requiring Commission Approval***

Enterprise-Ozark Community College at Goodrich Aerostructures

G.C. Wallace State Community College (Hanceville) at Northeast Alabama Community College, Rainesville

***Off-Campus Offerings:
New Off-Campus Program***

Auburn University, The Doctor of Pharmacy in Pharmacy at the University of South Alabama

Off-Campus Offerings: Distance Education Offerings

Recognizing the increasing use of distance learning modalities, on June 22, 2007, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved a policy on distance education. In relation to instruction, the policy stated that institutions could offer any existing academic program in distance format without further review by the Commission. However, institutions were required to report the intent to offer the program through these means prior to implementation. Institutions are not required to report individual distance learning coursework that is incorporated and made part of an academic program of study.

Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (AGSC/STARS)¹³

The Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was established by Act 94-202 in March 1994. The primary goals of the legislation were: 1) To provide for a uniform articulation agreement among all institutions of higher education as well as a statewide general studies curriculum; 2) To provide for the computation of grade point averages of certain transferred students¹⁴;

¹³The Computerized Advisement System for students operated by Troy State University which includes a comprehensive undergraduate program and course information for all public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, existing on March 17, 1994, shall ensure students at each two-year institution accredited by the Southern Association's Commission on Colleges, the opportunity to enter into a contract with a four-year institution guaranteeing the transfer of credit earned for courses taken at the two-year institution pursuant to the terms of the contract provided the student is admitted to the four-year institution. Under this contract, all agreed upon credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. Information regarding this advisement and contracting program shall be included in the official catalog of each institution of higher education. All public two-year and four-year institutions in the state accredited by the Commission on Colleges shall participate in this system.

In addition, there is created an Articulation and General Studies Committee which shall consist of ten members composed as follows: Two representing the state's regional universities, three representing the state's two-year colleges (one of whom shall be Black), and one representing each of the following: Auburn University, the University of Alabama System, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Director of the Computerized Advising System operated by Troy State University shall serve as non-voting members.

Unless provided by the governing board of the respective institution, the representatives to the Articulation and General Studies Committee shall be selected in the following manner: The presidents of the state's regional universities shall select the two representatives of these institutions on the committee. The State Board of Education shall select the representatives of the state's two-year colleges on the committee. The Chancellor of the University of Alabama System and the Presidents of Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University shall each select the representative of their institutions on the committee. It is the intent of the Legislature that women be represented on the committee. This committee, utilizing whatever resources and task forces it deems appropriate, shall develop no later than September 1, 1998, a statewide freshman and sophomore level general studies curriculum to be taken at all colleges and universities. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as restricting any institution from requiring additional general studies courses beyond the statewide general studies curriculum.

This committee shall also develop and adopt no later than September 1, 1999, for the freshman and sophomore years, a statewide articulation agreement for the transfer of credit among all public institutions of higher education. Under this articulation agreement, all applicable credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. The committee shall further examine the need for a uniform course numbering system, course titles, and descriptions.

A four-fifths vote of the entire voting membership of the committee shall be required for the adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum. Upon adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum, this committee shall continue its duty and authority prescribed herein. The committee shall meet at least annually, or at other times as convened by the chair. The committee shall elect annually a chair from its membership. The chair of the committee shall rotate annually between a representative of the four-year institutions and a representative of the two-year institutions.

In case of problems in the administration or interpretation of the articulation agreement or the general studies curriculum, institutions shall present the problem to the Articulation and General Studies Committee for resolution. A majority decision of the committee shall be final and binding.

The budget recommendation of the commission shall not include an appropriation for institutions of higher education violating the stipulations of this section. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (e) (1975)

¹⁴Ala. Code §16-5-8.1

3) To specify that the Act would not impede the objectives of historically black institutions¹⁵; 4) To provide for implementation conditioned on the participation of certain institutions¹⁶; and 5) To specify certain reporting requirements¹⁷. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to AGSC/STARS.

In 2007, the AGSC continued to focus on four priority objectives:

- Continued improvement in terms of communication between STARS, the AGSC, institutions, and academic committees. Communication has improved between the STARS office and various two-year and four-year institutions due to the appointment of Institutional Points of Contacts across the state. The STARS Office continues to work with the Institutional Points of Contact to maintain academic committee membership and institutional Area V pages.
- Continued emphasis on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the AGSC Academic Committees (increased training efforts). In 2006-2007, extra effort was made to provide regional training throughout the state.
- Continued emphasis on Program Publicity/Visibility. Thousands of “GET THE GUIDE” post cards, highlighters, key chains, pens, calendars, calculators, staplers, and posters were distributed to high schools and community college students across the state to increase awareness of the STARS Program.
- Continued improvement of AGSC/STARS Website and STARS Usage Reports. “Live help” (chat feature) is now available to end-users through the STARS Website.

While much has been done to address these problem areas, these priorities will continue to command attention in 2007-08 and will encompass an ongoing re-evaluation of previously approved/ratified courses and templates.

¹⁵Ala. Code §16-5-8.2

¹⁶Ala. Code §16-5-8.3

¹⁷Ala. Code §16-5-8.4

Notable Achievements in 2006-07

Annual usage of the STARS Transfer Guide System reached an all-time high in 2006-2007. Over 72,000 students obtained transfer guides. Over 9,000 advisors, counselors, and administrators used the STARS Transfer Guide System as they worked to make the academic transition smoother for students attending public two-year institutions as they plan to transfer to public four-year institutions in Alabama. Total system usage eclipsed the 81,000 mark. The previous high for usage was 78,000 in one academic year.

All incoming freshmen within the two-year colleges are required to know how to access and obtain a STARS Transfer Guide. The use of STARS by the individual two-year colleges is now one of the main accountability objectives upon which these institutions are evaluated (College Accountability Performance Profile Assessment).

The priorities of the AGSC for 2007-08 are as follows:

- Make substantial progress on the twelfth recommendation of the Evaluation Project (March 2001) that calls for “a carefully designed study to evaluate the success of community college students who transfer to state universities.
- Continue review of previously approved/ratified courses and templates for program offerings in order to maintain the transferable General Studies Program for students in Alabama’s two-year and four-year institutions.
- Strengthen communication about the STARS Program with students, administrators, faculty, parents, legislators, and the general public.
- Improve Area V web pages at four-year institutions in an effort to facilitate the transfer of students from two-year to four-year institutions.

For current information on activities of the AGSC see: (<http://stars.troy.edu>).

Members of the Articulation and General Studies Committee

APPOINTING AUTHORITY	REPRESENTATIVE	ALTERNATE
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY	Dr. Barbara A.P. Jones, (Chair) <i>Dean of the School of Business</i>	Dr. Juarine Stewart <i>Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies</i>
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY	Dr. Alfred Smith <i>Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>	Dr. Evelyn M. White <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	Dr. Linda Glaze <i>Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies</i>	Dr. Janet Warren <i>Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Services</i>
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM	Dr. Daniel Osborn <i>Academic Programs and Policy University of Alabama at Birmingham</i>	Dr. Charles Nash <i>Vice Chancellor The University of Alabama System</i>
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA	Dr. B. Keith Harrison <i>Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>	Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno <i>College of Arts and Sciences Department of Earth Sciences</i>
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES	Dr. William Meehan <i>President Jacksonville State University</i>	Dr. Richard Holland <i>President University of West Alabama</i>
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES	Dr. Ed Roach <i>Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Troy University</i>	Dr. Roosevelt Newson <i>Vice President for University Programs University of North Alabama</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Mrs. Susan Salatto, (Vice Chair) <i>President Southern Union State Community College</i>	Dr. Joe Morris <i>Dean of Instruction Jefferson State Community College</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Dr. Susan Price <i>Vice Chancellor for Instructional and Student Services Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education</i>	Dr. Nancy Chandler <i>Vice President of Instruction, Institutional Effectiveness and Development Faulkner State Community College</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Dr. Rod Britt <i>Dean of Academic Division Southern Union State Community College</i>	Dr. Vicki Hawsey <i>President G.C. Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)</i>
EX-OFFICIO/ NON-VOTING MEMBERS (ACHE)	Dr. Gregory G. Fitch <i>Executive Director Alabama Commission on Higher Education</i>	Dr. Elizabeth C. French <i>Director Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning</i>
EX-OFFICIO/ NON-VOTING MEMBERS (STARS Program)	Mr. Keith Sessions <i>Executive Director AGSC/STARS</i>	
AGSC Secretary	Mrs. Deborah Nettles <i>Administrative Assistant Alabama Commission on Higher Education</i>	

Unified Budget Recommendation

Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975)¹⁸

The Commission receives, evaluates, and coordinates budget request for the public institutions of higher education of Alabama. A single unified budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented to the Governor and Legislature. The recommendation by the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures arrived at through the use of comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Unified Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

The total amount recommended by the Commission for FY 2007-2008 was \$1,932,506,403. A copy of the FY 2007-2008 Unified Budget Recommendation document may be found at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/UBR2007/FY%202007-08%20UBR.pdf>.

The Unified Budget Recommendation for FY 2008-2009 will be presented at the December 7, 2007 Commission meeting.

¹⁸The governing boards of the public institutions of higher education shall submit to the commission through their appropriate administrative officers, not later than 90 days prior to each legislative session, its budget proposals for the operation and capital needs of the institution under its governance or supervision.

The commission shall receive, evaluate and coordinate budget requests for the public institutions of higher education of this state, shall hold open hearings on the budget requests of the separate institutions and shall present to each institution and to the Governor and the Legislature, a single unified budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions. The consolidated budget and analysis of the commission shall be accompanied by the original requests and their justifications as submitted by each institution. The recommendations of the commission shall be derived directly from its assessment of the actual funding needs of each of the universities, as presented to it by the presidents, which assessment may include, but shall not be limited to, derived conclusions that may be based upon standard techniques of objective measurement, need and unit cost figures arrived at through the use of comparative and verified data secured from the various institutions, applied in an impartial and objective manner, and comparison shall be made not only between similar functions of institutions in Alabama but also between Alabama institutions and similar functions of institutions located in other states, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any institutions of higher education in this state from submitting any matter pertaining to the financial operation and needs of said institution to the Legislature or to the Governor at any time. Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975)

Additional Powers and Duties of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1975)

Activities associated with the additional powers and duties of the Commission provide evidence of successful support for all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*.

*Surveys and Evaluations of Higher Education*¹⁹

Survey: Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Commission first reviewed and approved a proposal by a public institution for a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Nursing in 2006. Representatives from other institutions indicated that they would be seeking to offer this program as well in the near term. With a high level of institutional interest in the DNP, Commission staff undertook a number of surveys (Survey of SHEEO Agencies, Survey of Nursing Deans, and Southern Regional Education Board: 2006 DNP Survey of Graduate Programs) to inform both the Commissioners and the public about the DNP and the possible need and appropriate placement of additional DNP programs in the state. The resulting background paper was published for a twenty (20) day period of public comment to the Commission's website and continues to be accessible for review at: <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Reports/Nursing%20Study%2015%20June%202007%20Revision.pdf>.

¹⁹The commission shall exercise the following powers and duties in addition to those otherwise specified in this article: To cause to be made such surveys and evaluations of higher education as are believed necessary for the purpose of providing appropriate information to carry out its powers and duties. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1) (1975)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is an emerging terminal degree program designed to prepare graduates for the most advanced level of nursing care. This doctoral program emphasizes clinical preparation over research. The program enjoys the support of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) as the appropriate degree for advanced practice programs including Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Mid-Wife, and Nurse Anesthetist. As the accrediting arm of AACN, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is developing standards for the Accreditation of DNP programs.

