



Southeastern Conference (SEC) Symposium Background Information

(www.SECSymposium.com)

- ✓ Established by the Southeastern Conference's Presidents and Chancellors, the SEC Symposium is an annual academic conference-type event designed to address significant scholarly issues by utilizing the range of disciplinary strengths of all 14 SEC member universities.
- ✓ The SEC Symposium seeks to increase the opportunities for collaboration among SEC faculty and administrators, and puts on display the research and innovation of all SEC universities for an audience that includes academicians, government officials and other stakeholders.
- ✓ The SEC Symposium includes a university showcase that highlights the breadth of research endeavors from across the Southeastern Conference. The SEC also makes a contribution to the general scholarship fund of the university with the most student attendees. In addition, all attendees are invited to join the SEC Presidents, Chancellors and Provosts for an evening reception.
- ✓ Based on the topic, the SEC Symposium is led by a different SEC university each year, but it is typically held in September at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta, Georgia.
- ✓ The inaugural SEC Symposium was led by the University of Georgia and entitled *Impact of the Southeast in the World's Renewable Energy Future*. Keynote presenters included Dr. Sam Baldwin, Chief Science Officer, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, and Mrs. Susanne Shine, Ambassador (Deputy Chief of Mission), The Royal Danish Embassy.
- ✓ The second SEC Symposium in 2014 was led by the University of South Carolina and entitled *Prevention of Obesity: Overcoming a 21st Century Public Health Challenge*. Keynote presenters were Nancy Brown, CEO of the American Heart Association and Dr. Mike Lauer, Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
- ✓ The SEC Symposium is a cornerstone program of SECU, the Southeastern Conference's academic initiative, through which the SEC sponsors, supports and promotes collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty and students.