

**Summary of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting with the Provosts\* on the LGC Board**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**  
**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

- The provosts reaffirmed the mission of the LGC, as currently stated in the LGC Consortium Agreement signed March 2012, as follows:

*“The purpose of the LGC is to expand opportunities for graduate education and related experiential learning opportunities in a variety of disciplines, as approved by Member Institutions, that have a high probability of: 1) providing educational and professional development opportunities to residents of the Lowcountry that would otherwise be unavailable or available only at significant cost or inconvenience; b) addressing the economic, business development, and social needs of the Lowcountry; c) generating academic and business affiliations for the joint development and/or delivery of products and services in areas of the economy that have a high growth potential; and d) being conducted in an economic and efficient manner and with due regard to the legitimate interests of each Member Institution.”*

- For graduate programs, the LGC still looks first to its three Member Institutions – the College of Charleston, The Citadel, and MUSC. If programs deemed in demand and/or scheduling of classes for working adults are not available for whatever reason from its Member Institutions, the LGC is at liberty to seek academic resources from other public institutions across the State, such as Clemson, USC, or South Carolina State, subject to approval by the provosts of the Member Institutions. If not available from any public institutions in higher education in SC, the LGC is at liberty to work with private institutions such as Charleston Southern, Furman, or others. If not available within SC, public or private, the LGC is free to seek to fill needs out of state, from both public and private institutions.
- The student-centered focus of the LGC is entirely on the older adult student – the working professional who wishes to advance or redirect his or her career through graduate education, by completing either a degree or a graduate certificate of study.
- The LGC is viewed as a service center and a neutral ground that can build trust among institutions of higher education across SC, facilitating what Anita Zucker calls “good neighbors who collaborate.” In unison with her recently announced “Cradle to Career” initiative, the LGC aims to encourage academic programs at the graduate level that prepare graduates for jobs in a modern workforce.
- Student services provided by the LGC should strive to ensure student retention for optimum graduation rates, including convenience and flexibility. It must continue to deliver on the promise of SC’s mandate to higher education by being: accessible, affordable, and value-added to the workforce and community.
- Hybrid instruction, or blended classes that incorporate F2F teaching and relationship-building with and among students as well as online delivery of some content, is considered the new gold standard in graduate education. This is especially true for working professionals, over strictly traditional face-to-face, in-classroom instruction or on-demand, independent, online content delivery.

\*Dr. Sothmann was not present for the meeting. In attendance were John Sams, Joe Thompson, and Nancy Muller from the Task Force, Brian McGee, and Sam Hines. The meeting was held at the LGC/College of Charleston North Campus.