In June 2007, the Commission approved a framework for planning for additional DNP programs. This framework provided that the Commission would approve one (1) additional DNP program for Alabama, if need could be established for the program through the proposal process. In addition, the Commission adopted a three-year moratorium on the approval of additional free-standing DNP programs. This moratorium would be used to provide clarification of need and demand for the program and its graduates. If need compels, the Commission may in its discretion lift the moratorium prior to October 1, 2010. The Commission did so on December 7, 2007 with the approval of the DNP for Troy University and the joint DNP for University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Recommended Legislation²⁰

None recommended.

²⁰To recommend to the Legislature of Alabama the enactment of such legislation as it deems necessary or desirable to insure the highest quality of higher education in this state taking into consideration the orderly development and maintenance of the state system of public higher education to meet trends in population and the change in social and technical requirements of the economy. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (2) (1975)

Advice and Counsel Provided to the Governor²¹

Staff appointments to gubernatorial committees include:

- Workforce Development Information Technology Committee of the Workforce Development Policy Council established by executive order of the Governor in 2003
- Task Force for the Selection and Preparation of School Leaders through the Governor's Congress on School Leadership
- Black Belt Workforce Development Committee
- Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching
- Title 16 (Code of Alabama) Recompilation Advisory Panel
- Data Access and Exchange (DAX) Steering Committee
- ACHIEVE, Inc.: American Diploma Network

Definitions of Junior College, Community College, Technical College, Senior College, University, and University System²²

Definitions last revised in October 2001.

²¹To advise and counsel the Governor, at his request, regarding any area of, or matter pertaining to, postsecondary education. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (3) (1975)

²²To establish definitions of a junior college, a community college, a technical college or institute, a senior college, a university and university system, provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing the commission to establish or create any university system, not to alter any university system presently existing. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (4) (1975)

Published Criteria for Changing the Classification of Public Institutions or Need for New Institutions²³

Guidelines for changing the classification of public institutions (instructional role matrices) were established by the Commission for universities and two-year institutions for the period 2001-2005. There were no revisions or updates in 2007.

Studies Made for the Purpose of Classifying and Prescribing the Role and Scope for Each Public Institution²⁴

In 1990, the Commission created instructional role matrices to set parameters for new program development for universities and two-year institutions for five-year planning periods. These matrices provide the mechanism for fulfilling this legislative mandate related to designating the role and scope of institutions.

No new studies for the purpose of classifying and prescribing role and scope for public institutions were initiated in 2007.

²³To develop and publish criteria which may be used by the Legislature as a basis: a) for changing the classification of any public institution of higher education; and b) for determining the need for new public junior colleges, public senior colleges, universities or university systems. Any proposed statute which would establish an additional institution of higher education may be submitted, either prior to introduction or by the standing committee considering same to the commission for its opinion as to the need for the state therefore, and the commission shall report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (5) (1975)

²⁴To cause studies to be made for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope for each public institution of higher education in Alabama and to recommend such changes in classification or role and scope for such institutions as it deems necessary and which may be agreed to by the governing board of the said institution. In making studies and recommendations for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope of institutions, the commission shall do so without regard for race and traditional role of the institution, provided, however, that in the absence of compelling reasons to the contrary the commission shall give priority to institutions having seniority in years of operation in the service area. When making recommendations for the elimination of duplication of educationally unnecessary programs, absent justifiable reasons to the contrary, the commission shall recommend the replacement of such programs and/or services with programs and/or services that will strengthen and enhance the role of the institution affected. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (6) (1975)

Applications from Institutions for Changes in Classification or Role and Scope²⁵

A role change for Alabama A&M University was approved during the reporting period concurrent with the approval of a new academic program of study: the Master of Engineering in Material Engineering. The institution was approved to award degrees at the master's level in the academic area of engineering.

Studies Made of the Financial Needs of Public Higher Education²⁶

There were no requests by the Governor or the Legislature to initiate a study of the financial needs of higher education during 2007.

Annual Report to the Legislature²⁷

This report in its entirety constitutes compliance with the Commission's mandate to provide an annual report of its activities to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature.

²⁵To hear applications from the institutions for changes in classification or role and scope and to recommend to the Legislature for clarification such classifications in role or scope which may not be agreed to by the governing board of any institution.

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (7) (1975)

²⁶To make continuing studies, on its own initiative or upon the request of the Governor or the Legislature, of the financial needs of public higher education and issue such reports to the Governor and the Legislature as may result from its studies.

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (8) (1975)

²⁷To submit to the Governor and the Legislature on or before the first day in January of each year a written report covering the activities of the commission and the state of higher education in Alabama. The report shall include: a) statements of the nature, progress or result of any studies undertaken or completed during the past fiscal year; b) comments upon major developments, trends, new policies, budgets and financial considerations which, in the judgment of the commission will be useful in planning a sound program of higher education; and c) recommendations respecting postsecondary education in this state as may be appropriate. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (9) (1975)

New and Amended Rules and Regulations in Accord with the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act²⁸

As needed, the Commission adopts new and amended rules to the Commission's Administrative Code in compliance with provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Ala. Code §44-21-1, et seq. (1975). These rules and regulations are included in the Commission's portion of the Alabama Administrative Code. In 2007 the following activities were reported:

Chapter 300-2-1.02

In December 2006, the Commission approved an amendment to Chapter 300-2-1.02, Alabama Administrative Code clarifying the Commission's definition of non-resident institutions to those headquartered and domiciled outside the state without regard to in-state incorporation. In effect, this amendment would have eliminated the Commission's long-standing practice of granting waivers from full-scale programmatic review to institutions incorporated in Alabama. On June 2, 2007, Senate Joint Resolution 8 passed both houses of the Legislature. This resolution sustained the disapproval by the Joint Commission on Administrative Regulation Review of the Commission's proposed amendment.

Chapter 300-4-2.06

The Commission approved amendment of Chapter 300-4-2.06, Alabama Administrative Code: Alabama Student Assistance Program Regulations in December 2006. This amendment increased the maximum assistance available to students through the Alabama Student Assistance Program from \$300 to \$2,500 to \$300 to \$5,000 per academic year. This amendment will be certified to Legislative Reference Service in December 2007.

²⁸To make rules and regulations for its meetings, procedures and execution of the powers and duties delegated to it by this article. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (10) (1975)

Formal Consortia for the Advancement of Higher Education in Alabama²⁹

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Alabama EPSCoR

The Alabama EPSCoR is a family of competitive, merit-based programs supported by the State of Alabama and sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to EPSCoR. These programs represent a federal state-industrial partnership formed to enhance the science and engineering research, education and technology capabilities of Alabama. In addition to the Executive Director, the Steering Committee appoints Program Directors for each of the federal programs who are responsible for the administration of activities of their respective components in collaboration with the Executive Director.

Alabama NSF EPSCoR RII

The Alabama NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) program began its final year of a three-year cycle on May 1, 2007 and continues to display significant progress. The RII award helps Alabama EPSCoR achieve its mission...

“...to stimulate and support the growth of intercampus, interdisciplinary, multi-investigator research Centers of Excellence founded on existing and emerging strengths in Alabama universities. These strengths are leveraged to build sustainable centers capable of competing for federal funding while serving the needs of technology-led economic development and workforce development in the State of Alabama.”

²⁹ To encourage the establishment and development of formal consortia for the advancement of higher education comprised of institutions of higher education in the state. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (11) (1975)

Four (4) tightly coupled Centers of Excellence make-up the Alabama RII programs:

- Alabama Center for Nanostructured Materials (ACNM)
- Center for Environmental Cellular Signal Transduction (CECST)
- Center for Optical Sensors and Spectroscopies (COSS)
- Extended Alabama Structural Biology Consortium (EASBC).

These Centers bring together biologists, optical scientists, environmental scientists, material scientists, chemists, biochemists, and many others in an exciting jurisdictional environment of interdisciplinary research and education for revolutionary new discoveries in biotechnology, nanotechnology, and sensing. This unique RII program and effort introduces new equipment and highly capable faculty to each center, extending opportunities for research, education, and collaborations in a multi-campus collaboration while building research capacity and capability throughout the jurisdiction.

Outreach. For FY 2006-07, thirty-eight (38) men and nineteen (19) women participated in the NSF EPSCoR RII Centers of Excellence. Our graduate students are from around the world making this a truly diversified group: 19-Asians, 6-African Americans, 3-Hispanics, 2-Hawaii/Pacific Islanders, 18-Caucasians, 1-multi-racial, and 9-unknown.

In this report, two (2) successful outreach programs are highlighted under the direction of Dr. Mahesh Hosur with the Alabama Center for Nanostructure Materials (ACNM). Both summer programs are held at Tuskegee University, a historically black college and university. These programs increased the participation of underrepresented groups funded by the NSF EPSCoR RII grant and included the Research Experiment for Undergraduates (REU) and the Research for High School Students (REH) Agri-Trek programs.

Seven (7) African American students (3 males/4 females) participated in the Research Experiment for Undergraduates supported by the ACNM during the 2007 summer semester. These students conducted advanced materials research with designated faculty at Tuskegee University. The program culminated with a 2-day seminar in which the students made a formal oral presentation of their work.

The Research for High School Students Agri-Trek program had sixteen (16) participants this summer. Four (4) were from other states; however, twelve (12) were African American students from Selma, Tuscaloosa, and Union Springs. Of the twelve (12), eight (8) are male and four (4) are female. Teams were assigned a graduate student mentor. Each team worked on an energy transfer project which was to design a race car made out of a rat trap. The project involved design research, physics principles, applications for research, and team collaborative planning. A race competition was held concluding with a poster session.

“The information I learned has been very beneficial in the way I actually got a small glimpse in how engineers work together to get a project done even through disagreements, disappointments, and frustration. Engineers still get the job done. I learned a lot about tractors, public speaking, goals, designing, building, and testing a rat trap car with limited resources. The most important thing I learned is working in a team, in class, everyday life, and even on projects.” Selma, Alabama High School Student, 2007 Agri-Trek Program

2006 Reverse Site Visit. In October 2006, Alabama EPSCoR met with NSF officials in Washington, D.C. to conduct a reverse site visit (RSV). The panel indicated that each of the four (4) RII centers demonstrated movement towards sustainable competitiveness. One (1) center in particular was praised for its research competitiveness and a proposed agreement with a major biotechnology company. The Extended Alabama Structural Biological Consortium (EASBC) is collaborating with the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville to provide the entire Institute’s structural biology support. The RSV panel commented that the Consortium is competitive enough to obtain near sustainability without Alabama EPSCoR Funding. The EASBC is “graduating” from NSF EPSCoR funding at the end of the proposal period in April 2008.

Alabama’s strategy for focus of the RII investment revolves around a center model. The current RII identifies and supports four Centers, each with a core identified faculty group and stated focus. Each Center spans multiple universities in the State, effectively connecting their research and outreach endeavors. Center investment is often sustained across multiple RII awards based on the performance and milestones sought by each activity indicating a disciplined strategic approach. – NSF EPSCoR Reverse Site Visit Review Panel (October 2006)

The overall review was a great success. The RSV panel recommended that the remaining three (3) centers should go forward into the next RII funding cycle. The EASBC program demonstrated that Centers of Excellence need at least 5-6 years to mature into a competitive, self-sustainable facility. Dr. Sherry Farwell, former NSF EPSCoR director, commented at the end of the review, “Alabama EPSCoR is a model program for others EPSCoR states to emulate.”

Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP)

In 2006, largely through the efforts of Senator Steve French, the Alabama State Legislature increased the line item appropriation to EPSCoR in the budget of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to fund a Graduate Research Scholars Program. This program is designed to reinforce and enhance the mission of the Alabama EPSCoR by supporting outstanding graduate students of superior achievement. Through this effort Alabama is not only establishing a resource base to attract distinguished faculty and researchers, but also is expanding the state's capacity to address the economic need for a highly trained workforce to ensure the growth of emerging technology companies.

While the initial funding level of \$500,000 was intended to support twenty (20) exceptional graduate students at each of the RII Centers of Excellence, Center Directors leveraged the funding through other sources and increased the number of participants to twenty-five (25).

The recipients of the \$25,000 awards were selected competitively by Center Directors. Of these, fourteen (14) are women, six (6) of whom are African American, and eleven (11) men, one of whom is an American Indian from the North Alabama Cherokee Tribe. Renewals will be granted each year subject to satisfactory progress in a given year and available funding.

In addition to the initial funding of \$500,000, a conditional appropriation of \$500,000 provided for in the FY 2006-07 Education Trust Fund budget for GRSP was released to the Centers for competitive awards in July. Distribution of these awards to a new cohort of students is currently underway.

Notable Achievements in 2006 - 2007

The Center for Environmental Cellular Signal Transduction (CECST) is studying the rapid repair of tissue damage through the coastal marine comb jelly, *Mnemiopsis*. Wound healing of higher species, including humans, is a slow process; however, in recent observations the adaptive tissue repair response of *Mnemiopsis* is extremely fast. This work is notable because it is advancing current understanding of how organisms respond to injuries while providing a novel model system for the study of wound healing. This research will have strong potential in military and emergency care applications. Ph.D. candidate, Merlin Theodore, an African American woman from the Virgin Islands, will defend her thesis in November 2007. Ms. Theodore's research thesis involves the *Effects of Nanoparticles on the Processability of High Temperature Polyimide Resins*. She is associated with the RII Alabama Center for Nanostructured Materials under the direction of Dr. Mahesh Hosur at Tuskegee University. Ms. Theodore is currently working with Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio as a Materials Research Engineer conducting nanocomposite research and assisting with the HBCU Minority Leadership Program.

Thirty-three (33) percent of proposals submitted by the NSF EPSCoR RII Centers for Excellence for FY 2006-07 received awards totaling \$3.8 million. This is a significant step toward self-sustainability.

Alabama DOE EPSCoR

The Alabama DOE EPSCoR program completed a six (6) year Implementation Grant in June 2007. The research cluster developed an integrated, multi-faceted approach to improve fuel cells and direct methanol fuel cells. The success of the research has spun-off into a potential EPSCoR-State/National Laboratory Partnership award with Argonne National Laboratory. Initial research efforts have been directed towards specific identified needs in current fuel cell designs.

Alabama's 2007 DOE EPSCoR Implementation Grant process was not successful. For the 2008 Implementation Grant, the Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee recommended that the top three (3) proposals from the 2007 solicitation be allowed to enter the 2008 competition and that the DOE EPSCoR office conduct a new statewide request-for-proposals. Four (4) new proposals were submitted for the 2008 competition. Only three (3) were eligible to participate in competition. The three (3) proposals from the 2007 solicitation and the three (3) eligible proposals from the 2008 solicitation totaling six (6) proposals are currently under national peer review.

It has been suggested that only one (1) proposal will be funded for the 2008 competition at \$750,000 for three (3) years. Depending on funding availability, the program may be renewed for another three (3) years. A December 15, 2007 deadline is tentatively scheduled for the final proposal to be received by DOE EPSCoR in Washington D.C.

Alabama NASA EPSCoR

Alabama NASA EPSCoR received an award for a proposal entitled "Device Realization for Sensor and Health Monitoring of Space Transportation Systems." The EPSCoR award has been approved for a total amount of \$7,500 for a three-year period beginning September 1, 2007. The award will be managed by Dr. John Gregory, Director of the Alabama Space Grant Consortium and Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science at UAH. Technical development will be conducted by a team of University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and Alabama A&M University scientists and engineers lead by Dr. Robert Lindquist, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Center for Applied Optics at UAH. The team will develop system health sensors including pressure sensors for fuel tanks, chemical sensors to detect fuel leaks and gaseous chemicals, combined sensor systems to measure propulsion efficiency, and sensor skins to monitor the integrity of structural components.

"The University of Alabama in Huntsville has developed over the past several years a state-of-the-art capability in nano- and micro-scale device fabrication, which, coupled with faculty in Electrical and Optical Engineering, and in Materials, scientists in the Chemistry Department, have produced novel sensors and devices of various kinds. Dr. Lindquist's team will use these local capabilities to produce devices specifically needed to monitor the health and performance of NASA's new rockets and other flight hardware." - Dr. John Gregory

Alabama NASA EPSCoR received five (5) Seed Grand Awards in June 2007 totaling \$76,000. These grants are designed to fund research that will lead to initial results necessary for proposals to be submitted to federal agencies for continuing funding. Two (2) grants were awarded to UAH, one (1) to AU, one (1) to UA , and one (1) went to UAB. The grant period will run through May 2008.

Co-Funding Mechanism

To accelerate the movement of EPSCoR researchers and institutions into the mainstream of NSF support, EPSCoR launched the Co-Funding Mechanism in FY 1998. Co-funding is not a program to which proposals can be submitted. Instead, it is a funding mechanism that operates internally within NSF and does not involve any action on the part of the proposer. Co-funding provides joint support for *meritorious proposals* submitted to the Foundation's ongoing research, educational, and special emphasis competitions by researchers in EPSCoR jurisdictions. Those "fund-if-possible" proposals, which the merit review process finds to lie at or near the cutoff for funding by the programs to which they were submitted, are the focus of the Co-funding Mechanism.

For Alabama, these awards have proven to be very successful. In FY 2006-07, DOE EPSCoR researchers were awarded \$393 thousand. For NSF EPSCoR, twelve (12) principal investigators from six (6) Alabama institutions received \$1 million. In addition, Q-Track Corporation and Vista Engineering, received \$100 thousand; for a total of \$1.1million in NSF EPSCoR co-funding. Thus far, in total, the State of Alabama has received \$1.4 million of co-funded support for EPSCoR programs.

Alabama EPA EPSCoR

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EPSCoR has had a zero budget for the past three (3) years. Should funding become available, Alabama is eligible to compete.

Alabama DOD EPSCoR

Eligibility for Department of Defense awards is based on a three (3) year average of science and technology awards granted to each state. Since Alabama exceeded the limit for the current three (3) year cycle of awards, no funds were available under this program. Eligibility is re-evaluated annually.

Members of the Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee

Dr. Joe Benson

*Interim Vice President for Research
The University of Alabama*

Mr. David Echols

*Senior Project Manager
Alabama Development Office*

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch

*Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, Vice Chair

*Director, Institutional Effectiveness & Planning
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Honorable Steve French

Alabama State Senate

Dr. Lawrence R. Greenwood

*Senior Vice President for Research
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Dr. B. Keith Harrison, Chair

*Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Interim Dean of the Graduate School
University of South Alabama*

Dr. Daryush Ila, Executive Director

*Executive Director/University Research
Institute (AAMURI)
Alabama A & M University*

Dr. Shaik Jeelani

*Vice President, Research & Sponsored Programs
Tuskegee University*

Dr. Richard B. Marchase

*Vice President for Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Teresa Merriweather-Orok

*Vice President for Institutional Research
Planning & Sponsored Programs
Alabama A & M University*

Ms. Angela Wier

*Vice President Economic Development
Partnership of Alabama*

Dr. Ralph Zee

*Interim Vice President for Research
Auburn University*

(Current Vacancy)

*Alabama Department of Economics &
Community Affairs*

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA) is rapidly becoming a nationwide model for maximizing research efforts between Land-Grant and 1890-established institutions. Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University ushered in 2000 with a new era and new millennium of statewide agricultural research cooperation that is providing instant benefits for the state's agriculture industry and long-term opportunities for agriculture researchers to provide huge social and economic benefits to the citizens of the state and the world. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to AALGA.

AALGA's unique program of providing two-year research grants to teams of researchers from the three (3) cooperating universities is geared to fostering collaboration among scientists and allows participating researchers to substantially increase funding on a national and international scale. In FY 2006-2007, AALGA received a legislative appropriation of \$6,500,000.

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance: Two-year Projects (Renewed in 2006-2007)

Drought Management

In 2007, Alabama was subjected to one of the worst droughts on record. A number of AALGA projects which were funded before effects of the drought provided short-term solutions to better management of drought conditions and offered long-term optimism for future, sustainable drought management procedures.

Non-Consumptive Water Research

Alabama, Georgia, and Florida are now involved in a highly publicized "water war" over water use rights for the Chattahoochee River, which provides both consumptive and non-consumptive water for over five million people in the metropolitan Atlanta area. The project is exploring opportunities for roof catchment of rainwater (RCR) to replace the use of consumptive water with non-consumptive water for uses such as irrigation of lawns, toilet flushing, and other non-potable uses. In the second year of the project, three catchment systems have been installed on rooftops of homes in Lee and Macon counties. If these model RCR systems are successful, data obtained can be used to expand these systems to large buildings.

Researchers have determined that a 100-foot by 300-foot roof in an average rainfall year will provide over 75,000 gallons of water annually. As part of the project, researchers are literally scouring the world looking for technology that can be adapted to these rooftop catchment systems.

Alternative Feed Sources for Livestock

Corn prices have remained at a 20-year high for a record length of time, providing outstanding economic opportunities for row crop farmers in the U.S. However, high grain prices, combined with drought-related hay shortages have created major economic problems for Alabama livestock producers, including the state's emerging small ruminant industry. Finding alternative feed sources is one key to maintaining the state's livestock industry and offers a ray of optimism for livestock producers. An AALGA project has found that peanut skins can provide a nutritious and highly palatable source of feed for cattle, goats, and sheep. The next step is to determine the impact of feeding these byproducts on the quality of livestock carcasses.

Expanding the Catfish Industry

The commercial catfish industry, which got its start in Alabama's Black Belt region in the late 1960's, will benefit from an AALGA project to develop procedures and hopefully an economically attractive market for smoked catfish. This project is developing a process for smoking catfish 'rings', which have sold in test markets for up to \$8.50 per pound, compared to 75 cents per pound for unprocessed catfish. In the AALGA process, catfish are bent into circles or rings and smoked at 100-225 degrees fahrenheit for 24 hours. As part of this research process, Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University researchers are hopeful of receiving a patent for the smoking process, a first for AALGA sponsored research.

Obesity and Nutrition

Obesity is a nationwide epidemic in the United States. Each year at least 300,000 deaths are directly linked to obesity and that number is growing. A particular risk is America's youth. AALGA funded research is looking at six (6) Head Start programs in six (6) Alabama Black Belt counties to determine the nutritional challenges and opportunities for children in rural education programs in the state. The results of this two-year program are already giving parents and caregivers in these counties an idea of the impact of nutrition on childhood obesity. Long-term data from this project can be used by Head Start, day care, and early education centers to establish nutritional programs that will play a critical role in Americas' war on obesity.

Managing Thrips

Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) has become a major pest problem for large-scale commercial farmers, particularly in peanuts and tobacco; as well as for small scale vegetable producers to include backyard gardeners. Though some TSWV resistant vegetable varieties have been developed, most lack the flavor and quality of more traditional varieties. An AALGA project has led to the development of a number of environmentally friendly and economically affordable methods of managing thrips: multi-colored mulches pine straw, tinsels, and wood chips, all of which disrupt the feeding patterns of thrips and divert these insects from vegetable crops to other non-edible plant hosts.

