

Dear South Carolina Tuition Grant recipient:

Now is the time for you to write your Legislators to say “Thank You” for supporting the Tuition Grants program. This will help to ensure that funding is made available by the legislature in future school years.

As an incentive, four \$250 bookstore scholarships will be awarded to students participating in the student letter writing campaign. To be eligible for this, you must submit your letter to the CIU Office of Student Financial Services by February 26. Please seal and address your envelope so that it is ready to mail. However, no postage is necessary.

Remember, we believe that a neatly “hand written” letter is the most effective approach (rather than typed letters or e-mails). Also, for you to determine who your Representative and Senators are, you can go to the SC Legislative webpage and enter your address. It’s a wonderfully simple process. For your convenience, the web address is: www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/zipcodesearch.exe.

If you have any questions please contact the Office of Student Financial Services at (803) 754-4100 x.5036 or at finaid@ciu.edu

Main Points to include in your letter (a sample letter is attached):

- Introduce yourself including your hometown, college or university, major, etc.
- Say thank you for state-sponsored financial aid programs including the following: SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program; SC LIFE Scholarship Program; SC HOPE Scholarship Program; and the SC Tuition Grants Program
- Stress the importance of the SC Tuition Grants Program in making independent higher education affordable for you and your family.
- Point out that every dollar spent for the SC Tuition Grants Program saves money for the Palmetto State and that South Carolina’s independent colleges and universities have an economic impact of over \$750 million annually.
- Most importantly, encourage your SC House or Senate member to increase the appropriations for the SC Tuition Grants Program.
- End your letter by saying thank you again and that you look forward to hearing from them concerning the SC Tuition Grants Program.

Sample Letter for SC Tuition Grant Supporters

As a supporter of independent colleges and universities in South Carolina, I am writing to say thank you for your support of the SC Palmetto Fellows Program, the SC LIFE Scholarship Program, the SC HOPE Scholarship Program, and the SC Tuition Grants Program. Without these valuable programs, many of our potential and current students would not be able to afford the cost of higher education.

Since you support the SC Tuition Grants Program, I know you realize that every dollar spent for the SC Tuition Grants Program saves money for the Palmetto State. It's true. In fact, every citizen in South Carolina that attends a SC private institution saves precious financial resources that are then available for other important state programs. It would cost the state a great deal more if these students enrolled in a state-supported school because of the direct tuition subsidy. This does not include all the other additional capital expenditures it would take to support approximately 33,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

As an additional benefit to the state, the existence of our independent colleges and universities provides more than a \$750 million economic impact to our state's economy.

From my perspective, South Carolina should continue to invest in the SC Tuition Grants Program because of the substantial cost savings. I believe that the state should consider every viable funding option, including lottery funds, in order to increase the appropriations for the program. By increasing the average SC Tuition Grant, independent colleges and universities would become more attractive in terms of cost. With larger enrollments in the private higher education sector, the state would reap the benefits in terms of saving valuable tax dollars.

Again, thank you for your support of scholarships and grants for students attending our great private institutions in South Carolina. I look forward to hearing from you concerning the SC Tuition Grants Program.