

About Us

Mission, Vision, Values, and Constituencies:

A Statement of the Southern Education Foundation (SEF)

Approved by SEF Trustees, April 23, 2004

Who We Are

The Southern Education Foundation is a diverse group of women and men working together to improve the quality of life for all of the South's people through better and more accessible educational opportunity.

Our Vision

A South and nation with a skilled workforce that sustains an expanding economy, where civic life embodies diversity and democratic values and an excellent education system provides all students a fair and good opportunity to develop their talents.

Our Mission

Developing and promoting policies and practices that ensure educational excellence, fairness in opportunity to learn, and high levels of achievement among African Americans and other groups and communities who have not yet reached the full measure of their potential.

Our Values and Principles

SEF is committed to:

- High quality work, assessment and continuous improvement
- Collaborative efforts that draw on the best of diverse institutions and communities in the search for educational excellence
- Creative problem solving
- Integrity, accountability and transparency in all of our work
- Adaptability, flexibility and future-oriented efforts
- Honest and intelligent advocacy to achieve results



Our Constituencies

SEF sees as its partners and allies anyone and everyone committed to improving the quality of life for all of the South's people by building a better quality education system from pre-school through higher education. SEF is particularly focused upon:

- low-income people, especially African Americans, their institutions and leaders
- policy, research and advocacy organizations and groups promoting high quality, universal education, from pre-school through higher education
- historically Black colleges and universities and their traditionally White counterparts involved in efforts to improve education quality and access for low-income students
- philanthropic leaders involved in education policy and practice
- education policymakers
- corporate leaders concerned with community and skills development and job-creation for low-income workers and their families
- media and other channels of public information and education
- members of the public who shape policy and promote accountability through exercise of democratic rights and duties