Alternative Fuel Production

Developing alternative fuels to offset America's dependence on imported fossil fuel has gotten the attention of the American public and has been driving the cost of grain. AALGA research in alternative fuels has focused more on small-scale ethanol production from low-input, high oil content crops (turnips, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, cassava, and canola). As part of the project researchers have built a 55 gallon model ethanol production unit and will process Alabama grown crops in the batch cooker to produce ethanol. In addition by-products of the ethanol process, commonly referred to as distillers grain will be used as part of other research to evaluate its potential for use as livestock feed. This two-year project has already attracted national attention and has led to a multi-state cooperative project with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Forage Production

Alabama's beef cattle industry continues to face a two-pronged problem that threatens to further reduce cattle production in the state. Alabama is a grain-deficient state and the high cost of corn has continually pushed feed prices up, hampering efforts to feed out more cattle in the state, rather than shipping them to the Midwest for finishing. Although Alabama has an ideal climate for forage production, traditionally consumers have preferred grain fed to grass fed cattle because of taste and tenderness.

Recent health findings have generated more interest among America's health conscious public in grass fed beef. Grass fed cattle are higher in Omega 3 fatty acid and have a better Omega 3 to Omega 6 fatty acid ratio than grain fed cattle. An AALGA project has shown that cattle finished on ryegrass had 213% higher concentration of Omega 3 and a 42% lower ration of Omega 3 to Omega 6 than grain fed cattle. If all the cattle shipped out of Alabama for finishing were grown to slaughter on Alabama grown forage, this would mean nearly \$100 million in income for the state's cattle industry.

***Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance:
New Two-year Projects
(Targeted for 2008 with Renewable Options for 2009)***

Improving Immune Systems of Goat Herds

Changes in the ethnic makeup of Alabama's population, plus interest in new food sources by health conscious Americans has created niche markets for many new products. One of the fastest growing segments is for meat goats, evidenced by the continued increase in imports of this food source. A new AALGA project will identify more suitable sources of selenium, copper and zinc, which are critical to developing the immune systems of goats, allowing these animals to more efficiently cope with the stresses of heat and humidity and subsequent increases in parasite and disease-related production problems. Combined with advances in breeding lines that produce goats better suited to Alabama's climate, the development of trace minerals can reduce or even eliminate the use of antihelmintics for parasite control and improve the profitability of goat production statewide.

Biodiesel From Animal Byproducts

In 2006, Alabama harvested nearly seven billion pounds of livestock for human consumption. Carcasses of these animals produced from five percent to 20 percent fat, creating a huge supply of mostly unused byproducts. A first year AALGA project is designed to develop a library for viscosity, flash point, saturation and chain length of these fat byproducts, with the goal of ultimately converting these products to biodiesel. Biodiesel from animal byproducts can be used in diesel engines with little modification and can be blended with diesel fuel at up to a 30 percent ratio with no engine modifications.

Ethanol From Peanut Hulls

Nearly half of the annual U.S. peanut production (4-5 billion pounds) comes from within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama. It is estimated this portion of the country's peanut crop produces in excess of a billion pounds of hulls. A new AALGA project is dedicated to finding a use for this valuable byproduct of the peanut industry. AALGA researchers are hoping to develop a small scale model for producing ethanol from peanut hulls. If successful, this model could be converted to commercial production, improving the value of the state's peanut crop and possibly providing valuable byproducts for the ethanol production process.

Study of Goat Meat as an Alternative to Red Meat

In 2006, the U.S. imported nearly 25 million pounds of goat meat, creating a deficit of roughly 700,000 head of goats to meet current demand. Goat meat has proven to be leaner than pork or beef and is high in mono-saturated fatty acids, iron, B12, and thiamin making it a healthier alternative to other sources of red meat. An AALGA study in 2008 will examine acceptance of goat meat in four (4) major super markets and four (4) upscale restaurants in Alabama. A goal of the project is to develop marketing materials that will promote the visual appeal, culinary appeal, and nutritional value of goat meat.

Measuring Water Quality in the Black Belt

Worldwide, it is estimated that three million people die annually as a direct result of poor quality drinking water. In some parts of Alabama, wells are the primary and often only source of potable water. An AALGA project in 2008 will measure bacteria in six (6) wells in three (3) Black Belt counties. The data generated by the project will be an integral part of management strategies in these participating communities, all of which are rural and have high populations of livestock and wildlife which can potentially cause contamination of surface water and lead to contamination of ground water used for drinking and other home uses in rural areas of the state.

Eco-Agriculture Database

Eco-Agriculture is a growing enterprise, from fee hunting enterprises to on-farm bed and breakfast inns. An upcoming AALGA project will create a database of such enterprises in Alabama, and use information from this database to develop three (3) model recreational facilities in the Black Belt region. These facilities will subsequently be used as a model for educational and demonstration purposes, with the long-term goal of providing landowners in rural areas some guidelines for developing profitable use of their land.

Study of Pasteurellosis in Commercial Rabbit Production

The number of rabbit producers in Alabama has increased dramatically in recent years and is a part of increased worldwide consumption (over a million tons annually) of commercially grown rabbit meat. Pasteurellosis, a bacterial disease carried by many female rabbits and passed along to their progeny, is a common and debilitating disease in commercial rabbit production. A new AALGA study will examine blood samples from commercial rabbit operations around the state with a double advantage to rabbit producers. Rabbits negative with the bacteria can be used to breed specific pathogen free stock, much as SPF eggs are used to produce disease-free poultry.

In addition, rabbit blood has a relatively neutral pH (7.2-7.5) and may be a valuable source of nutrients for microbial proliferation and subsequent development of disease vaccines.

Study in Food Safety

Insuring a safe food supply is the goal of a new AALGA project that will allow researchers to determine the antimicrobial resistance of campylobacter and salmonella isolates collected from food products in Alabama. Proper cooking and handling of poultry and other food meats destroys both campylobacter and salmonella bacteria, failure to do so can cause serious and occasionally fatal disease in humans and significantly damage the health conscious image needed by meat producers. The AALGA study is a precursor of a proposed, wide-scale food safety effort by the three (3) cooperating universities. Already researchers have identified approximately 100 salmonella and campylobacter isolates from retail stores in the state. The final results of the AALGA and subsequent broader scale study will significantly reduce the incidence of salmonella and campylobacter infections in humans.

Mushroom/Organic Vegetable Production

The nationwide spike in interest in organic foods has created new opportunities for small scale mushroom and organic vegetable production in Alabama. AALGA researchers will begin in 2008 to explore the opportunities for an integrated production system in which Shiitake and Pleurotus mushrooms are grown in low input, high value systems. Crop residue from mushroom production will be included in mulches for tomatoes and other vegetables to determine the positive effects on soil fertility and disease suppression capabilities of composted mushroom mycelia on tomatoes, sweet corn and southern peas. The synergetic effect on vegetables could provide a low-input, high value crop (mushrooms) to be grown in harmony with organic vegetables, providing double value for small acreage farmers in the state.

Waste Management

Year around aquaculture production in Alabama is not feasible in outdoor ponds, but may be possible indoors. Catfish and other outdoor aquaculture production produces approximately 400 pounds of manure for every 1,000 pounds of feed fed to fish, creating some waste management issues for large scale west Alabama fish farmers. An AALGA project in 2008 will allow researchers to explore some methods of collecting fish manure and developing a methodology for converting it to methane which could be used to heat indoor fish production facilities.

In addition to providing a use for this waste byproduct and providing an economical means of year-round fish production in west Alabama, the removal of pond waste material may triple the production capacity of ponds from 8,000 pounds per acre (typical of current production) to as much as 25,000 pounds per acre.

Assessing Soil Quality

The cost of traditional nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizers has tripled in the past 5-7 years, spurring interest in no-till, solarization and organic farming techniques. A new AALGA project is designed to provide small scale farmers a means to assess soil quality on their farms and to evaluate fertilization practices and alternative cropping systems. The project accentuates the pooling of expertise at Auburn, Alabama A&M, and Tuskegee, as nationally recognized experts in soil solarization, conventional and no-till soils, and organic soils respectively who will participate in the project.

Study on Genetics of Cotton

As part of their goal to develop and enhance broad scale national research that can provide economic benefits to Alabama farmers, AALGA funded for 2008 a study to allow researchers at Auburn, Alabama A&M, and Tuskegee to more effectively compete for a \$6 million cotton breeding project that could bring international recognition to the three (3) cooperating institutions and ultimately provide cotton growers in the state with genetically stacked, improved cotton varieties. By unlocking the secrets of how cotton genes store and present external genes that provide additional drought tolerance, insect tolerance, disease tolerance, and other beneficial traits will make multi-stacking of genes in future cotton varieties both more efficient and more productive for cotton growers.

Model Organic Orchard Plans

Despite an increase in demand for organic fruit and vegetables, approximately one-fourth of the U.S. demand is met by foreign imports. Organic fruits command significantly higher prices than conventional production, but create real problems for growers. Organic production prohibits the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, increasing the range of knowledge a producer must have on pest management and nutrition. A new AALGA project will provide model organic orchard plans. These orchard plans for muscadines, figs, grapes, and blueberries, for example, will start with 500 square foot models and go up to 1/10 acre production systems.

Developing Genetically Superior Animals

The growth in current demand for goat production in Alabama has led researchers at the three (3) collaborating universities to look at long-term future enhancement of goats using genetic transfer of desirable production traits. By taking this approach researchers can shorten the time span for developing genetically superior animals ideally suited for Alabama conditions. Previously transgenic animals have been produced by introducing external genes into the pronucleus of single cell embryos and implanting these into females which give birth to transgenic animals. Success rates have been low and progress slow in this transgenic process. More recent research has created genetic modification of farm animals through transplantation of genetically altered male germ cells. This process has been extended successfully from lab mice to goats. An AALGA project in 2008 will allow researchers to take initial steps in developing transgenic superior goats and contribute to future transgenic development of other livestock species.

Study of Medicinal Plant (American Skullcap)

American skullcap (*Scutellaria lateriflora*) is a medicinal plant used historically to treat cancer and inflammation. In a new AALGA study, researchers will investigate the use of this commonly occurring plant to protect livestock from the debilitating and often fatal effects of fungal toxins that all too commonly occur in feed grains. Researchers will feed dried plants to chickens and goats and monitor the feed efficiency and other growth characteristics of these animals. If successful, this project could pave the way for Alabama livestock producers to grow healthier, more feed efficient animals and provide a niche market for commercial production of American skullcap as a feed additive to livestock feeds.

Programs of Public Information³⁰

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Web Portal

In 2007, Commission staff began the planning and design phase of a new web portal for higher education in Alabama. The new web portal will be built on the newest technology framework, which will give a much richer, interactive experience for portal users. The new portal will actually be a doorway to several websites serving the public, higher education professionals, and state government entities. The Executive Director of the Commission and Commissioners have asked staff to proceed with the project as part of meeting recommendations set forth in the eighth Quadrennial Review of the Commission.

Computer Hardware/Software Upgrades

On September 30, 2007, the Commission completed its two (2) year project of converting the Statewide Student Database and other data applications from an IBM AS/400 computer platform, using the COBOL programming language, to the newest server hardware platform, using the Microsoft Visual Basic/SQL Server programming environment. This change is allowing Commission staff to respond more rapidly to requests for data analysis and reporting from higher education policy makers in Alabama.

³⁰To conduct a program of public information in order to inform citizens of the state of matters of importance to higher education in Alabama. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (12) (1975)

Data Exchanges

During the last year, the Commission has made great strides in developing and fostering relationships with the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. The staff at these three (3) educational agencies are working to improve statewide collection, analysis, and dissemination of information. Thus, student progress may be tracked from high school through higher education. Shared data is the first step in building a PK-20 data system for the State of Alabama.

