



ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2004

Submitted to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature

January 2005

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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**ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT 2004**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alabama's coordinating agency for higher education gratefully acknowledges the advice and council provided to it by the many advisory groups it has at its disposal. Without the institutional, governmental, and business expertise these persons bring to the agency, our work would not be possible.

F rom the Executive Director: Transmittal of Report

In compliance with Ala. Code §16-5-10 (9) (1975) and in partial fulfillment of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda, the Commission submits to you its annual report of activities for 2004. The format for this document has been altered to reflect the relationship of the Commission's activities in 2004 to established statewide objectives and priorities as set forth in the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan) adopted by the Commission in October 2003.

The Commission is charged to continuously analyze and evaluate the present and future needs for instruction, research and public service in postsecondary education in this state. Accordingly, in 2004, our agency launched an Accountability Agenda for the implementation of the State Plan. The elements of this initiative are described and incorporated into this report and serve as the Commission's communication to you of its satisfaction of mandates laid out in statute at Ala. Code §15-5-1, et. seq.

True to its mission, the Commission is committed to facilitating informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to both the needs of students and the goals of our forty-three (43) public institutions of higher learning and the eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that are responsible for them. As this report illustrates, our agency is providing a state-level framework for our institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the higher education needs of the citizens of Alabama.

For additional information on the Commission's ongoing activities refer to www.ache.state.al.us.

Michael E. Malone, Ph.D.
Executive Director
January 14, 2005

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alabama 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.

F rom the Chair: An Executive Summary

The year 2004 has brought a fresh commitment by the Commission to develop strategies that address the public's agenda as regards higher education in this state. As this Annual Report to the Legislature makes clear, the Commission is proud to report progress in many areas:

- The Commission has embraced an Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. This initiative affords the public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education and the Boards of Trustees that are responsible for them, as well as the Commission an opportunity to publicly communicate evidence of accountability and performance of missions in the context of statewide goals.
- For the first time in nearly twenty years, the Commission will present to the Alabama Legislature a 2005-06 unified budget recommendation approved with unanimous consent by the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents and the Commission.
- In consultation with the Information Services Division of the Alabama Department of Finance, the Commission's website (www.ache.state.al.us), a clearinghouse for information about higher education in Alabama, has undergone a complete redesign.
- Exemplary programs have been awarded recognition by regional and national peer groups attesting to the benefits of investment by the state and federal government. Alabama leads the sixteen (16) state SREB region in the number of minority doctoral scholars. The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) has achieved notable recognition as an exemplary model for providing information services required for excellence in education, and EPSCoR's activities have helped to attract over \$45 million in research funds for economic development in Alabama.

As in other years, the Commission must take notice where there has been an absence of progress. Despite a continued critical need for need-based financial aid for higher education, Alabama failed in 2004 to provide the required matching dollars that would qualify our state for federal funds for the Alabama Student Assistance Program. In doing so, federal funds were left on the table, unavailable to Alabama's low-income families. In the coming year, it is my belief that the stakeholders in Alabama's economic success will sense a renewed dedication on the part of the Commission to support public policies that ensure the best collegiate and university education to all persons in this state.

Danny K. Patterson, Chair
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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. Ala. Code §16-5-2 (1975) The original legislation enacted in 1969 provided for a nine-member Commission with overlapping terms. (Act. N. 14, Special Session, 1969) The first meeting was held on October 8, 1971. 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

Members of the Commission

Mr. Danny K. Patterson, Chair of the Commission. *A resident of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Patterson was appointed by House Speaker Jimmy Clark to the Commission in 1997. He represents a district at-large until 2006.*

Mr. J.R. Brooks, Vice 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 pending confirmation by the Senate.*

Mrs. Bettye Fine Collins. *A resident of Birmingham, Alabama, Ms. Collins was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Commission in 1995. She represents the sixth congressional district until 2003.²*

Mr. Thomas P. Davis. *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.*

Lt. Col. Joseph Lowman. *A resident of Madison, Alabama, Lt. Col. Lowman was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Commission in 1997. He represents the fifth congressional district until 2006.*

Mrs. 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.*

Mrs. Gale Main. *A resident of Montgomery, Alabama, Ms. Main was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2004. She represents the second congressional district until 2013 pending confirmation by the Senate.*

Mr. Roland Pugh. *A resident of Northport, Alabama, Mr. Pugh was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Commission in 1996. He represents a district at-large until 2005.*

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.*

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.*

² The 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(b) (1975)

Appointments, Vacancies, and Reappointments to the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)³

Governor Don Siegelman appointed in 2003 and the Senate of Alabama confirmed in 2004 the appointments to the Commission of Mr. Thomas P. Davis and Mr. Ronald W. Wise. Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley appointed in 2003 and the Senate of Alabama confirmed in 2004 the appointment to the Commission of Mr. Stephen W. Shaw. In 2004, Governor Bob Riley appointed Mr. Ralph Buffkin and Mrs. Gale Main to the Commission. Both serve subject to confirmation by the Senate.

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 four (4) times in 2004. Agendas included discussions of the Commission's legislatively mandated activities and administrative matters. In their capacity as members of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, individual Commissioners or the body as a whole, consult regularly with the Commission's Executive Director, the Commission staff, and with business, educational, governmental, and institutional agencies concerned with higher education in Alabama.

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 a 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)

With the election of Commissioner Patterson as Chair of the Commission in October 2004, the twelve (12) members of the Commission were organized into three subcommittees: Executive, Academic Affairs and Planning, and Finance and Accountability. The sub-committees met on numerous occasions as warranted.

The Commission's first professional staff of ten (10) members was recruited in 1972. Today, the Commission employs a staff of twenty-eight persons under the supervision of an Executive Director. All full-time staff members participate in the state Teachers' Retirement System. Current staff members are organized and assigned as follows:

Executive Director's Office

Mr. Tim Vick, Associate Executive Director
Mrs. Margaret Gunter, Director of Communications
Dr. Paul Mohr, Director of Special Programs
Ms. Marilyn Fletcher, Administrative Assistant

Academic Affairs

Mrs. Brenda Carter, Director
Mrs. Amy Brown, Academic Program Review Analyst
Mrs. Ellen Haulman, Staff Associate
Ms. Brooke Hogan, Administrative Assistant

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning

Dr. Elizabeth French, Director
Dr. Jim Conehy, Title II Staff Assistant
Mrs. Nancy Lacey, Staff Associate
Mrs. Deborah Nettles, Administrative Assistant

Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)

Dr. Sue Medina, Director

Computer Services

Mr. Walter Hutcheson, Director
Mr. Michael Clemons, Network Administrator
Mrs. Shelia McFarland, Web Master/ Software Specialist

Agency Accounting

Mrs. Veronica Harris, Director
Mrs. Susan Davis, Staff Accountant and Property Control Manager
Mrs. Teresa Hutcheson, Senior Accountant
Ms. Tamiko Jordan, Accountant
Ms. Everlene Love, Assistant Director of Alabama Higher Education
Loan Corporation Accounting
Mrs. Yolanda McCree, Accountant
Mrs. Cheryl Newton, Student Assistance Administrator

Institutional Finance and Facilities

Ms. Susan Cagle, Director

Institutional Research

Mrs. Diane Sherman, Director
Mr. Willie Darden, Programmer
Mr. Jesse Keller, Programmer
Mrs. Subrena Simpkins, Analyst

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 Presidents. The current Council of College and University Presidents met four (4) times in 2004. Agendas included discussions of: The unified budget recommendation, the Federal Higher Education Reauthorization Act, and the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. The Council also heard presentations on legislative updates and from the State Department of Education on selected K-12 issues. Current members are:

Dr. John T. Gibson, *President*
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Jerry Bartlett, *President*
Athens State University

Dr. Guin Nance, *Chancellor*
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Jack Hawkins, *Chancellor*
Troy University

Dr. Cameron Martindale, *President*
Troy University Montgomery

Dr. Robert Witt, *President*
The University of Alabama

Dr. Robert McChesney, *President*
University of Montevallo

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

Dr. Malcolm Portera, *Chancellor*
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Gary Branch, *President*
Faulkner State Community College

Dr. Joe A. Lee, *President*
Alabama State University

Dr. Ed Richardson, *Interim President*
Auburn University

Dr. William Meehan, *Chair*
President, Jacksonville State University

Dr. Barbara Alford, *President*
Troy University Dothan

Dr. Carol Garrison, *President*
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Frank Franz, *President*
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Garry Warren, *Interim President*
University of North Alabama

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

Dr. Stafford Thompson, *President*
Enterprise Ozark Community College

Dr. Renee Culverhouse, *President*
Gadsden State Community College

Dr. Roy Johnson, *Chancellor*
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

The Alabama Council of Graduate Deans

The Alabama Council of Graduate Deans was established on June 9, 1971 to review and make recommendations to the Commission on proposals for new graduate programs. The Graduate Deans met four (4) times in 2004. Two (2) programs were submitted by institutions for the council's review. One program was recommended for approval and a second remains under review at year's end. Current members are:

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

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, *Provost
Vice President Academic Affairs
University of North Alabama*

Dr. Stephen McFarland, *Acting Associate
Provost Academic Affairs, Dean Graduate School
Auburn University*

Dr. Chandra Reddy, *Dean
Graduate Studies
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Terry Roberson, *Dean Graduate
Studies and College of Education
University of Montevallo*

Dr. Ronald Rogers, *Assistant
Vice President Academic Affairs
Dean Graduate School
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Cynthia Ryder, *Vice President
Academic Affairs
The United States Sports Academy*

Dr. Stewart Allen, *Interim Dean
Graduate Studies
Alabama State University*

Dr. Judy Stout, *Associate Vice President
Academic Affairs
University of South Alabama*

Ms. Tara Sudderth, *Dean Business
and Graduate Programs
Birmingham-Southern College*

Dr. Joe Wilkins, *Dean Graduate School
University of West Alabama*

Dr. Diane Barron, *Associate Provost
Dean of the Graduate School
Troy 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. Judy Bonner, *Provost*
The University of Alabama

Dr. Virginia Caples, *Provost/
Vice President Academic Affairs*
Alabama A&M University

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

Dr. Hal Fulmer, *Interim Associate Provost*
Troy University

Dr. Cynthia Lumpkin, *Professor of Education*
Academic Coordinator
Troy University Dothan

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs/Provost
University of North Alabama

Dr. Roger Ritvo, *Vice Chancellor*
Academic and Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

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

Dr. Eli Capilouto, *Acting Provost*
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Charles Chapman, *Dean*
Academic Affairs
Athens State University

Dr. Terry Dixon, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Troy University Montgomery

Dr. Tom Hanley, *Provost and*
Vice President Academic Affairs
Auburn University

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

Dr. Louis Radonovich, *Provost*
Vice President Academic Affairs
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Wayne Seelbach, *Provost*
Vice President Academic Affairs
University of Montevallo

Dr. Rebecca Turner, *Vice President*
Academic and Student Affairs
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Evelyn White, *Vice President Academic Affairs*
Alabama State University

The Financial Advisory Council

The predecessor to the Financial Advisory Council was established on June 9, 1971 as the Council of Business Managers. Current members are:

Dr. G. Clint Carlson, *Vice President*
Business Affairs
Jacksonville State University

Mr. Doug Clark, *Dean*
Financial Affairs
Athens State University

Mr. Robert Davis, *Assistant Vice President*
Financial Affairs
University of South Alabama

Dr. Lynda Gilbert, *Vice Chancellor*
Financial Affairs
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Daniel Howard, *Vice President*
University Advancement/ Administration
University of North Alabama

Ms. Cynthia Jarrett, *Vice President*
Business Affairs and Treasurer
University of Montevallo

Dr. John Lyons, *Vice President*
Planning and Information Management
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mr. Raiford Noland, *Vice President*
Business Affairs
University of West Alabama

Ms. Jacquelyn Roberts, *Vice Chancellor*
Financial and Administrative Services
Auburn University at Montgomery

Mr. Wayne Shaddix, *Director*
Government Relations/ Grants Management
Jefferson State Community College

Mr. Roger Chandler, *Vice President*
Finance and Administrative Services
Alabama Southern Community College

Ms. Debbie Dahl, *Vice Chancellor*
Fiscal and Information Services
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Dr. Leon Frazier, *Vice President*
Administrative Services
Alabama State University

Mr. Arthur Henderson, *Vice President*
Business and Finance
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Michele Jerrell, *Coordinator*
Institutional Research
Shelton State Community College

Mr. Sam Lowther, *Executive Director*
Planning and Analysis
Auburn University

Ms. Kim McNab, *Director*
Financial Affairs
Troy University Dothan

Mr. Ray Pinner, *Vice President*
Finance and Administration
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Angie Roling, *Vice President*
Institutional Research
Troy University

Mr. Ray White, *Vice President*
Administration/ Financial Affairs
Troy University Montgomery

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 and 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 HEIAG Steering Committee met six (6) times in 2004. Their activities included reviewing/checking a new edit program for the Alabama Statewide Student Database. Current members of the steering committee are:

Ms. Mary Beth Adams, *Assistant Director
Institutional Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Caula Beyl, *Director
Institutional Planning, Research, Evaluation
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Harriott Calhoun, *Director Institutional
Research and Information Services
Jefferson State Community College*

Ms. Kelly D'Eath, *Director
Institutional Research
Snead State Community College*

Dr. Priscilla Holland, *Director
Research Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
University of North Alabama*

Mr. Sam Lowther, *Executive Director
Planning and Analysis
Auburn University*

Mr. Lee Miller, *Auditor
Information Systems
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education*

Ms. Patricia Pratt, *Director
Institutional Effectiveness and
Assistant to the Provost
University of West Alabama*

Mr. Anthony Hardy, *Coordinator
Information Services
Jefferson Davis Community College*

Mr. Dan Tennimon, *Director
Institutional Research
Troy State University Montgomery*

Ms. Marilyn Radford, *Program Analyst
Calhoun State Community College*

Dr. Sue Baum, *Director
Computer Services
Enterprise Ozark Community College*

The Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability

This advisory council was established in 2004 in response to the Commission's adoption of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan). The purpose of the Council is to provide feedback to the Commission on the implementation of the State Plan. Representatives were appointed by members of the Council of College and University Presidents.

