

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

The Greenville News

Local News

State gives honor to University Center

By Lorando D. Lockhart

The University Center of Greenville received its charter in 1987 and has attracted a wide range of students since its doors opened 20 years ago.

The center makes it easier for Upstate students to choose from an assortment of colleges and universities all located inside the former McAlister Square mall on Pleasantburg Drive.

During a Tuesday press conference, officials announced events marking the anniversary. Greenville Mayor Knox White and Gov. Mark Sanford have signed proclamations naming July as “University Center of Greenville Month.”

There are also plans to partner with the Metropolitan Arts Council to commission a sculpture to commemorate the center’s anniversary. Center President Dr. Frederick Baus said the average age of students is 34, and about 80 percent of them work full-time.

“We are truly serving a non-traditional market,” he said. “We are serving adults who are fully engaged in professional roles in the community who see advanced education as a way of furthering their opportunities.”

The center is served by seven institutions including: Clemson, Furman, Lander, South Carolina State, the Medical University of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina Upstate.

The student enrollment has grown 25 percent since the 2004-2005 school year in which 6,179 students were enrolled. The center now boasts 7,722 students.

Former Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore said, “We’re very fortunate to have the leadership in Greenville that has helped bring this about. It has not gone unnoticed.”

Theodore said other state college boards have reviewed the center in hopes of bringing the idea to the middle and lower portion of the state.