

<b>AGENCY NAME:</b>	<b>Francis Marion University</b>		
<b>AGENCY CODE:</b>	<b>H18</b>	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>17</b>

During fiscal year 2015-2016, Francis Marion University was once again recognized by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a "Great College to Work For" Honor Roll Recipient. This marks the fourth year in a row that we have received that recognition.

The University was also once again recognized as one of the South's Best Regional Universities in *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" issue.

Francis Marion continued to provide support as appropriate for the University of South Carolina School of Medicine regional clinical site in Florence with the number of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students increasing appreciably.

The University continued to support and grow our successful Staff Leadership Fellow Program which is designed to enhance the leadership skills of promising young staff members.

During the year, the University developed and implemented new campus security enhancements. These include installation of equipment and webcam monitoring on all classroom corridors and hallways as well as improved locking systems on classroom doors as well as improvements and additions to the University's emergency kiosks.

**FMU continued to support and further develop its Two Education-based Centers of Excellence:**

- 1) The Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty**
  - a. Hosted its annual conference with over 500 teachers**
- 2) The Center of Excellence for College and Career readiness.**
  - a. Hosted its annual 'Activate Academy' with rising ninth-graders from Florence Schools.**

Our FMU nursing Program was designated by the National League of Nursing as a national Nursing Center of Excellence 2016-2020 for creating environments that promote the pedagogical expertise of faculty.

The School of Business received reaffirmation of its accreditation from the American Association of Colleges and Schools of Business (AACSB), and the MSN program of the Department of Nursing received full accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

FMU's new Physician Assistant program received approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and preparations continued for accreditation of the new Physician Assistant program by the Accreditation Review Commission for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

The University's Industrial Engineering program is on track to have its first graduating class in May 2017. The Program will then be eligible to apply for accreditation by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET).

The University is currently developing a Masters Program in Speech Pathology. That new program proposal received all institutional approvals in 2015 and is now before the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. We are in the process of staffing and completion of the application for accreditation to the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech- Language Pathology (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).