At the initial meeting of the Advisory Council on June 21, 2004, Council members agreed to a two-part strategy for reporting the degree to which progress is being made by Boards of Trustees and their institutions in addressing goals identified in the State Plan. In addition, a process for the compilation and maintenance of an inventory of institutional specialized programmatic accreditation by the Commission staff was established. Members of the Advisory Council are:

Dr. Judy Bonner, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama

Dr. Rebecca Turner, *Vice President*
Academic and Student Affairs
Jacksonville State University

Ms. Sherri Fulford, *Associate Director*
Government Affairs
Auburn University

Dr. Ed Roach, *Executive Vice Chancellor*
and Provost
Troy University

Dr. Daniel Howard, *Vice President*
University Advancement and Administration
University of North Alabama

Mr. Kenneth J. Proctor, *Dean*
College of Fine Arts
University of Montevallo

Mr. Rick Mould, *Dean*
University Relations
Athens State University

Mr. Dan Tennimon, *Director*
Institutional Research
Troy University Montgomery

Dr. Roger Ritvo, *Vice Chancellor*
Academic and Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. John Lyons, *Vice President*
Planning/Information Management
University of Alabama at Birmingham

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

Dr. C. Fay Raines, *Associate Provost*
Institutional Effectiveness
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Mr. Frank Hurley, *Director*
Institutional Research and Effectiveness
University of South Alabama

Dr. Caula Beyl, *Director*
Institutional Planning, Research and Evaluation
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Evelyn White, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Mr. Bob Romine, *Vice Chancellor*
Workforce Development/Adult Education
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Long-Range Planning

Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)⁶

The *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan) adopted by the Commission in August 2003, establishes a framework for institutions to develop their own plans within the context of individual institutional missions and financial resources. The expectation is that institutions will be able to measure the degree to which progress has been made toward the statewide goals and objectives at the end of the five-year period. The goals are: 1) *Access* to postsecondary education for all citizens; 2) *Cooperation* among stakeholders in Alabama's economic future; 3) *Quality* instructional programs; 4) *Resources* sufficient to allow citizens to reach education, cultural, social, and economic goals; and (5) *Workforce Development* that involves all segments of education toward the goal of economic prosperity for the state.

In 2004, major activities in the implementation of the State Plan were initiated by the leadership of both the public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in Alabama. The Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) initiated *Project QPA (Quality, Performance, and Accountability)*, a project designed to develop a model community college characterized by quality standards, performance indicators, and institutional accountability. The College Accountability Performance Profile (CAPP) endorsed in September 2004 by the State Board of Education, will be piloted during the 2004-05 academic year. To support the implementation of CAAP, Commission staff have provided student transfer data to ADPE. Commission staff are also working with ADPE on a data warehouse, known as Data Access and Exchange (DAX), and designed to handle various data collection and data reporting requirements.

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)

The Council of College and University Presidents on October 26, 2004 agreed to proceed with a two-part reporting process and timetable for institutional presentations on progress toward the statewide goals.

Trustee Reports. The eleven Boards of Trustees throughout the state will provide the first of their annual written reports of three to five pages to the Commission by May 1, 2005. These reports, compiled by Commission staff will include the mission of the institution(s), the strategies designed to address the statewide goals identified in the State Plan, and a roster of Board membership. It is the expectation that the annual reports will not only inform the public on the level of accountability and accomplishments of our public institutions but will inform Commissioners on the public policy issues to be addressed by the legislature and serve as a basis for the next cycle in long-range planning.

Institutional Reports. Over the five-year period of the State Plan, presidents of the four-year institutions and selected two-year institutions will make public presentations before the Commission at regularly scheduled Commission meetings. These oral reports may be accompanied by one to five page written abstracts.

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. (Acts 1996, No. 96-509, p. 647). During 2004, all two-year and four-year public institutions submitted production data on their students for the Summer 2003, Fall 2003, and Spring 2004 terms to the Commission. The Alabama Statewide Student Database contains a combined total of over 3 million student records submitted during the past six (6) years.

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 data base 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)

The following mandated reports have been produced using the Alabama Statewide Student Database:

High School Report. Identifies the number of high school seniors who enrolled in Alabama public institutions of higher education in the Fall 2003. The report also provides the number of students who took remedial math and remedial English courses.

Transfer/Migration Report. Identifies the number of students who have transferred to and from Alabama public institutions.

Tuition Residency Report. Provides summary information on the type of tuition paid by students.

Retention Report. Tracks first-time degree-seeking freshmen students to the second year of enrollment. The Commission's staff is now processing the fourth year of unit record completions data.

In 2004, the Commission's staff initiated a new Student Database edit program designed to give institutional staff an executable program they can run on their personal computers to edit their data before it is sent to the Commission. This change will place more responsibility for accountability of data with the institutions and will result in a tremendous decrease in the amount of Commission staff time that is required currently to edit this data. It will also give the institutions quicker turn-around time on responses from data edits.

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

The Alabama Statewide Faculty Database is a work in progress. 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 (Acts 1996, No. 96-771, p. 1421). In 2004, discussions were held with the Council of Chief Academic Officers and the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans on how to proceed with the construction of this database. The target date for establishing an agenda for the implementation of the faculty database is June 2005.

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 the 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. 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, institutional employees by assigned positions, institutional employee salaries, institutional staff for the Fall term, student enrollment, student completions, student financial aid, graduation rates, and institutional financial reports.

Currently, the NCES is conducting a feasibility study about the possibility of redesigning the IPEDS collection of student-related data to incorporate individual and student unit records. If implemented, this system would alter completely the current IPEDS collection process. The proposed use of unit records in the IPEDS collection process would allow for improved calculations of graduation rates and other policy variables as well as provide better aggregate data for reporting on retention and transfers across states or sectors.

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 Review*¹⁰

A declaration instituting a moratorium on the implementation of new units of instruction was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on May 2003. The *Alabama Commission on Higher Education Declaration to Curtail New Academic Program Expansion* remained in effect during 2004 and will extend to September 1, 2005.

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)

Caveats within the Declaration provided for the following exceptions to the rule:

- New programs solely funded with documented non-state appropriated resources
- New programs created when existing programs are deleted from the Commission's inventory
- New programs created under rigorously documented market demand(s)
- New programs related to "external imperatives", i.e., Title VI, *No Child Left Behind*, regional or professional accreditation, etc.
- New programs created as a result of mergers, partnerships, or consolidations of units of instruction when cost savings can be rigorously demonstrated.

New academic programs approved in 2004 as exempt from the moratorium were:

Alabama State University

*Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Microbiology
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Music*

Troy University

Bachelor of Science in Geomatics

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Bachelor of Science in Information Systems

Calhoun State Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Networking Technology
Associate in Applied Science in Process Technology*

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Associate in Applied Science in Visual Communications

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Nursing
Associate in Applied Science in Child Development*

Northeast Alabama Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assisting
Associate in Applied Science in Child Development
Certificate in Practical Nursing*

Shelton State Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Culinary Arts
Certificate in Emergency Medical Services
Certificate in Criminal Justice*

Snead State Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Nursing
Certificate in Practical Nursing*

Extensions and alterations of existing programs and units of instruction approved in 2004:

Troy State University Dothan

Addition of a Concentration in Psychological Technician to the Existing Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology (CIP 42.0401)¹¹

University of North Alabama

Addition of an Option in Language Arts to the Existing Bachelor of Arts in English (CIP 23.0101)

G. C. Wallace State Community College Selma

Addition of Options in Accounting, Computer Systems Technology, and Information Processing to the Existing Certificate and Associate in Applied Science in Office Administration (CIP 52.0401)
Addition of an Option in Management and Supervision to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Business (CIP 52.0201)

Alabama A&M University

Addition of Concentrations in Aquatic Administration, Exercise Science, and Sport Management to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Physical Education (CIP 13.1314)

Central Alabama State Community College

Addition of Options in Industrial Electronics Technology, Industrial Electronics and Instrumentation, and Industrial Maintenance Technology to the Existing Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Industrial Electronics (CIP 47.0105)

Shelton State Community College

Addition of Options to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Management and Supervision (CIP 52.0101)

Southern Union State Community College

Addition of Options in Medical Coding and Medical Transcription to the Existing Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Office Administration (CIP 52.0401)

