

**2005 – 2007
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Trying to top last year's amazing conference has been a challenge. The enthusiastic revitalization of SCAIR deserves an encore meeting that continues what so many started in 2006. It was important to build on the concept of collaboration, the idea that we are better when we work together. Collaboration takes time and effort; like any good relationship it requires compromise for all involved. So this year's theme, "**Creating a Culture of Collaboration,**" reflects the time needed to develop such relationships. This year's agenda builds on what most of you requested in the SCAIR survey conducted last spring, and we hope you are as pleased with the agenda as we are.

A Culture of Collaboration – what a perfect theme for the 20th Anniversary of SCAIR! The friends and colleagues who are part of SCAIR, part of the higher education community, and part of the changing landscape of South Carolina, often demonstrate the best of collaboration. New ideas should be met with enthusiasm and a willingness to try, and we hope that this year's meeting offers lots of new ideas. Also, collaboration crosses all types of institutions, and there are increasing needs for all of us to work together.

One of the focus points for 2007 is welcoming newcomers, those new to institutional research and assessment, as well as those of you new to South Carolina. I strongly encourage the "old-timers" to welcome our newcomers, attend the sessions, and become active mentors. We all know what it is to have someone to guide us, be there for us, and recognize how important it is in our professional lives. So welcome newcomers!

Another focus this year is SACS, and all the aspects of the reaffirmation process. Accrediting evaluations are requiring more data, deeper insights, and more evidence that an institution builds a culture that uses assessment to guide decision-making. Many SC institutions are up for re-accreditation in the next few years, and SCAIR speakers are prepared to assist you in this important endeavor.

Let this year's meetings mark another turning point for SCAIR; the time when we recognize the strengths we possess and come together to represent the best of higher education in South Carolina. It can be easy to forget what we can accomplish when we get bogged down in the every day challenges our jobs give us.

I hope you find something at this meeting that makes you think, makes you laugh, and makes you want to do something without precedent. That's the exciting part of our profession, and that's what brings us together for SCAIR 2007.

Welcome!



Catherine E. Watt
President