Academic Program Inventory

The ACHE Academic Inventory provides a list of all institutional programs approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in the public colleges and universities (four-year and two-year). Programs in the inventory are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy, a classification system developed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The CIP Taxonomy facilitates a comparison of information not only among institutions in the State of Alabama, but also nationwide. The ACHE Academic Program Inventory is updated to reflect changes that were approved after each Commission meeting.

Statistical Abstract

The Commission staff publishes various reports throughout the year, i.e. the Student Source Survey and Tuition Eligibility Report, from data made available to the State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database). The Statistical Abstract includes information on student enrollments and completions, faculty salaries, institutional facilities, tuition, and fees for Alabama's two-year and four-year institutions.

Statistical Information: Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2006

In 2007, the Commission published a third graphic summary of demographic information about the student populations of Alabama's public two-year and four-year institutions. The source of information released in this report, *Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2006*, was the Alabama Student Database and all data included was published previously by the Commission in other formats: the Tuition Eligibility Report, the Retention Report, the Transfer/Migration Report, the Student Source Survey Reports, the Institutional Summary Reports, and the Completions Summary Reports.

The Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2006 publication is available on the Commission's website at www.ache.alabama.gov/Profiles. In addition, over five-hundred (500) printed copies of this report were sent to Commissioners, legislators, presidents of colleges and universities, and other higher education officials. The web version provides links to the original sourcing reports and includes links to maps that offer added visual interpretation of this data.

Southern Regional Education Board Fact Book on Higher Education

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) relies on data from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for use in the annual SREB State Data Exchange. SREB also uses this data to produce a Fact Book on Higher Education every two (2) years.

Accreditation

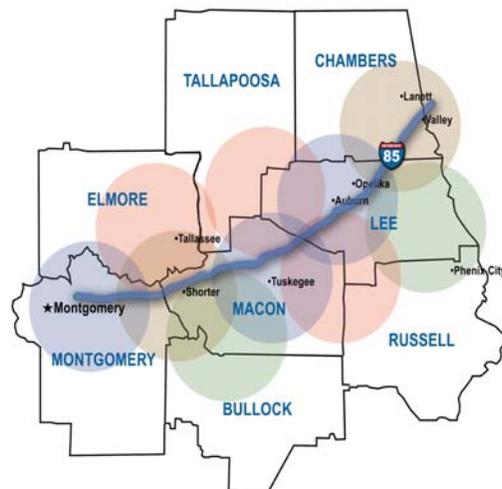
Links to accreditation agencies and directories may be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Colleges&Universities/Accreditation/Index.htm>. These documents include information as to both institutional accreditation and specialized programmatic accreditation. These reports are updated biennially.

Public Relations Activities

The Office of Communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education is responsible for the Commission's programs of public information. In that capacity, the Director of Communications serves as the public relations representative of the Commission, as spokesperson for the agency, as a liaison to various governmental and community coalitions, and as the representative of the Commission at many higher education functions tied to state and national programs.

Organizations

The Commission has three (3) appointments to the Forever Wild Board of the Forever Wild Land Trust. The Office of Communications is responsible for identifying those appointees and participating in their orientation to the Forever Wild Board. In addition, the Office of Communications represents the Commission in the *I-85 Corridor Alliance*, a partnership organization consisting of local government, private sector organizations, and colleges and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama.



Scholarships

The Commission's website is used to make information about Alabama higher education easily accessible. Students and parents are encouraged to go online to identify and apply for scholarships.

The J. Craig and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation is a multi-million dollar bonanza for the education of Alabama's children. The foundation was created by Mignon C. Smith in honor of her parents. J. Craig Smith was President and Chief Executive Officer of Avondale Mills, a hallmark of the textile industry. Mr. Smith was an innovative leader who put employee scholarships in place and privately funded the education of several of his employees' children.

Twenty (20) scholarships were awarded for the 2005-2006 school year with fifteen (15) additional scholarships funded for the 2006-2007 school year. Seventeen (17) scholarships were given to Alabama high school seniors for 2007-2008. Special consideration is given to an applicant who would be the first in his or her family to attend college.

Alabamamentor.org

This is one (1) of Alabama's best online sources for college planning. It provides a one-stop shopping concept for all the information a student needs to prepare for college. The website allows prospective students to find admission requirements, compare Alabama schools, take virtual campus tours, search for scholarships, and apply for admission. There is no charge to use alabamamentor.org.

Getting Ready for College

A program for K-12 students, this outreach effort provides information about academic readiness and financial aid planning for higher education.

Media Events

The Office of Communications works through and with various media to bring attention to issues involving higher education in Alabama. Through its coordinating role, the Commission answers media inquiries on a wide variety of higher education topics and in doing so offers a perspective on topics of local and national interest. In addition, the office is proactive in promoting higher education through all forms of the media - editorial, business, news, and human interest.

During the 2007 legislative session, the Office of Communications fielded state and national media calls covering financial aid, funding, legislation dealing with the non-resident institution issues, and many other education-related pieces of legislation.

Media Highlights 2007

J. Craig Smith and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation Recipients

Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program

*Local, State, and National Coverage of the Non-Resident Institution
or Diploma Mill Crisis Facing Alabama*

The Higher Education Act of 1965³¹

On July 24, 2007, the United States Senate unanimously passed the Higher Education Amendments of 2007 (S. 1642), taking a significant step toward reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965, which has languished in Congress since it was due for renewal in September 2004.

The legislation includes some major modifications in programs important to colleges and universities, including raising the ceiling for the maximum Pell Grant to \$6,300 and increasing restrictions on the relationships between lenders, guarantee agencies and institutions.

The Senate awaits action by the House Committee on Education and Labor to take up Higher Education Act reauthorization. On July 31, 2007, President George W. Bush signed S. 1868 extending the programs authorized under the Higher Education Act through Oct. 31, 2007.

Non-Resident Institutional Review³²

The Commission has jurisdiction over non-resident institutions defined as postsecondary institutions or corporations offering educational programs in Alabama with main campuses or headquarters located outside the state. These include public and private, for profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions/corporations offering degree and non-degree programs. Of the more than two hundred (200) private/proprietary institutions licensed by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) as of July 31, 2007, fifty-seven (57) corporations were licensed to operate as foreign corporations. This number reflects a ten percent (10%) increase in the establishment of non-resident entities in Alabama during the past year. The scope of Commission activities in 2007 included the following.

³¹To serve as the state agency for the administration of those titles of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-329) as amended for those programs requiring a single state agency for which the commission qualifies, unless otherwise designated by executive order. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (13) (1975)

³²To authorize and regulate instructional programs or units offered by non-Alabama institutions of postsecondary education in the State of Alabama. No institution of postsecondary education located outside of Alabama may offer units or programs of instruction within Alabama without prior approval of the commission. The commission under its rule-making authority shall establish criteria for the approval of such institutions and programs. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975)

***Non-Resident Institutional Review:
Full-Scale Programmatic
Review 2007***

Twenty-one (21) full-scale programmatic reviews were conducted in accord with Commission Procedures and Regulations in 2007. Full-scale reviews include, but are not limited to: The qualifications of faculty and supporting staff, the quality of academic support resources (library, laboratories, etc.), the academic validity of the proposed courses, and site visits. Twenty-one (21) institutions were approved to offer degree programs in state.

***Non-Resident Institutional Review:
Institutions/Corporations Approved to Offer Degree Programs***

Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Scope of Degree Offerings: Baccalaureate, Masters, Doctoral

Accreditation: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)

Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan

Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters

Accreditation: NCA

College for Financial Planning, Phoenix, Arizona

Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters

Accreditation: NCA

Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri

Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters

Accreditation: NCA

DeVry University, Oakbrooke Terrace, Illinois

Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters

Accreditation: NCA

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Florida

Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters

Accreditation: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida

Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters

Accreditation: SACS

Herzing College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate
Accreditation: NCA

Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina
Scope of Degree Offerings: Master of Divinity
Accreditation: Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS)

ITT Technical Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate
Accreditation: Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters
Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEA)

Master's International School of Divinity, Evansville, Indiana
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate in Ministry
Accreditation: Not accredited

National Graduate School of Quality Management, Falmouth, Massachusetts
Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters
Accreditation: NEA

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters
Accreditation: SACS and ATS

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Scope of Degree Offerings: Masters, Doctoral
Accreditation: SACS

Prince Institute of Professional Studies, Mount Prospect, Illinois
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate
Accreditation: ACICS

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
Scope of Degree Offerings: Master of Divinity
Accreditation: SACS and ATS

Strayer University, Washington, D.C.
Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters
Accreditation: Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

University of Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona

Scope of Degree Offerings: Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, Doctoral

Accreditation: NCA

University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois

Scope of Degree Offerings: Baccalaureate, Masters

Accreditation: NCA

Walden University, Baltimore, Maryland

Scope of Degree Offerings: Baccalaureate, Masters, Doctoral

Accreditation: NCA

***Non-Resident Institutional Review:
Institutional Waivers from
Full-Scale Programmatic Review 2007***

While some non-resident institutions fall within the Commission's jurisdiction, thirty-six (36) institutions qualified for a waiver from the Commission's full-scale programmatic review.

- Six (6) institutions have no physical sites in state but solicit students for out of state programs through licensed agents
- Seven (7) institutions are incorporated in Alabama
- Twenty-three (23) institutions offer programs of less than three (3) quarters in length or continuing education

***Non-Resident Institutional Review:
Jurisdictional Issues 2007***

The Alabama Private School License Act

Alabama is the only state within the United States where authority over private school licensure and programmatic review and approval of non-resident programs of higher education, postsecondary instruction, is divided between two (2) state agencies, the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) and the Commission. Under provisions of Ala. Code §16-46-1, et seq. (1975), responsibility for licensure of private institutions of higher education in Alabama, whether resident or non-resident, rests with ADPE.

Memorandum of Agreement

To facilitate the dual agency assignments of responsibility between ADPE and the Commission, a Memorandum of Agreement between ADPE and the Commission provides for the integration of programmatic review of non-resident institutions with the licensure process. The first Memorandum of Agreement was executed in 1985, amended in 2002, and last amended in 2005.

Both the Commission and ADPE serve as clearinghouses for information about private/proprietary institutions that offer their programs to Alabama residents. Accordingly, the Commission maintains more than four hundred (400) files of non-public institutions of higher education that include those operating in-state as resident institutions and an archival record of closed institutions. The Commission's website includes an inventory of Non-Resident Private Degree and Non-Degree Granting institutions.

Non-Resident Institutional Review: Legislative Issues 2007

The regular session of the Alabama Legislature convened on March 6, 2007 and adjourned on June 7, 2007. During the session, two (2) items related to the Commission's Non-Resident Institutional Review activities were subject to proposed legislation.

Alabama Private School License Act

House Bill 753 and Senate Bill 444 proposing to transfer responsibility for postsecondary private school licensure from ADPE to the Commission died in their respective Education Policy and Finance and Taxation Education committees.

Commission Statute

On May 31, 2007, action on House Bill 540 proposing revision of Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975) to exempt non-resident institutions that are accredited and have a campus in state from the Commission's programmatic review (jurisdiction) was indefinitely postponed.

Southern Regional Compact for Education and Other Special Programs

Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)³³

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), headquartered in Atlanta, was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB has sixteen (16) member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. SREB is governed by a board that consists of the governor of each member state and four (4) people that he or she appoints, including at least one (1) state legislator and at least one (1) educator.