University of Alabama in Birmingham

Addition of an Option in Chemical Education to the Existing Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (CIP 40.0501)
Consolidation of the Bachelor of Arts in French (CIP 16.0901) and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (CIP 16.0905) into the Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages (CIP 16.0101)

¹¹Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)

University of Alabama in Huntsville

*Addition of an Emphasis in Jazz to the Existing Bachelor of Arts in Music
(CIP 50.0901)*

The University of Alabama

*Addition of a Concentration in Church Music to the Existing Master of Music in
General Music (CIP 50.0901)*

University of Alabama at Birmingham

*Implementation of Fast-Track Options in the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences,
the Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management, and the Master of
Science in Health Informatics*

University of North Alabama

*Addition of an Option in General Science to the Existing Bachelor of Arts and
Bachelor of Science in Physics (CIP 40.0801)*

*Addition of a New Option in Banking and Financial Services to the Existing Bachelor
of Business Administration in Finance*

*Addition of an Option in Foreign Languages Education to the Existing Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages
(CIP 16.0101)*

*Addition of a Concentration in Child Development to the Existing Bachelor of Science in General Home
Economics (CIP 19.0101)*

University of South Alabama

*Addition of Concentrations in Service Management and Entrepreneurship to the
Existing Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management
(CIP 52.0201)*

Program Viability¹²

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. To date there has been a sixty-five percent (65%) reduction in non-viable programs. In 2004, Commission staff compiled an additional three years of data on the core liberal arts programs.

¹²As 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)

Off-Campus Offerings¹³

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 curriculum, faculty, administration, equipment, learning resources and student services. Council on Occupational Education (COE) guidelines apply to institutions accredited by the agency. The Commission approved the following new exempt sites in 2004¹⁴:

Alabama Southern Community College

Demopolis Center, Demopolis, Alabama

Jefferson State Community College

Warrior High School, Warrior, Alabama

Pell City High School, Pell City, Alabama

Jefferson State Community College

Warrior High School, Warrior, Alabama

Pell City High School, Pell City, Alabama

¹³The 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 nonconcurrence 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)

¹⁴The Commission guidelines for the regulation of off-campus instruction provide for exemptions to: Sites where courses are delivered by distance learning, high school sites where courses are taught exclusively to high school students enrolled in early admission, accelerated, or dual enrollment/dual credit programs, courses offered on an individual study basis, two-year college sites located within their respective Alabama State Board of Education approved service areas, and university sites located within their respective home counties and contiguous counties.

Ingram State Technical College
Tarwater L.I.F.E. Tech, Wetumpka, Alabama

Snead State Community College
Oneonta Instructional Site, Oneonta, Alabama

G. C. Wallace State Community College Dothan
*Wallace Community College Center for Economics and Workforce Development,
Dothan, Alabama*

The University of Alabama
Alabama Public Library Service, Montgomery, Alabama

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Luverne Junior High School, Luverne, Alabama

***Articulation and General Studies Committee/
Statewide
Transfer and Articulation Reporting System
(AGSC/STARS)¹⁵***

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

¹⁵The 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 nonvoting 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)

a statewide general studies curriculum; 2) To provide for the computation of grade point averages of certain transferred students¹⁶; 3) To specify that the Act would not impede the objectives of historically black institutions¹⁷; 4) To provide for implementation conditioned on the participation of certain institutions¹⁸; and 5) To specify certain reporting requirements¹⁹. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for the state appropriation to AGSC/STARS. For current information on activities of the AGSC see: www.stars.troyst.edu.

In 2004, the AGSC focused on four priority objectives. The first was to improve communication about the program by creating Institutional Points of Contact to maintain information flow between AGSC/STARS and their respective campuses. Four workshops were held across Alabama to train the newly-appointed institutional representatives. The second was to revitalize the academic committees by holding statewide workshops for more than fifty (50) faculty members for the purpose of discussing their roles and responsibilities. To increase the visibility of the program throughout the state, the third objective, STARS staff made presentations to an estimated 2000 students at various “High School Days” and “College Preview Days”. The fourth was to redesign the website to improve navigation for end-users.

Notable achievements in 2004:

- The website is featured as a national model on the “Access to the Baccalaureate” website, a joint venture between the American Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.
- The AGSC/STARS Program is identified on the “Path to College” website as a “promising practice” model for state articulation agreements.

¹⁶Ala. Code §16-5-8.1

¹⁷Ala. Code §16-5-8.2

¹⁸Ala. Code §16-5-8.3

¹⁹Ala. Code §16-5-8.4

At the annual planning meeting, awards were presented to the following individuals in recognition of their leadership as Chairs of the Steering Committee during its ten-year history:

Dr. Don Crump, <i>The University of Alabama</i>	1994-95
Dr. Joe Morris, <i>Jefferson State Community College</i>	1996-97
Dr. Paul Parks, <i>Auburn University</i>	1997-98
Dr. Evelyn Ellis, <i>Alabama A&M University</i>	1998-99
Dr. Roy Johnson, <i>Southern Union Community College</i>	1999-00
Dr. Rod Britt, <i>Southern Union Community College</i>	2000-01
Dr. Michael Malone, <i>Troy State University Dothan</i>	2001-02
Dr. Bert Slafter, <i>Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education</i>	2002-03
Dr. Linda Glaze, <i>Auburn University</i>	2003-04

Members of the Articulation and General Studies Committee

Regional Universities

Dr. William Meehan, *President*
Jacksonville State University

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

Dr. Ed Roach, *Executive Vice Chancellor*
and Provost
Troy University

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, *Alternate*
Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost
University of North Alabama

Two-Year Colleges

Mrs. Susan Salatto, *Chair*
Interim President
Central Alabama Community College

Dr. Joe Morris, *Alternate*
Dean of Instruction
Jefferson State Community College

Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, *President*
Bishop State Community College

Ms. Susan Price, *Alternate*
Vice Chancellor for Instructional
and Student Services
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Dr. Rod Britt, *Dean*
Academic Division
Southern Union State Community College

Mrs. Linda Johnson, *Alternate*
Assistant to the President
Southern Union State Community College

Auburn University

Dr. Linda Glaze, *Assistant Provost
for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Rebekah H. Pindzola, *Alternate
Interim Dean
College of Liberal Arts*

The University of Alabama System

Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick, *Vice Chair
Dean of Liberal Arts
University of Alabama at Huntsville*

Dr. Charles Nash, *Alternate
Vice Chancellor
The University of Alabama System*

University of South Alabama

Dr. Judy Stout, *Associate Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Dr. John Coker, *Alternate
Department of Philosophy*

Alabama State University

Dr. Alfred Smith, *Assistant Vice
President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Evelyn M. White, *Alternate
Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Alabama A&M University

Dr. Shirley Houser, *Assistant to the
Provost*

Dr. Barbara A.P. Jones, *Alternate
Dean of the School of Business*

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Michael E. Malone
*Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, *Alternate
Director Office of Institutional
Effectiveness and Planning
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Keith Sessions, *Executive Director
AGSC/STARS
Troy State University*

Unified Budget Recommendation

Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975)²⁰

The Commission presents to the Governor and Legislature a single unified budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations for each institution. The recommendation is based on, but not limited to, institutional requests, standard techniques of objective measurement and need and unit cost figures arrived at through the use of comparative, verified data from other states as well as findings of reports using information supplied by the institutions and compiled by the Commission.

The Commission voted unanimously in December 2004 to recommend a \$1.3 billion budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year, an increase of approximately eleven percent (11%) over the previous year. Not since 1988 have the state's forty-three (43) public schools of higher learning presented a unified front. The proposal was given across the board consent by the Council of College and University Presidents.

