

## **SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE**

### **SC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**Principal Investigator: Gwendelyn Geidel  
13040-KA04**

#### **Interim Report – September 30, 2002**

During the first six months of this grant, five of seven scheduled presentations and roundtable discussions have been held statewide on the development of a South Carolina Environmental Education plan.

In June, the Atlanta U.S. Forest Service facilitator, Gerald Wicker traveled to Columbia to meet with me to finalize discussion topics for the roundtable discussions. Based on his experience in this area, he made suggestions related to the number of topics that we could expect to cover in each of the 3-hour meetings. Following our discussions, the Environmental Education Committee of the Governor's Interagency Council on Natural Resources Policy (EEC) met to finalize the roundtable discussion topics that had been proposed by the principal investigator and co-chair of the EEC, Gwen Geidel.

With the assistance of Matt Rota, a graduate student in the Masters of Earth and Environmental Resources Management program, roundtable and presentation programs have been set-up, distribution lists for announcements generated and e-mailed, and roundtable discussions have been held at five sites within South Carolina. These sites include: Columbia at the USC Sweringen Engineering Building (June 28), Rock Hill at the Museum of York County (July 12), Florence at Francis Marion University (August 15), Clemson at the Clemson Research Park (September 9) and Charleston at the NOAA Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research facility (September 27). At each site, the EEC recommendations and the report were presented, followed by a question session and then approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours was devoted to the facilitated roundtable discussions. The discussions have been facilitated by the U.S. Forest Service or the SC Forestry Commission or by USC.

The next two meetings are scheduled for October 7 in Columbia at USC and November 8, 2002 in Myrtle Beach at the SC2 (SC Science Council) meeting. By December, we plan to have the comments organized and available to participants.

Based on the comments received during the roundtable discussions on the web site development, the decision was made to delay the web site development until the conclusion of the roundtable meetings. Comments will be incorporated into the site development.