

**State Council of Higher Education**  
**Director's report**  
**March 19, 2013**

***SCHEV budget for 2013-14:*** The General Assembly budget provided \$160,000 to support data systems and research; added \$600,000 to increase the stipend for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents program; transferred \$3 million from FY 2013 to FY 2014 for the Tuition Assistance Grant program, resulting in an undergraduate award of \$3,100; eliminated outdated language and \$4.4 million in funding for the federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program; added \$50,000 to support board training and related activities; and increased the income eligibility criteria for the Virginia Transfer Grant from \$9,000 to \$12,000. The Governor is reviewing the budget and will offer amendments at the April 3 reconvened session.

***Outstanding Faculty Awards.*** The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Outstanding Faculty Awards ceremony was held February 12 at the Jefferson Hotel, in Richmond. Earlier in the day, the 12 recipients were honored on the floor of the Virginia Senate. The Council recognized Stanley Harrison, a former Council member who conceived the award.

***Mellon Foundation:*** SCHEV staff met recently with researchers working with the Mellon Foundation on a potential project focusing on Virginia higher education. Researchers are interested in the impact on student outcomes of state and institutional funding and enrollment decisions.

***School Safety Task Force:*** The Governor's School Safety Task Force completed its initial work January 31. Most of the recommendations centered on K-12 schools rather than on colleges and universities. A final report is due in June. Potential areas of interest for higher education include crime prevention efforts, campus safety programs, and alert notification systems.

***Digital learning resources conference.*** A significant winter storm forced the postponement of this conference. Sponsored by the Secretary of Education, SCHEV and the Virginia Community College System, the program will showcase practices at Virginia institutions and identify new innovations for promotion and policy emphasis and will be rescheduled later this year.

***JLARC.*** Staff of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission continues its two-year study of higher education (HJ 103, 2012 General Assembly). SCHEV staff recently met with JLARC staff to discuss auxiliary enterprise programs, funding models, academic program approval, faculty salary calculations, and faculty workload surveys.

***Taiwan.*** I leave March 21 for a week-long visit to Taipei, where I will meet with officials from the Taiwan Ministry of Education, the National Science Council, the National Taiwan University, and others. One outcome of the visit will be a memorandum of agreement between Virginia and the Taiwan Ministry of Education to promote educational and academic activities. The draft MOA is attached.