²⁰The 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)

The recommendation was based on the following (not in order of priority):

- That each institution receive its last year's total appropriation as its base. Funds previously associated with Knigh t v. Alabama were rolled into the base except for Alabama State University, for which the Court still requires certain line-item funding. The FY 2004-05 funds are also reflected in the FY 2005-2006 Recommendation;
- Public Education Employees Health Insurance Program (PEEHIP) rate increase (the state provided health insurance, two-year public institutions, JSU and Athens only) and retirement rate increases;
- Amount needed to cover the requirements of Act 2003-473. This Act required the public senior institutions not already participating in PEEHIP to cover the cost of their employees who enter PEEHIP after retiring;
- Amount need to cover the cost of a four-percent (4.0%) employee compensation increase. (Four-percent was used in the calculations; however, this percent should be adjusted to reflect the amount allocated to K-12 for employee compensation; and
- Increases to bring the percent recommended for the two-year colleges to the same level as the four-year institutions.

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*²¹

The findings of *Measuring Up 2004: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education* were presented to the Commission at the September 2004 meeting. The first in this series of biennial reports published by the National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education was issued in 2000; the second was released in October 2002. These statewide reports attempt to measure the degree to which all higher education resources in each state are responding to the need for a college educated citizenry as well as fulfilling the aspirations of an increasingly diverse population, regardless of race, gender, socio-economic condition, age, or employment status. Six performance categories were identified as essential to the quality of higher education: Preparation, participation, affordability, completion, benefits, and learning. The Alabama Report Card identified the following successes and weaknesses.

Successes

Preparation. In line with nationwide increases on this measure, a higher percentage of secondary students are taught by qualified teachers than a decade ago.

Completion. Alabama is one of the top ten states in improvement in this area due to the number of freshman at community colleges and four-year universities who return for their second year.

Benefits. Although Alabama has narrowed the gap between whites and minority ethnic groups in the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree, the gap remains large.

²¹The 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)

Weaknesses

Preparation. Alabama is one of the lowest performing states in the percentage of young people earning a high school credential. The scores of 8th graders on national assessments in math, science, reading and writing are low compared with other states. Compared with a decade ago, a smaller percentage of minority and low-income youth are graduating from high school and there is a smaller proportion of 11th and 12th graders taking and scoring well on advanced placement and college entrance exams.

Participation. During the past decade there has been a serious decline in the likelihood of 9th graders enrolling in college within four years. In addition, a very low percentage of working-age adults were enrolled in college-level education or training. Meanwhile, about twenty percent (20%) of adults do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, compared with fourteen percent (14%) of adults nationwide.

Affordability: Alabama has lost ground in providing students and families with affordable higher education because of the state's low investment in need-based financial aid and exponential increases in postsecondary tuition and fees. Alabama families devote a large share of income, even after financial aid, to attend public two-year and four-year colleges and universities. The net college costs of low- and middle-income students attending two-year institutions represent thirty-seven percent (37%) of annual family income. For the same students at public four-year institutions, the net college costs represent forty percent (40%) of family income. Information on the *Alabama Report Card* and *Measuring Up* reports are available at <http://www.highereducation.org>.

Recommended Legislation²²

Senate Bill 295 was introduced in the 2004 Legislative Session by Senators Dixon, Myers, and Waggoner to amend §§16-5-3, 16-5-4, 16-5-6, 16-5-9, 16-5-10, and 16-64-4, Code of Alabama 1975. This bill proposed additional authority for the Commission that included: The establishment of mission statements for higher education institutions, designation of the role and scope of each institution of higher education in the state, the termination of programs at institutions of higher education, the development of guidelines for an annual assessment of student achievement and administrative accountability, provisions for all remedial education to be vested in the Department of Postsecondary Education, the establishment of tuition rates for nonresident students in Alabama's public institutions of higher education, and the development and administration of a rising junior exam. Senate Bill 295 was passed by the Senate but failed to be reported out of the Education Finance and Appropriations Committee in the House.

Advice and Counsel Provided to the Governor²³

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

²²To 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)

²³To 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)

Definitions of Junior College, Community College, Technical College, Senior College, University and University System²⁴

Definitions last revised in October 2001.

Published Criteria for Changing the Classification of Public Institutions or Need for New Institutions²⁵

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.

Studies Made for the Purpose of Classifying and Prescribing the Role and Scope for Each Public Institution²⁶

In 1990, the Commission created the concept of 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.

²⁴To 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)

²⁵To 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)

²⁶To 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 Scope²⁷

In 2004 there were no role and scope changes for the institutions approved by the Commission.

Studies Made of the Financial Needs of Public Higher Education²⁸

There was no request by the Governor or the Legislature to initiate a study on the financial needs of higher education during 2004.

Annual Report to the Legislature²⁹

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

²⁷To 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)

²⁸To 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)

²⁹To 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 Act³⁰

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). During the year 2004, there was one amendment to the Alabama Administrative Code, Chapter 300-2-1.02: Review and Approval or Disapproval of Proposed Postsecondary Courses or Programs of Instruction in Alabama by Non-Alabama Institutions. The Commission's Section 300-1-1, et seq. of the Alabama Administrative Code is available through the Alabama Legislative Reference Service, at the Alabama Supreme Court Library, or online at www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us.

Formal Consortia for the Advancement of Higher Education in Alabama³¹

THE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO SUPPORT COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency. 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 Project Investigators for each of the federal programs who are responsible for the administration of activities of their respective components in collaboration with the Executive Director. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for the state appropriation to EPSCoR. For current information on activities of the EPSCoR see: www.alepscor.ua.edu.

³⁰To 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)

³¹To 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)

Over two hundred eighteen (218) faculty, two hundred eighty-five (285) students, and thirty-eight (38) staff members of Alabama's seven research universities and other state institutions participated in Alabama EPSCoR in 2004 along with over sixty-eight (68) industrial, government, and federal laboratory partners. Between 2000 and 2004, the State of Alabama invested \$4.5 million into the state's \$9 million Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) NSF/EPSCoR program that in turn allowed our faculty and researchers to win \$30 million in non-EPSCoR federal grants and private contributions. These RII program funds were used to sustain activities furthering the goals of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*. This investment of \$43.5 million in the people, research infrastructure and education system of our state would not be possible without EPSCoR.

Major activities for the EPSCoR Steering Committee in 2004 included restoration of Alabama's eligibility for the Department of Energy/EPSCoR competitive grant program, the approval of substantive revisions to the by-laws, and the adoption of a strategic plan.

Notable achievements in 2004:

- The research infrastructure and improvement (RII) proposal to the NSF has received a favorable review. Confirmation of funding from NSF is pending. (January 2005)
- The Alabama Space Grant Consortium (Space Grant) was rated number one in 2004 following a ten-year review of fifty-two (52) University-Based Consortia. The Space Grant Consortium was one of the grant programs established under the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program established by Congress in 1988. During the ten-year period of review, seventy-nine percent (79%) of Space Grant awardees and all science educator awardees were from Alabama.
- An award from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the project, "Market, Urbanization and Forest/Agricultural Land Use Change in the Southern United States", was selected for co-funding. This was the top ranked proposal in the USDA competition.