Alabama's SREB Board Members

Bob Riley, Governor
State of Alabama

Ms. Caroline Novak
A+ Education Foundation

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr.
State Representative

Dr. Sandra Sims-DeGraffenreid
Alabama Association of School Boards

Dr. Joseph B. Morton,
State Superintendent of Education

SREB Legislative Advisory Council Members

Mr. Larry Dixon,
State Senator

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr., Chair
State Representative

Ms. Vivian Davis Figures
State Senator

³³The commission is designated the agency responsible for those functions under the Southern Regional Compact for Education (Act 227, HJR 42, 1949; Act 40, HJR 21, 1955) and those functions in Sections 16-3-32 through 16-3-35, heretofore assigned to the State Board of Education with funds that may be appropriated to it by the Legislature for that purpose. Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)

The Commission's participation in the following programs provides *access* and *affordability* to a wide variety of high *quality* out-of-state programs in the most cost-effective manner to Alabama citizens. The goals of the Southern Regional Compact for Education parallel the goals of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*.

The SREB Educational Technology Cooperative

The purpose of this Cooperative, comprised of state higher education and K-12 coordinating and governing boards, is to assist state leaders in creating and expanding effective uses of technology in schools and colleges. This unique multi-state Cooperative represents more than three thousand three hundred (3,300) school districts and nearly eight hundred (800) colleges and universities. It monitors and reports on a wide array of educational technology topics and works with states to use technology wisely. As schools and colleges use technology, they see the connection between technology and higher student achievement.

The sixteen (16) SREB states are represented within the SREB Educational Technology Cooperative by representatives from the state departments of education and the agencies for governing or coordinating higher education. The Commission has designated its Director of Special Programs to serve as the Alabama higher education representative. The Cooperative has established three task forces to discuss and make recommendations:

- The *Professional Development and Learning Resources Task Force* promotes high-quality, results-oriented professional development and learning resources for teachers and faculty in SREB states. This task group also focuses on the use of online learning to meet the important and growing needs for quality professional development.
- The *Online Learning Task Force* focuses on new and evolving issues, trends and technologies associated with online learning. It examines academic needs at the K-12 and postsecondary levels to determine how technology may help meet these academic needs, including the quality of online courses, how they are taught and how schools, colleges and state education agencies can work together to share instructional, management and technical information.

- *The Information Technology Task Group monitors developments and issues affecting electronic access and infrastructure for education. The primary focus is on gathering and sharing information about these topics, including statewide educational networks in SREB states and the telecommunications services and other technology products used by schools, colleges and state education agencies.*

The SREB Academic Common Market

The SREB Academic Common Market established in 1974, is a tuition savings program for students in the sixteen (16) SREB member states who want to pursue degrees in fields that are not offered by in-state institutions. Students enroll in out-of-state universities that offer specialized degree programs and pay in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents have access to two hundred sixty-nine (269) programs offered in other states at the following levels:

- Baccalaureate -- eighty-three (83) programs
- Masters -- one hundred thirty-one (131) programs
- Doctoral -- fifty-five (55) programs

To qualify for the SREB Academic Common Market, a student must be a resident of a SREB member state and must be admitted unconditionally into an out-of-state degree program that is listed in the SREB Academic Common Market inventory. Alabama universities that offer programs to out-of-state residents through this student interchange-reciprocal agreement are:

Alabama A&M University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Auburn University	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Jacksonville State University	University of North Alabama
The University of Alabama	University of South Alabama
Troy University	University of West Alabama

The SREB Electronic Campus

The SREB Electronic Campus was launched in January 1998 as an "electronic marketplace" of online courses and programs from the South's colleges and universities. The Electronic Campus was designed to provide learning opportunities from accredited colleges and universities that offered courses and programs that meet the SREB's *Principles of Good Practice*. By doing so, students can be assured of the quality and integrity of the courses and programs available in the Electronic Campus, that comparable information will be provided to help students in making decisions that best meet their needs, and that students can quickly and easily search the large database of course and program offerings.

In conjunction with the Electronic Campus (www.electroniccampus.org), the SREB announced in December 2004 the launching of a State Teacher Center (www.TheTeacherCenter.org). The Teacher Center is a clearinghouse for information and resources for teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, teacher aides and others who aspire to become teachers. The Center connects educators to resources on any SREB state with links to online courses and programs; professional development; information about financial aid; information about *No Child Left Behind* and requirements for "highly qualified" teachers; licensure, certification and alternative routes to teaching; and numerous other online services. Participating SREB Electronic Campus institutions:

Bishop State Community College	Regions University
Calhoun Community College	Snead State Community College
Enterprise-Ozark Community College	The University of Alabama
G.C. Wallace State Community College (Dothan)	Troy University
Jacksonville State University	United States Sports Academy
Jefferson State Community College	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Judson College	University of North Alabama
Lawson State Community College	

The SREB Academic Common Market/SREB Electronic Campus Program

With the growth and development of distance learning and the emergence of the *SREB Electronic Campus*, the Southern Regional Education Board initiated an innovative program that combines the tuition benefits of the SREB Academic Common Market with the distance learning capacity of the *SREB Electronic Campus*. This new initiative makes selected programs available at in-state tuition rates and through distance learning.

The SREB Regional Contract Program

The SREB Regional Contract Program offers students pursuing professional health degrees admission to schools in other states for the price of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and for reduced tuition at private institutions. The program helps students in the fields of dentistry, medicine, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, and osteopathic medicine. Participating states pay schools to maintain spots in their professional programs; meanwhile, states save the expense of building and staffing these schools. The SREB is the fiscal agent for the Contract Program and handles administrative duties for participating states.

Alabama residents have access to Medical and Dental programs at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee and the Osteopathic Medicine program at Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Listed below are those states which have access to programs offered at Alabama universities.

Arkansas

Dentistry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Georgia

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Kentucky

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Veterinary Medicine

Auburn University and Tuskegee University

Louisiana

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mississippi

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

North Carolina

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

South Carolina

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Veterinary Medicine

Tuskegee University

Virginia

Optometry

The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program

In 1993, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and its sixteen (16) member states noted an under-representation of minority students in doctoral programs and among faculty at colleges and universities in the southern region of the United States. According to SREB data, more than one-third of the nation's workers were people of color as were more than one-fourth of America's college students. Nevertheless, the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities who were faculty in higher education was a fraction of total faculty. Nationally, about five percent (5%) of higher education faculties were African-American and about two percent (2%) were Hispanic.

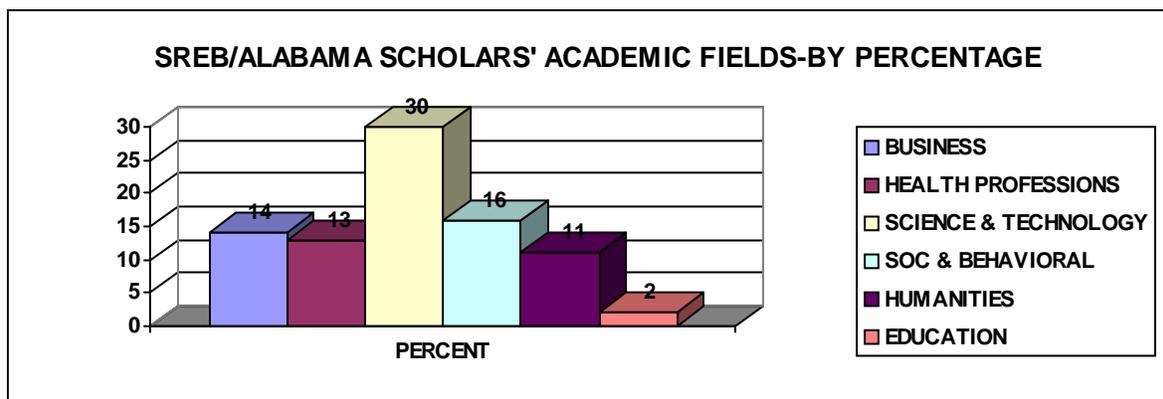
To address this problem, SREB and its member states developed a program to: a) Increase opportunities for qualified minority students to participate in selected graduate school programs leading to doctoral degrees; and b) Expand the pool of minority scholars available to teach at the collegiate level.

The success of the SREB-Alabama Minority Doctoral Scholars Program is attributed to the support provided to it by the State of Alabama, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, SREB, and Alabama's participating universities: Auburn University, The University of Alabama, and University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The first year of the SREB program (1993), Alabama supported two (2) minority Ph.D. students. Since then, Alabama has increased its participation in the SREB Minority Doctoral Scholars Program so that today, Alabama leads the sixteen (16) participating states in the number of graduates, matriculating scholars, and employed graduates of this program. While the annual average number of SREB/Alabama Minority Doctoral applicants is forty (40) prospective students, funding remains limited. Approximately eight (8) new scholars or twenty percent (20%) of applicants are selected each year.

The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program: Academic Fields of Greatest Interest Among Applicants

Areas of greatest interest to Alabama's Minority Doctoral Scholars include Science and Technology, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Business and Management.



Current graduates earned their doctorates in the following fields:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Aquatic Biology | Medical Sociology |
| Biochemistry | Nursing Education |
| Clinical Psychology | Pharmaceutical Science |
| Clinical Child Psychology | Public Health |
| Educational Psychology | Public Health/Maternal Child Health |
| Ed. Psychology/Human Development | Romance Languages |
| English/African American Literature | Social Work |
| Health Education | Sociology |
| Management Human Resources | Urban Forestry |

Notable Achievement

Today, approximately thirty-seven (37) Minority Doctoral Scholars/graduates are teaching in Alabama's higher education institutions. They are employed at the following universities:

Auburn University
Auburn University at Montgomery
Samford University
Troy University (Dothan Campus)
The University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Montevallo
University of West Alabama

***The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program:
Judge Harold Murphy's 2002 Order and
the Minority Doctoral Scholar's Program***

Notable achievements are measured also in connection with a major integration case, Knigh t v. Alabama, 14 F. 3rd, 1534 (11th Cir. 1994). In a 2002 ruling and order, Judge Harold Murphy noted the following:

The predominantly white defendant institutions shall increase their recruitment efforts of Alabama students who complete the SREB Doctoral Scholars programs where there are job vacancies in disciplines that match the students' interest. Unless an institution wishes to do so, there is no requirement to hire one's own SREB graduate. ACHE will report annually on the in-state participation in the SREB program and provide the Defendants with the names, areas of study, enrolled institutions, and anticipated graduation dates of every student enrolled in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program in Alabama. To the extent possible, ACHE shall track SREB students into their first job and if available, provide first year salary information for the student.

Quadrennial Review of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-12 (1975)³⁴

Since the first quadrennial review of the Commission was conducted in 1975, there have been seven (7) additional evaluations of the Commission's performance and effectiveness. The report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review Committee was presented for acceptance to the Commission in March 2007. The full report was disseminated to the Governor, the Legislature, and the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education. The report is available to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

Recommendations of the Committee included the following:

To the Governor

1. Appoint a blue-ribbon commission charged with the responsibility to shape, and gain consensus around, a long-term, P-20 (primary through graduate school) plan in order to establish a seamless education system that will raise the education attainment of Alabama's population to the levels of the best performing states and competitor nations over the next quarter century. This plan should emphasize that the education of all Alabamians from preschool through college is critical to the future economic competitiveness of the state and to the quality of life and opportunities for all the state's citizens.
2. Establish an "Education Cabinet," chaired by the Governor to oversee the implementation of the P-20 plan.
3. Convene an annual Governor's Conference on College and University Trustee Leadership.

To the Governor and State Legislature

1. Charge the Alabama Commission on Higher Education with responsibility to develop and recommend a substantial revision of current policies and methodologies for financing higher education.
2. Significantly increase state funding for student financial aid targeted to low-income students.

