Pre-Conference Workshops  
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007: 1:00 – 4:30

**SACS: Developing Strategies for Establishing a Case for Compliance**

Several SC institutions are up for SACS reaffirmation in the coming years. Many of the SACS criteria have shifted since the last reporting cycle, leaving many professionals with questions and searching for practical solutions. Questions arise related to the off-site review, the QEP, and the parameters of the on-site review.

David Carter and others will present a detailed workshop designed to help institutions prepare for an upcoming reaffirmation. Dr. Carter brings substantial leadership experience with SACS, a great perspective on what is important in the process, and innovative ideas designed to assist institutions meet their potential. His presentation will inform institutional leaders on how to be most successful in preparing for the off-site review and the QEP. In addition, there will be plenty of time for discussion.

**NCES Peer Analysis Tool Advanced Training**

All institutions want to utilize peer data to improve decision making. It is of interest to evaluate enrollment patterns, finance changes, and other issues that can lead to insights for strategic planning. The challenge has been how to best gather peer data in a consistent and reliable format. Relying on phone calls and personal contacts is time consuming and sometimes leads to inconsistency in data definitions.

This computer-based training on the IPEDS Peer Analysis Tool is a valuable resource that addresses the needs of IR and planning professionals. Ms. Reynolds has been trained by NCES staff and is now part of a national network of trainers. Her expertise is on loan to us as part of a national AIR-NCES partnership.

**Costs:**

- SCAIR Membership: $20
- SCAIR Membership plus Registration (includes a Tuesday pre-conference workshop): $95
- Late Registration: postmarked after Feb. 9th: $110
- Tuesday pre-conference workshop and not attending the conference: $40
- Parking (not required if staying at the Inn): $10/day

**Conference Hotel:**

Rooms at the Inn at USC have been blocked for those wishing to spend Tuesday night in Columbia.

Reservations will be accepted through January 14, 2007.

Room rate is $120 + 11% tax per night. (803-779-7779)  
www.innatusc.com/index.htm

For information contact:  
Catherine Watt  
864-656-0847  
web site:  
www.clemson.edu/oir/SCAIR/SCAIRHome.htm
What is SCAIR?

**SCAIR**, the South Carolina Association for Institutional Research, is the professional society for those across the state who are interested in assessment, planning, and research for higher education. All institutions are represented, public and private, two-year and four-year.

SCAIR 2007 represents a celebration of **20 years** in South Carolina, serving the changing needs of data professionals. To celebrate, we made every effort to solicit workshops and presentations to address our multiple interests. All presentations stress the importance of collaboration, a growing need in our state and in our profession. It is no longer possible to operate in isolation, and SCAIR is dedicated to innovation, integrity, and information accessibility. We welcome participation from all those interested in improving higher education in South Carolina.

**SCAIR Executive Committee:**

- **President:** Catherine Watt, Clemson University
- **President-Elect:** Ronnie Chrestman, Clemson University
- **Past-President:** El Nault, Clemson University
- **Secretary:** Mary Gunn, Coastal Carolina
- **Treasurer:** Charles Parker, Midlands Technical College
- **Members-at-Large:**
  - Betty Boatwright, SC State University
  - Camille Brown, CHE
  - Jodi Herrin, USC – Beaufort
  - Mac Kirkpatrick, Lander University

**Wednesday Conference Agenda**

- **8:15** Registration
- **8:45** Breakfast and Welcome
  - *Catherine Watt*
- **9:00** Opening session
  - *Jim Bryant, CIO for SC*
- **10:15** Concurrent sessions
- **11:45** Lunch
  - *SCAIR business meeting*
  - *Election of new officers*
- **1:45** Concurrent sessions
- **3:15** Concurrent sessions
- **4:30** Conference Concludes

**Sessions**

- Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement on your Campus
- Introductory & Intermediate Statistics Refreshers
- What Newcomers Need to Know about IR in SC
- Developing Learning Outcomes Assessment, focusing on Two-year Institutions

The final schedule will be posted on the SCAIR web site.

**Featured Presenters**

- **Dr. Jim Bryant** is the CIO for South Carolina. As the technology leader for the state, he is creating a strategic plan designed to effectively and efficiently utilize innovative technology across all state agencies. His experience includes working with building wireless networks, internet 2, and implementing large-scale management packages.

- **Dr. David Carter** has a dedicated history with SACS Commission on Colleges since 1988, leading training and development for all institutions and evaluators. He possesses expertise in all aspects and levels of the accreditation and the peer review process. In chairing a national committee comprised of accreditation staff from each of the regional accreditation associations, he developed a common set of accreditation principles to guide the development of comparable standards among the regional commissions.

- **Ms. Gayle Fink** serves as Director of Institutional Research for the University System of Maryland. She has more than 15 years of experience leading assessment efforts at several community colleges, collaborating with faculty and students to create systems designed to evaluate learning outcomes. She is a nationally recognized expert trainer on national higher education datasets, training IR and assessment professionals on how to design, implement, and cultivate innovative programs.

- **Ms. Stephanie Reynolds** is a data manager for the SC Commission on Higher Education. She has several years of experience working the SC’s CHEMIS data and is now part of the national network of trainers with AIR and NCES.