Members of the Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee

Mr. David Echols, Chair
Senior Project Manager
Alabama Economic Development Office

Dr. Keith McDowell, Executive Director
Vice President Research
The University of Alabama

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, Vice Chair
Director/Office of Institutional Effectiveness
and Planning
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Shaik Jeelani, Vice President
Research and Sponsored Programs
Tuskegee University

Dr. Sadis Matalon, Acting Vice President
Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Michael Moriarty, Associate Provost
Vice President for Research
Auburn University

Dr. Judy Stout, Associate Vice President
Research/Dean of the Graduate School
University of South Alabama

Mr. Robert C. Lonergan, President
Southern Research Institute

Mr. Jim Hayes, President
Economic Development Partnership
of Alabama

Dr. Rose Yates, Vice President
Research
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Michael E. Malone, Executive
Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Ms. Jessica Dent, Program Manager
Science, Technology, and Energy
Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs

Dr. Lawrence R. Greenwood, Senior
Vice President for Research
University of Alabama

Dr. Marianne Woods, Associate Vice
President for Research
The University of Alabama

THE NETWORK OF ALABAMA ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) was established in response to recommendations of a report prepared in 1982 by the Commission's Council of Librarians and subsequently endorsed by the Councils of Graduate Deans, Academic Officers, and Presidents. The report, "Cooperative Resource Sharing Among Universities Supporting Graduate Study in Alabama", advocated sharing collective library resources to enhance graduate education in Alabama, developing an online network of library holdings, and developing criteria for the assessment of libraries.

In 2004, NAAL continued to build on accomplishments of the past twenty (20) years. These accomplishments include advances in the use of technology which have changed the way librarians identify, select, and deliver information for their users. Innovations such as the internet, World Wide Web, online indexing and abstracting databases, electronic text, and digital images have placed the library at the fingertips of faculty and students researching from their own workstations. The members of NAAL are committed to: Sustaining the statewide online catalog of university libraries' holdings, searchable from any Alabama library to determine what information resources are owned in-state; lending library materials among all academic libraries without charge to the borrowing students or faculty; maintaining rapid delivery of requested materials through interlibrary loan; achieving financial savings through shared acquisitions of online research databases, and supporting the Alabama Virtual Library to assure equity, economy, and excellence in the provision of information services for all Alabamians.

NAAL has emphasized as well in the past year, the recruitment and retention of professional librarians to sustain the high level of services provided to Alabama students and faculty; increased the ability of users to find information about Alabama by contributing digital materials to *AlabamaMosaic*, the web portal for Alabama history; and worked to develop a distributed archival program to assure long-term access to Alabama state publications posted online by state agencies.

NAAL's vision, to continue successful initiatives by sharing existing resources, planning for an increasingly digital information future, and collaborating with other groups to assure every student, faculty member, and other researchers access to information resources and services needed for education, research, and lifelong learning, mirrors the goals of *Access, Cooperation, Quality, and Resources* of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*.

Notable achievements in 2004:

NAAL achieved notable recognition as an exemplary model for providing information services required for excellence in education.

Member Institutions of NAAL

Alabama A&M University	Auburn University at Montgomery
Alabama State University	Birmingham-Southern College
Athens State University	Faulkner University
Auburn University	Jacksonville State University
Troy University	Troy University Dothan
Troy University Montgomery	Samford University
Spring Hill College	Tuskegee University
The University of Alabama	University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Mobile	University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Montevallo	University of North Alabama
University of West Alabama	University of South Alabama
United States Sports Academy	University of South Alabama
Air University	Supreme Court Library
Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory	Alabama Public Library Service
Birmingham Public Library	

Alabama Commission on Higher Education
Redstone Scientific Information Center
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Affiliated Institutions

Concordia College	Oakwood College
Huntingdon College	Southern Christian University
Judson College	Stillman College
Miles College	Talladega College

THE ALABAMA VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) is primarily a group of online databases that have magazine, journal, and newspaper articles for research. AVL provides all 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 represents a more encompassing coalition designed to extend the concept of sharing databases with K-12 school systems, two-year colleges, and public libraries. The effectiveness of AVL continues to draw praises from a variety of sources. At the January 2004 meeting of AVL, Hilit V. Kravitz, Professional Development Manager for the Encyclopedia Britannica made these comments:

There are very few states that have such a comprehensive and extensive program like AVL. AVL offers such a great collection of resources with so many useful databases, and it is available to every person and student in Alabama! Many states try to offer something like AVL, but it is usually much smaller in scope, with fewer databases and only certain segments of the population. I think it is really amazing that Alabama has managed to unite the schools, public libraries, and colleges and universities. I am also very impressed with the setup and organization of the program....In particular, the Alabama Supercomputer Authority is clearly a big part of what keeps the program running so smoothly. I don't think Britannica has any other states that are run as efficiently as AVL in terms of giving access to all of the schools, libraries, and institutions.

The state agencies participating in the AVL Council are the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, the Alabama Public Library Service, the Alabama State Department of Education, and the Alabama Supercomputer Authority.

Alabama Virtual Library Council Members

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Paul Mohr, Chair
Director of Special Programs
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Janice Franklin, Director
Levy Watkins Learning Center
Alabama State University

Ms. Sherida Downer, Acting Director
Auburn University Libraries
Auburn University

Alabama State Department of Education

Ms. Denise Oliver, Education Specialist
Office of Technology Initiatives

Ms. Glenda Vinson, Technology Coordinator
Oneonta City Schools

Ms. Jane Smith, Director of Media Services
Tuscaloosa County Schools

Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Ms. Lucinda M. Beddow
Head Librarian
Calhoun State Community College

Ms. Zenobia L. Blackmon
Head Librarian
H. Council Trenholm State Technical College

Ms. Alicia Taylor, Director of Academic Programs
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Alabama Public Library Service

Ms. Margaret Hillhouse, *Member*
Board of Trustees
Centre Public Library

Ms. Bonnie Seymour, *Vice Chair*
Director
Anniston-Calhoun Public Library

Ms. Barbara Sirmans, *Director*
Birmingham Public Library

Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Mr. Wayne Whitmore, *Secretary*
Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Kim Carroll
Chief Fiscal Officer

Ms. Lisa Woodard
Education and Outreach Director

*Programs of Public Information*³²

THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION WEBSITE

During 2004, in consultation with the Information Services Division of the Alabama Department of Finance, the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us was restructured to facilitate access to information about the Commission and its activities, links to the public two-year and four-year institutions and agencies regionally and nationwide that are concerned with matters of interest to higher education. The website also posts the following information generated by the Commission:

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM INVENTORY

The Academic Program Inventory provides a list of all instructional programs approved by the Commission for two-year and four-year public institutions. It is organized into two formats: 1) Field of Study, and 2) Institution. Since the inventory is updated after each Commission meeting, it is a continuously changing document. Programs in the inventory are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy by which academic programs are organized to provide accurate tracking, assessment, and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity. Programs in the Commission's Academic Program Inventory are listed by six digit CIP codes. CIP was originally developed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in 1980, with revisions in 1985 and 1990. In 2004, there was a conversion from the 1990 CIP taxonomy to the 2000 edition of the code.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

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 enrollment and completions, faculty salaries, institutional facilities, and tuition and fees for Alabama two-year and four-year public institutions.

³²To 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)

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 years.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Commissioners, the Executive Director of the Commission as well as the Commission's Office of Communications and other staff have participated in numerous events across the state in 2004 including:

The Go Alliance. A collaborative group of thirteen (13) Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states dedicated to sharing resources promoting higher education. (September 2004)

Black Belt Workforce Development Committee. A group of education and business leaders appointed by Governor Bob Riley to address education and training issues in the Black Belt region.

Workforce Development Information Technology Committee. A committee commissioned by the Workforce Development Policy Council, established by executive order of the Governor in 2003, to determine the capability and desire of workforce development agencies to share information in the interest of efficiency and effectiveness.

I-85 Corridor Alliance. A partnership organization consisting of local government, private sector organizations, and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama.