³⁴Two years after the establishment of the commission and during the last year of each gubernatorial term, the commission shall appoint a committee of at least three consultants who are not associated with higher education in this state to evaluate the effectiveness of the work of the commission and to recommend changes as needed. A report prepared by the committee shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education of this state and the public. Ala. Code §16-5-12

3. Enact substantially strengthened oversight of delivery of postsecondary/higher education courses and programs by out-of-state institutions and providers.

To the Alabama Commission on Higher Education

1. Reframe the mission of ACHE as recommended in the 1999 Quadrennial Review to shift away from regulatory agency and toward more of a policy leadership entity.
2. Shape the next edition of the state plan for higher education as an Action Plan for Higher Education and as a “public agenda” linked to the state P-20 plan.
3. Assign high priority to ACHE’s role in leading and facilitating higher education’s support and contributions to the P-12 portion of the P-20 plan.
4. Sustain the core statutory functions related to program review and approval.
5. Develop and recommend to the Governor and State Legislature a long-range financing plan to achieve the goals of the P-20 plan and the Action Plan for Higher Education, including fundamental revisions in the state policies and methodologies for financing higher education.
6. Give priority in the new financing plan to developing and recommending to the Governor and Legislature specific funding and financial aid proposals.
7. Develop and recommend a proposal to the Governor and State Legislature for strengthening the oversight of out-of-state institutions and providers, including recommendations regarding the staffing and budget necessary to perform these functions.
8. Redesign the Commission’s meeting agendas to focus primarily on leading and monitoring progress toward the State Plan and overall P-20 plan.
9. Increase ACHE staffing in critical areas.
10. Evaluate the Commission existing statutory mandates for data collection.
11. Establish a consumer information portal giving students and families information on 1) courses and level of performance required to be prepared for college-level learning and for specific careers, and 2) the cost and quality of the State’s higher education institutions.

Governing Boards

Ala. Code §16-5-13 (1975)³⁵

Alabama's governance structure for higher education invests authority in eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that are responsible for the forty (40) public institutions of higher education in this state. In its role as finder of fact and advisor to the Governor and Legislature, the Commission works with and supports the respective Boards as authorized by statute. Activities in 2007 included the continuation of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda for the implementation of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* that includes a two-part reporting process by the Boards of Trustees and their presidents on progress toward statewide goals. It is the expectation that through the findings of these reports, the Commission will be able to offer better advice to the Governor and Legislature on public policy issues related to instruction, research, and public service in postsecondary education in Alabama.

Gifts, Grants or Requests Received by the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-14 (1975)³⁶

No activities reported for 2007.

³⁵Governing boards of the public institutions of higher education of this state shall retain all powers and duties heretofore given and conferred upon them by the constitution or by any law expressed or implied, to govern, control and operate the institutions for which they are responsible. The commission shall work with and support the respective boards and except where otherwise authorized by this statute, shall act in a fact-finding and advisory capacity.

The State Board of Education and any successor board or boards which govern the state's public postsecondary institutions, including senior institutions, community colleges, junior colleges and postsecondary technical institutes or colleges, shall stand in the same relationship to the commission as do university boards of trustees. The chancellor shall stand in the same relationship to the commission as do presidents of the universities. Ala. Code §16-5-13 (1975)

³⁶The commission is authorized to accept gifts, devises, grants or bequests and expend the same to carry out the provisions of this article or to promote the purposes for which it has been established. Ala. Code §16-5-14 (1975)

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests

Ala. Code §16-5-15 (1975)³⁷

Each public two-year and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests report for the period covering FY 2008-2012 was presented at the December 8, 2006 Commission meeting. A total of over \$3.8 billion was requested by the two-year and four-year institutions to cover the projected capital projects for this five-year period. A copy of this report may be found at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Information/Publications/FMP2008-2012/Index.pdf>.

The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2009-2013 will be presented at the December 7, 2007 Commission meeting.

³⁷Each public two-year and four-year institution of higher education shall submit to the commission a facilities master plan. The commission shall review the master plans of each institution and shall make known any concerns and/or recommendations that it may have concerning four-year institutions to its respective board of trustees or, concerning two-year institutions, to the State Board of Education. This plan shall include the five-year plan of the institution regarding new facility construction and acquisition.

The initial facilities master plan shall be filed with the commission prior to January 1, 1997. The plan shall be updated by the institution annually if changes are desired by the institution.

The commission, in consultation with the Council of College and University Presidents and the State Board of Education shall adopt a standard, uniform method of reporting the five-year master plans. This process shall require the commission to notify the institution, the respective boards of trustees and the State Board of Education, within 60 weeks the findings of its review.

A freeze, effective January 1, 1997, for a period of one year on all new facilities construction and acquisitions of existing facilities shall be imposed on public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, with the exception of those facilities mandated by the Knight, et al. v. State of Alabama consent decree and court order. Any available or budgeted capital funds may be used to renovate, replace, or restore existing facilities. Any facilities already approved by the appropriate governing board prior to January 1, 1997 are exempt from this subsection.

All capital budget requests made by a public institution of higher education to the commission shall be prioritized. Such requests shall also be accompanied by a needs assessment and be included as part of each institution's master plan.
Ala. Code §16-5-15 (1975)

Additional Responsibilities

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1975)

References to the Commission are found in several portions of the Code of Alabama and in federal legislation. In most instances, these citations call upon the Commission to perform an administrative function. The federal court via *Knight vs. State of Alabama*, 14 F. 3rd 1534 (11th Cir. 1994) has also directed the Commission to assume some responsibilities. The Commission's performance of these duties are summarized below as the Commission's Additional Responsibilities.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education continues to make a good faith effort to reduce the financial barriers incurred by students by providing assistance through state-sponsored student financial aid programs. The goal is to reduce financial barriers to help students who have significant challenges paying for a college education.

*Alabama Student Grant Program*³⁸

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, non-profit Alabama colleges and universities. This program provides an opportunity for Alabama residents to take programs and courses at private institutions. This program received a 57 percent increase in funding for the 2006-2007 award year. Due to the increase, the maximum award amount given to a full-time student was \$504, an increase from the previous year's maximum award amount of \$390. Six thousand seven hundred ninety-one (6,791) awards were given at an average of \$394 per student for total distribution of \$2,678,580.

³⁸The Alabama Student Grant Program created under this chapter shall be administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The executive director of the ACHE shall have primary responsibility for the administration of the program, including appropriate staffing, in accordance with rules, regulations, policies and procedures to be promulgated by the ACHE.
Ala. Code §16-33A (4) (1975)

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program³⁹

The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program is designed to help professional members of the Alabama National Guard pursue undergraduate degrees and to a limited extent, graduate degrees. This assistance is especially important as a component of the Alabama Military Department's recruitment efforts geared to maintaining troop strength in Alabama. Active Army and Air National Guard members may receive a maximum of \$1,000 annually. This program received level funding during 2006-2007. Seven hundred twenty-six (726) awards were given at an average of \$643 per student for a total distribution of \$466,523.

Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers⁴⁰

The Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers created by the Alabama Legislature in 1993 enables certified, public school teachers to take advanced technology training through state-paid scholarships. This program enables teachers to take three (3) courses specifically designed to help them integrate technology into the school curriculum and is the first of its kind in the country. Although funding for this program was eliminated during 2003-2004, this program is viable for school teachers who are pursuing masters' degree. During 2006-2007, one hundred seventy (170) awards were given to Alabama K-12 public school teachers at an average of \$1,040 per teacher for a total distribution of \$176,863.

³⁹The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is hereby authorized to pay or reimburse the tuition for any active member of the Alabama National Guard who is enrolled in a program leading to the associate, baccalaureate, masters or doctorate degree in an accredited institution of higher learning, technical college, or junior college within the State of Alabama. To be eligible for such benefits, the individual, at the time of his enrollment must be a member of the Alabama National Guard in good standing and a member of a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard. The member must be at least 17 years of age and must be a resident of the State of Alabama. The tuition grant authorized under this chapter may be used for undergraduate or graduate studies. In no event will any individual be eligible to receive more than 100 percent of covered expenses when combined with similar federal veterans' educational benefits available to members of the National Guard. No person shall be eligible for a tuition grant for more than 12 years after the date of the first tuition payment to him under this article. For degrees above the baccalaureate, only 10 percent of the total funds of the benefit program are to be utilized. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall set up minimum standards for performance that must be met in order to maintain eligibility for the continuation of the receipt of tuition grants under this article. Ala. Code §31-10-25 (1975)

⁴⁰Enacted in 1993 to provide for the education of certified, employed public school teachers to be trained in the use of integrating technology skills in the curriculum. Ala. Code §16-23-24 (1975)

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program⁴¹

The Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance Program provides funds for tuition, fees, books, and supply expenses for undergraduate studies at Alabama public colleges and universities for dependents and spouses of police officers and firefighters killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. Recipients of this scholarship attended twelve (12) of the state's public institutions. Seven (7) students completed and received their degrees through the assistance of this program during 2006-2007. Twenty-four (24) awards were given at an average of \$5,024 per student for a total distribution of \$120,567.

Alabama Student Assistance Program⁴²

The Alabama Student Assistance Program is funded by both the state and the federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program, which provides funds to the state to help those students who demonstrate substantial financial need. This program is administered by the state but also is funded with matching federal dollars. It is the state's only need-based student aid program for residents attending postsecondary education institutions in Alabama.

⁴¹There is created the Tuition Eligibility Board, which shall determine the eligibility of any persons applying under the provisions of this article. The Tuition Eligibility Board shall certify to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education the eligible persons to receive tuition assistance under the provisions of Section 36-21-102. The Tuition Eligibility Board shall consist of two members appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Executive Board of the Alabama Education Association, one member appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama State Policemen's Association, Inc., one member appointed by the Professional Firefighter's Association of Alabama, one member appointed by the Alabama Firefighter's Association, one member appointed by the Alabama State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, one member appointed by the Alabama State Troopers Association, and one member appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Peace Officers' Association. Each member shall serve four years from the date of appointment and shall have the right of succession. The board shall elect a chairperson from among the members and shall coordinate the implementation of this article with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The chairperson shall call meetings of the board to determine eligibility of applicants. Each board member shall receive reimbursement of expenses for duties performed in accordance with the provisions of this article. A majority of the members appointed shall constitute a quorum. Ala. Code §36-21-104 (1975)

⁴²The Commission has jurisdiction over the administration of the Alabama Student Assistance Program via Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975). Higher Education Amendments of 1998 renamed the SSIG Program the Leap Program. The Leap Program, covered in Chapter 1, provides grants to states to help those states provide need-based grant and work-study assistance to eligible postsecondary students. Title IV, Part A, Subpart 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

With the appropriated level funding of this program as in the previous year, once again, the state met the required maintenance of effort to qualify for federal funding. During 2006-2007, fifty-five (55) institutions within the state participated in the program. Three thousand five hundred seventy-four (3,574) awards were given at an average of \$593 per student for a total distribution of \$2,119,200.

State of Alabama Chiropractic Scholarship Program⁴³

The funding for the State of Alabama Chiropractic Scholarship Program was restored after a three-year hiatus. This program provides scholarship assistance to financially-needy Alabama residents who are enrolled in accredited chiropractic colleges. It is the only type of assistance for Alabama students pursuing chiropractic studies. During 2006-2007, three (3) awards were given at an average of \$10,000, for a total distribution of \$30,000.

