NEW ISSUE: BOOK-ENTRY ONLY

Preliminary Official Statement Dated June 17, 2004

Ratings: Moody's Aa3 (rated) A2 (underlying)

The Official Statement has been prepared by The College of Charleston to provide information on the Series 2004 Bonds. Selected information is presented on the cover page for the convenience of the user. To make an informed decision regarding the Series 2004 Bonds, a prospective investor should read this Official Statement in its entirety. Unless indicated, capitalized terms used on this cover page have the meanings given in the Official Statement.

$5,140,000*
THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES REVENUE BONDS
SERIES 2004A

Dated: July 1, 2004

Tax-Exemption
In the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Series 2004 Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes under existing statutes, regulations and court decisions. Interest on the Series 2004 Bonds is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the alternative minimum tax on individuals and corporations. The Series 2004 Bonds and the interest thereon are presently exempt from all taxation in the State of South Carolina except for estate or other transfer taxes. It should be noted, however, that Section 12-11-29, Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, imposes upon every bank engaged in business in the State of South Carolina, a fee or franchise tax computed on the entire net income of such bank which includes interest paid on the Series 2004 Bonds. See "LEGAL MATTERS—Tax Exemption" herein.

Redemption
The Series 2004A Bonds maturing on or after April 1, 2015, are subject to optional redemption at par on or after April 1, 2014. The Series 2004B Bonds maturing on or after April 1, 2015, are subject to optional redemption at par on or after April 1, 2014. The Series 2004 Bonds are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption and to extraordinary redemption as set forth herein. See "DESCRIPTION OF THE SERIES 2004 BONDS—Redemption Provisions" herein.

Security
The Series 2004 Bonds are secured by the "Net Revenues" as defined in the General Bond Resolution. Please see "SECURITY FOR THE SERIES 2004 BONDS." The Series 2004 Bonds do not constitute an indebtedness of the State of South Carolina within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation nor do they constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State of South Carolina or any of its political subdivisions.

Purpose
The Series 2004 Bonds are issued for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and renovating Higher Education Facilities. Proceeds of the Series 2004 Bonds will also be used to pay certain Cost of Issuance, including the premium for a policy of municipal bond insurance and the premium for a Debt Service Reserve Insurance Policy.

Interest Payment Dates
April 1 and October 1, commencing October 1, 2004.

Denominations
$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof.

Insurance
Payment of the principal and interest on the Series 2004 Bonds on the regularly scheduled due dates for payment thereof will be insured in accordance with a municipal bond new issue insurance policy to be issued simultaneously with the delivery of the Series 2004 Bonds by XL Capital Assurance Inc.

CAPITAL ASSURANCE

Maturity/Principal Amount
See Inside Cover.

Expected Closing/Settlement
On or about July 15, 2004, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bond Counsel
McNair Law Firm, P.A., Charleston, South Carolina

Issuer’s Counsel
Andrew L. Abraham, Esquire

Trustee
State Treasurer of the State of South Carolina

Paying Agent/Register
Series 2004A Bonds:
Series 2004B Bonds:

Financial Advisor
Banc of America Securities LLC, Charlotte, North Carolina

Book-Entry System

June 17, 2004

*Preliminary; subject to change