Alabama Deaf-Blind Multi-Handicapped Coalition A coalition chaired by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services with representation from the Alabama Department of Mental Health, the Alabama Medicaid Agency, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and selected hearing/sight impaired groups. This group is exploring and networking ways to address the needs of persons with physical limitations and in particular to provide increased educational opportunities for this segment of the population.

AlabamaMentor.org. A major publicity effort to publicize the Alabama Mentor program throughout Alabama began in July 2004. This is an on-line service that allows a prospective student for higher education to release his or her profile of information to higher education institutions in the state. In effect, high school students offer themselves as “recruits”.

Getting Ready for College. Developed to increase college enrollment, the Commission’s Office of Communications “Getting Ready for College” program is aimed at preparing K-12 students for higher education both academically and financially.

Media Events.

- As a result of media coverage of the Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program, more than fifty (50) phone calls seeking additional information were received. *Alabama leads the Southern Regional Education Board states with the number of graduates of this program.*
- A keynote address by Robert Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C., to the Alabama Library Association’s Digital Library Leadership Conference on library digitization.
- Coverage of the delegation of Russian educators’ visit to Montgomery sponsored by the University of Alabama at Huntsville’s Office of International Programs.

*The Higher Education Act of 1965*³³

The chief executive officers of state higher education agencies across the nation continually monitor developments and participate in discussions of national higher education public policy issues through the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) organization. Activities during 2004 included:

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. In support of the reauthorization of this legislation and in response to a request from Senators Judd Gregg and Ted Kennedy, Chair and ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, a position statement was prepared that included the importance of access and affordability, ensuring accountability, and academic preparation. These are related to the goals identified in the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* adopted by the Commission in 2003.

National Commission on Accountability in Education. Through the financial support of the Ford Foundation, SHEEO has launched a study commission whose membership includes former governors, legislative leaders, state higher education executives, institutional leaders, and business representatives to review ways that the states have improved performance in higher education and their experience in using accountability systems toward that end. The National Commission met on May 10, 2004 in Washington D.C. to hear and consider testimony provided by associations and accreditation organizations, state higher education agencies, and a research advisory group. A summary of oral testimony and discussion is in preparation.

³³To 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)

Non-Resident Institutional Review³⁴

In 2004, twenty-four (24) institutions/corporations were reviewed in compliance with the Commission's mandate to monitor the activities of non-resident institutions operating in Alabama. Non-resident institutions are defined as postsecondary institutions or corporations offering educational programs in Alabama with main campuses or headquarters located outside the state, and include public and private, for profit (proprietary) and non-profit colleges and universities.

The Commission coordinates its program review of institutions operating as foreign corporations with the Division of Licensure of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE). Of the more than two hundred (200) private/proprietary institutions licensed by the ADPE during 2004, thirty-three (33) institutions/corporations were operating as foreign corporations. Four (4) of the licensed institutions have no physical sites in the state but solicit students for out-of-state programs through agents. Five (5) of the licensed institutions offer on-line programs only and have no physical sites in the state. The remaining twenty-four (24) of the licensed institutions offer programs at more than forty-nine (49) locations throughout Alabama. In accord with Alabama Commission on Higher Education criteria for review that includes annual on-site visitations, the following institutions were approved to offer programs at designated sites in Alabama during 2004:

Columbia College
Columbia, Missouri

ITT Technical Services
Indianapolis, Indiana

Concordia Theological Seminary
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Lesley University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Concordia University
Seward, Nebraska

National Graduate School of Quality Management
Falmouth, Massachusetts (Inactive)

³⁴To 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)

Covenant Theological Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri (Inactive)

Nova Southeastern University
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
University**
Daytona Beach, Florida

University of St. Francis
Joliet, Illinois

Florida Institute of Technology
Melbourne, Florida

Southern Regional Compact for Education and Other Special Programs

Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)³⁵

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 people that he or she appoints, including at least one state legislator and at least one educator.

SREB Board Members

Governor Bob Riley

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr.,
State Representative
Prattville, Alabama

Dr. Ed Richardson
Interim President
Auburn University

Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenreid
Executive Director
Alabama Association of School Boards

Mr. Charlie D. Waldrep
Birmingham, Alabama

SREB Legislative Advisory Council Members

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr.
State Representative
Prattville, Alabama

Mr. Larry Dixon
State Senator
Montgomery, Alabama

Ms. Vivian Davis Figures, State Senator
Mobile, Alabama

³⁵The 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

This Cooperative, comprised of state higher education and K-12 coordinating and governing boards, focuses on ways to help state leaders create and expand 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 *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 force will also focus on the use of online learning to meet the important and growing needs for quality professional development.

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 enrolled in out-of-state universities that offer specialized degree programs pay in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents have access to two hundred twenty-four (224) programs offered in other states at the following levels: Baccalaureate (sixty-nine programs), Master's (one hundred programs) and Doctoral (fifty-five programs).

To qualify for the SREB Academic Common Market, a student must be a resident of an 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 South Alabama
Auburn University
University of West Alabama
Jacksonville State University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Troy State University
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Alabama
University of North 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 this, students could be assured of the quality and integrity of the courses and programs available in the Electronic Campus, that comparable information would be provided to help students in making decisions that best met their needs, and that students could quickly and easily search the large database of course and program offerings. Those qualities have been retained since 1998.

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 one-stop source of information and resources for teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, teacher aides and others who aspire to become teachers. The center allows educators to find all of the 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
Calhoun Community College
Enterprise-Ozark Community College
Jacksonville State University
Jefferson State Community College
Lawson State Community College
Snead State Community College
Southern Christian University
Troy State University
Troy State University Montgomery
United States Sports Academy
University of Alabama
University of Alabama - Birmingham
University of North Alabama
Wallace Community College - Dothan**

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. The following states 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

Louisiana

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Veterinary Medicine

Auburn University and Tuskegee University

Mississippi*Optometry**University of Alabama at Birmingham***North Carolina***Optometry**University of Alabama at Birmingham***South Carolina***Optometry**University of Alabama at Birmingham***Virginia***Optometry**University of Alabama at Birmingham**Veterinary Medicine**Tuskegee University*

The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program was created in 1993 to increase the number of minority scholars who earn doctorates and seek to become faculty members at colleges and universities where they are underrepresented. Student eligibility for scholarship is dependent upon unconditional acceptance into a doctoral program.

Notable achievements in 2004:

- Alabama was one of six states to support scholars in 1993. Today, Alabama has forty-four (44) matriculating scholars and thirty-five (35) graduates.
- Because of the program's success, court officials for Knight v. Alabama have encouraged Alabama's traditionally white institutions to consider these minority doctoral scholars as they respond to the Court's 1991, 1995, and 2002 mandates to increase the employment of African American faculty and administrators.

Quadrennial Review of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-12 (1975)³⁶

Since the first quadrennial review of the Commission was conducted (1975), there have been six additional evaluations of the Commission's performance and effectiveness. The report of the last quadrennial review was published February 1999. The timetable of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda for the implementation for the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* calls for the initiation of the eighth quadrennial review to be conducted in 2006 with the report presented to the Governor and Legislature in 2007.

³⁶Two 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

Governing Boards

Ala. Code §16-5-13 (1975)³⁷

Alabama's governance structure for higher education invests authority in eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that are responsible for the forty-three (43) 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 2004 included the initiation of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda for the implementation of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2005-06* 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 Bequests Received by the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-14 (1975)³⁸

No activities reported for 2004.

³⁷Governing 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)

³⁸The 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)³⁹

Each public two-year and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests to the Commission in October 2004. Commission staff are reviewing the information and preparing a report to be submitted to the Legislature and the Governor.