⁴³The commission is designated the agency responsible for those functions under the Southern Regional Compact for Education (Act 227, HJR 42, 1949; Act 40, HJR 21, 1955) and those functions in Sections 16-3-32 through 16-3-35, heretofore assigned to the State Board of Education with funds that may be appropriated to it by the Legislature for that purpose. Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)

***U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child Left Behind
(NCLB), Competitive Grant Program
Title II, Part A, Subpart 3
(Public Law 107-110)⁴⁴***

The USDE *No Child Left Behind* Title II competitive grant program is the largest federal program supporting K-12 professional development activities to improve teaching and learning. This program has a direct relationship to systemic reform and student achievement tied to challenging state content and performance standards. Activities associated with the NCLB Title II competitive grant program provide evidence of successful support for all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*. The USDE allocation to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in FY 2006-2007 was \$1,199,325. Eligible applicants were public and private institutions of higher education in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Seventeen (17) proposals were received from ten (10) institutions with a combined budget total of over \$3.5 million with project requests for federal funds of nearly \$2.5 million, more than twice the amount of the appropriation. Ten (10) projects were funded.

Collaboration

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) administers the U.S. Department of Education competitive grant partnership program for higher education institutions (Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended and enacted in 2001 as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110)*). Under this program, funds are made available to state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), state agencies for higher education (SAHEs), and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support and help shape state and local professional development activities. All ACHE-funded projects met the federal partnership requirements, including each institution's school/department of education, the arts and sciences division, and at least one high-need local school district. One (1) project also included a non-profit teacher training organization as a partner.

⁴⁴The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) administers the U.S. Department of Education competitive grant partnership program for higher education institutions (Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended and enacted in 2001 as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110)*). Under this program, funds are made available to state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), state agencies for higher education (SAHEs), and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support and help shape state and local professional development activities.

Access and Workforce Development

Participation in the FY 2006-2007 projects include an estimated seven hundred fifty-three (753) teachers, thirty-eight (38) administrators, and twelve (12) para-professionals representing eighty-two (82) public school districts and nineteen (19) private schools. Three hundred eighty-nine (389) of these teachers serve forty-five (45) public school districts identified as “high need.” The projects reported that nearly fifty thousand seven hundred (50,700) students were directly impacted by their participants’ teachers.

Expansion into Underserved Areas. To assure that this program reached all regions of the state, ACHE identified eighteen (18) counties that had no or low project activity in recent years:

Butler	Cleburne	Crenshaw	Greene	Marengo	Tallapoosa
Chambers	Conecuh	Fayette	Lamar	Monroe	Washington
Chilton	Coosa	Franklin	Lawrence	Pickens	Wilcox

Each new FY 2006-2007 project was required to serve one (1) or more school districts in at least one (1) of those counties. Two (2) new projects (Troy University: “Comp II”; Tuskegee University: “Utilizing an Inquiry Based Approach”) were awarded grants in this period and are serving school districts in Crenshaw, Greene, and Wilcox Counties. In addition, eight (8) continuing projects also served districts in seven (7) other counties in this list (Chilton, Cleburne, Franklin, Monroe, Pickens, Tallapoosa, and Washington) along with other districts across the state.

Quality

Proposals accepted for the “*Improving Teacher Quality: Mastery of Content*” competition were designed to meet the performance objectives of the legislation, specifically that all teachers of core academic subjects be “highly qualified.” Core academic subjects are defined as English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. Eighty percent (80%) of the projects exceeded forty (40) hours of content instruction, including two (2) projects that exceeded eighty (80) hours, with professional development activities extended over four (4) to twelve (12) months.

Project Recognition. Several projects included a number of news articles published in regional newspapers, presentations in national meetings of professional societies, and various civic organizations. These included Troy University “Comp II” in the statewide ALSDE “MEGA” Conference in Mobile and Troy University “Wiregrass Consortium” at the national Joint Propulsion Conference at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, both meeting in July 2007.

Program Evaluation. For the first time, statewide evaluation of this program began last year. Prior to this time, each project engaged its own external evaluator, which resulted in lack of consistency among the reports. Therefore, for FY 2005-2006 and FY 2006-2007 projects ACHE contracted with the Center for Educational Accountability (CEA) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to evaluate the statewide program. Aggregate analysis for the first year has suggested that many of the projects are able to conduct high-quality sustained professional development (across a week or more) and that such projects produce subject matter gains in the content areas of participating teachers.

Four (4) core questions relating to the following issues were addressed:

Professional Development

In determining the extent to which professional development was delivered in a manner consistent with state and national standards, an analysis of forty-seven (47) workshops involving 1,035 participants revealed that “most teachers believed [the workshops were] consistent with the research base and effective in improving their knowledge and classroom practices.”

Gains in Subject Matter Knowledge

To measure deep subject matter learning, seven (7) sites administered content pretests and posttests to some or all of their workshop participants. Results indicated that “teachers who participated in workshops within these sites made learning gains that were both statistically significant and practically meaningful.”

Implementation of Knowledge and Strategies

Teachers were, in general, enthusiastic about the innovations that they were exposed to, but were less confident immediately following the summer professional development workshops that “leaders in their schools and districts would be able to facilitate instructional improvement regarding the program, and that they would have time during the regular school week to work with colleagues on the pedagogy of the program.”

Changes in Attitudes and Pedagogical Behaviors

Data indicate that participants believed their participation in the workshops promoted their “confidence as learners, confidence as users of the subject content, their motivation to learn more about the content, and their likelihood of applying problem-centered and inquiry-based approaches to teaching rather than didactic instruction.”

Resources

In addition to the federal funds that supported these projects, additional funding was provided by the host higher education institutions and other partners including NASA, the American Honda Foundation, Alabama Power Company, Carolina Biological Supply Company, Rosen Classroom Books, school districts served by the projects, and a number of non-profit agencies and individuals. The estimated total funding leveraged from those sources was \$1,455,388.

Notable Achievements

NASA is working with teachers participating in the Troy University “Wiregrass Consortium,” to conduct an activity in space. The “Peanuts in Space” experiment was chosen for the Fall 2007 launch of the Discovery space shuttle. While this is not intended to be a scientific experiment, it is designed to provide science teachers and their students an opportunity to use a local agricultural product in their studies of space. When the peanuts are returned, students will be utilizing investigative processes to observe changes in the peanuts.

USDE/NCLB: Grant Recipients for FY 2006-2007

Auburn University

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: A Discrete Math Leadership Institute for K-8th Grade Teachers

Jacksonville State University

IMPACTSEED V: Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in Secondary Schools

Troy University

Comp II: Comprehension and Composition

Troy University , Dothan

Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium

Tuskegee University

Utilizing an Inquiry Based Approach to Improve Teachers' Mastery of Content in Science and Mathematics in Greene and Wilcox Counties

University of Alabama at Birmingham

ALAHASP 2006-2007: Alabama Hands-On Activity Science Program

The University-School Partnership for Secondary Science Advancement

University of Alabama in Huntsville

The Success Through Academic Research (STAR) Project:

The Independent Study Scholarship Program

Teaching the Future: Mastery of Science and Mathematics through Space Exploration

The University of South Alabama and Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts

Professional Development in Comprehensive Arts Education

Compliance with Court Decrees

The State Defendants in, *Knight V. State of Alabama*, 14 F. 3rd 1534 (11th Cir. 1994). entered into a settlement agreement with plaintiffs in the fall of 2006. On December 12, 2006, Judge Harold Murphy issued a final order approving this settlement along with other settlement agreements associated with *Knight* (see <http://www.ache.state.al.us/KnightvAL/Index.htm>). Under provisions of the final settlement agreement, the Commission was directed:

1. To raise the maximum grant allowed under the existing Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) from \$2,500 per academic year to \$5,000 per academic year, to be effective Fall 2007.

In response to the Court's order, on December 8, 2006, the Commission approved amendment of Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 300-4-2.06, Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) Regulations. This amendment increased the maximum grant allowed under ASAP from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

2. To post to the Commission's website, the following information as it becomes available: a) The average cost of attendance at public universities and postsecondary institutions in Alabama; b) The total amount of Pell Grant awards to students at institutions of higher education in Alabama; c) The amount of need based financial aid awarded to students through the ASAP, disaggregated by institution and by number students receiving ASAP aid; and d) A comparison of need-based financial aid provided in Alabama to comparable Regional and national need-based financial aid.

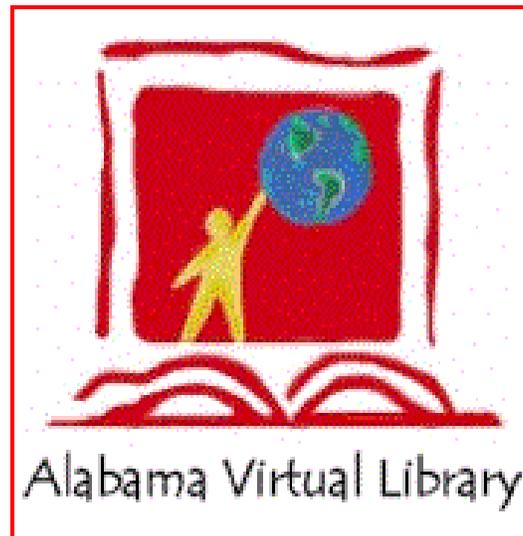
In response to the Court's order, the Commission has added the following to its website in 2007: <http://www.ache.state.al.us/KnightvAL/Knight%20Response%20page.htm>.

Alabama Virtual Library⁴⁵

The Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) is a group of online databases that serve students, teachers, and residents of the State of Alabama with online access to essential library and information resources. While the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries has been a leader in shared use of electronic resources for university students, AVL is designed to extend the concept of sharing databases to K-12 school systems, two-year colleges, and public libraries.

The Legislature initially funded AVL in FY 1999-2000 through an appropriation to the Alabama Public Library Service, the state agency responsible for the fiscal management of AVL. The Alabama Supercomputer Authority provides technical expertise. Oversight of the AVL including decisions regarding selection of the databases and how these will be accessed is vested in a board representing five (5) state agencies.

AVL may be accessed through the Commission's website links or at www.virtual.lib.al.us.



⁴⁵The Alabama Virtual Library as currently administered is recognized and established as an educational entity for public school students. The Alabama Virtual Library may receive allocations from the Education Trust Fund Rainy Day Account pursuant to Amendment 709 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. Ala. Code §16-21-30 (1975)

Alabama Virtual Library Council Members

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Auburn University

Paul Mohr
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Bill Hubbard
Jacksonville State University

Alabama State Department of Education

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Alabama Public Library Service

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Houston-Love Memorial Library

Nancy Pack
Tuscaloosa Public Library

Bonnie Lee
Orange Beach Public Library

Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Donna Daniel

Denise Oliver, *Secretary*

Neita Littleton

Alabama Higher Education Institutions

Public Universities

Alabama A&M University

Alabama State University

Auburn University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Jacksonville State University

The University of Alabama

Troy University

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Alabama in Huntsville

University of Montevallo

University of North Alabama

University of South Alabama

University of West Alabama

Public Upper Division University

Athens State University

Public Community Colleges

Alabama Southern Community College

Bevill State Community College

Bishop State Community College

Calhoun Community College

Central Alabama Community College

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Enterprise-Ozark Community College

Faulkner State Community College

Gadsden State Community College

G.C. Wallace State Community College, Dothan

G.C. Wallace State Community College, Hanceville

G.C. Wallace State Community College, Selma

Jefferson Davis Community College

Jefferson State Community College

Lawson State Community College

L.B. Wallace Community College

Marion Military Institute

Northeast Alabama Community College

Northwest-Shoals Community College

Shelton State Community College

Snead State Community College

Southern Union State Community College

Public Technical Colleges

Drake State Technical College

Ingram State Technical College

Reid State Technical College

Trenholm State Technical College

