

Clemson University spends more on travel than all other SC agencies

SC comptroller's report: Higher eds spend most overall

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GREENVILLE, S.C. -

When it comes to spending money on travel, no taxpayer-funded agency in South Carolina spends more than Clemson University.

In the South Carolina Comptroller's Office's latest report on travel spending for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, Clemson was No. 1 with expenditures totaling more than \$12.3 million. The University of South Carolina was a close second, with expenditures of nearly \$11.8 million. Rounding out the top five were The College of Charleston, which had a travel bill of nearly \$6.2 million; followed by the Medical University of South Carolina, which spent nearly \$6 million on travel; and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, which racked up more than \$3.4 million in travel expenses.

"Even with all the new ways we have to communicate today, phone calls, emails and the Internet still can't meet all of the needs for information-sharing among government officials and employees, which sometimes makes travel necessary. But this is an area where agencies will serve the best interests of taxpayers by limiting travel to only the essentials," said Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom.

State lawmakers also spent a fair share of taxpayer dollars on travel. According to the report, 124 members of the House of Representatives spent almost \$1 million traveling from their homes to the State House. Forty-six state senators spent \$490,933 during the same period.

WYFF News Investigates asked Clemson University about being the top spender on travel in the state.

"Nearly half -- 45 percent -- of the money spent on travel comes from sources such as athletics revenue, research grants or private gifts, not state money," said Clemson spokesman John Gouch.

In all, 114 state agencies spent a total of more than \$69.6 million on travel-related expenses last year.

You can see the entire list of travel expenses on the SC Comptroller's transparency website by [clicking here](http://www.cg.sc.gov/publications/Documents/Travel/FY13Travel%20Report.pdf).

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