³⁹Each 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

The powers and duties described in the following sections are delegated to the Commission by federal or Alabama statutes other than Ala. Code §16-5-1 et seq.

Alabama Student Grant Program⁴⁰

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant program that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, nonprofit Alabama colleges and universities. This program helps bridge the cost differential between public and private institutions, and provides Alabama students an opportunity to take programs and courses at private institutions. During 2003-04, nine thousand five hundred one (9,501) awards were given at an average of \$170 per student for a total distribution of \$1,618,059.

Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program⁴¹

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

⁴⁰The 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)

⁴¹The 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)

geared to maintaining troop strength in Alabama. During 2003-04, six hundred seventy-four (674) awards were given at an average of \$398 per student for a total distribution of \$422,314.

Teacher Education Scholarship Loan Program⁴²

The Emergency Secondary Education Scholarship Program provided for a scholarship, loan program to attract able students into the teaching profession in the subject areas of mathematics, science, computer education and other critical areas. Recipients agreed to teach in the public schools of Alabama for three (3) years following the completion of teacher education requirements to qualify for loan forgiveness. The funding for this program has been discontinued.

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance⁴³

The Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Education 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. During 2003-04, twenty-one (21) awards were given at an average of \$4,461 per student for a total distribution of \$93,677.

⁴²There is created the Teacher Education Scholarship Loan Trust Fund. The fund shall be a non-reverting fund used by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to provide scholarship loans under this program. Annual appropriations from the Special Educational Trust Fund shall be made to the fund. Scholarship loan repayments and interest proceeds shall be deposited in the fund. Ala. Code §16-23-24 (d) (1975)

⁴³There 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)

Alabama Student Assistance Program⁴⁴

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 assist 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. During 2003-04, two thousand six hundred ninety-seven (2,697) awards were given at an average of \$398 per student for a total distribution of \$1,072,561. The state failed to appropriate in 2004 the required maintenance of effort necessary to qualify for the federal funds.⁴⁵

Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers⁴⁶

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 courses specifically designed to help them integrate technology into the school curriculum and is the first of its kind in the country. During 2003-04, four hundred seventy-six (476) awards were given to Alabama K-12 public school teachers at an average of \$994 per teacher for a total distribution of \$472,961.

⁴⁴The 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.

⁴⁵The Commission's Legislative Budget Request for FY 2005-06 includes an increase for the Alabama Student Assistance Program which would first equalize funding for this program with the amount that the Alabama Educational Grant Program (AEGP) received in FY 2004-05. Also, the Commission requests that half of the funds received by the AEGP in FY 2004-05 be redirected to Alabama Student Assistance Program in order to better serve the interests of students who are attending both public and private institutions who require need-based financial aid in order to attend college. If requests are granted, federal matching funds would be restored to this program.

⁴⁶Enacted 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)

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

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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 2003-2004 was \$1,221,222. Eligible applicants were public and private institutions of higher education in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Eighteen (18) proposals were received from eleven (11) institutions with a combined budget total of over \$3.4 million with project requests for federal funds of over \$2.1 million. Thirteen (13) projects were funded.

Participation in the FY 2003-2004 projects included an estimated nine hundred (900) teachers, forty-three (43) administrators, and three hundred sixty (360) pre-service teachers representing eighty-two (82) public school districts and fifteen (15) private schools. Seven hundred (700) of these teachers serve seventy-eight (78) public school districts identified by the Alabama State Department of Education as “high need.” An estimated twenty-one thousand (21,000) students were directly impacted by the teaching. All projects funded met the federal partnership requirement that included participation by the institution’s school/department of education, the arts and sciences division, and at least one high-need local school district. Two (2) projects included non-profit organizations.

⁴⁷The 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.

Proposals accepted for the “*Improving Teacher Quality: Mastery of Content*” competition were designed to meet the performance objectives of the legislation 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. Thirty percent (30%) of the professional development activities exceeded eighty (80) hours of instruction in the content areas; eighty-five percent (85%) exceeded forty (40) hours of instruction extended over a ten (10) month period.

In addition to the federal funds that supported these projects, additional funding was provided by the host higher education institutions and other partners including the Honda Corporation and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama. The estimated total funding leveraged from those sources exceeded \$1 million.

Grant Recipients for FY 2003-2004

Alabama A & M University

Improving Teacher Quality: Mastery of Content

Auburn University

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

Birmingham Southern College

Helping Teachers to Help Students in Mathematics

Jacksonville State University

IMPACTSEED II: Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in Secondary Schools

Samford University

Extended Communities of Practice: Mastery of Science through Leadership

Troy State University

Improving Teacher Quality: Mastery of Content—Teaching Writing

Troy State University

Grand Tour III: Language through Culture

Troy State University Dothan

Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium

University of Alabama at Birmingham

ALAHASP 2004-2005: Alabama Hands-On Activity Science Program

University of Alabama in Huntsville

The Success Through Academic Research (STAR) Project: The Independent Study Scholarship Program

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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

The University of South Alabama

Arts in Education Program

University of West Alabama

Professional Development in Comprehensive Discipline Based Arts Education

The U. S. Department of Education allocation to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for FY 2004-2005 is \$1,215,464, a slight decrease from the FY 2003-2004 award of \$1,221,222. Awards were announced in December 2004.

Compliance with Court Decrees

In compliance with the 1991 remedial decree issued by the Court in Knight v. State of Alabama, 14 F.3rd 1534 (11th Cir. 1994). The Commission continues to serve as the Secretary to the statewide Monitoring Committee established by the Court. Public institutions that are defendants in Knight submit annual reports that include: Tables on enrollment, faculty, and administrators by race, facilities, expenditures of court-ordered funds related to the recruitment and retention of minority faculty and administrators. The Commission compiles these reports along with a report prepared by Commission staff for approval by the Monitoring Committee prior to submission to the Court. The Court's remedial decree will expire August 2005 pending no further extension of the decree.

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)

The Commission serves as the fiscal agent to the Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA) established in 2000 for the purpose of providing a mechanism for funding special research projects for the benefit of agriculture, forestry, and natural resources in Alabama. Members of the Alliance are Alabama A&M University/The Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station, Auburn University/The Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, and Tuskegee University/The George Washington Carver Experiment Station. The memorandum of understanding stipulates that the institutions submit to university presidents and the legislature on an annual basis an accounting on the use of funds and outcomes of research.

Alabama Higher Education Institutions

Public Universities

Alabama A&M University

Auburn University

Jacksonville State University

Troy State University Dothan

The University of Alabama

University of Alabama in Huntsville

University of North Alabama

University of West Alabama

Alabama State University

Auburn University at Montgomery

Troy State University

Troy State University Montgomery

University of Alabama at Birmingham

University of Montevallo

University of South Alabama

Public Upper Division University

Athens State University

Public Community Colleges - Two-Year Institutions

Alabama Southern Community College

Bishop State Community College

Central Alabama State Community College

Faulkner State Community College

Gadsden State Community College

Jefferson State Community College

L.B. Wallace Community College

Northwest-Shoals Community College

Southern Union State Community College

G. C. Wallace State Community College Dothan

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Bevil State Community College

Calhoun State Community College

Enterprise-Ozark Community College

Snead State Community College

Jefferson Davis Community College

Lawson State Community College

Northeast Alabama Community College

Shelton State Community College

G. C. Wallace State Community College Hanceville

G. C. Wallace State Community College Selma

Public Technical Colleges - Two-Year Institutions

Bessemer State Technical College

Ingram State Technical College

Trenholm State Technical College

Drake State Technical College

Reid State Technical College

