Dear Campus Community,

If you were on campus today, no doubt you noticed the signs announcing that the University of South Carolina Aiken has been named a "2016 Great College to Work For" by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

 Congratulations for receiving this distinction! Additionally, USCA received special recognition in the area of collaborative governance. Of all the categories for special recognition, I think I'm most proud that we were selected for recognition in this category. Why? Because there can be no collaborative governance without good people stepping up to take responsibility for our institution. For all who serve on committees, attend or serve on Faculty or Classified Employee Assemblies, for everyone who completes campus surveys and participates in focus groups, attends departmental meetings, and for each and every person who care enough to share their thoughts and opinions to improve this university....I wish to say THANK YOU. Thank you for your investment of time, effort, and expertise to USC Aiken. It is because of your input and work that good decisions are made on a daily basis, and these collaborative efforts have helped USC Aiken gained prominence, again, at the national level. Meanwhile, I hope you will feel pride in the fact that out of hundreds of universities in America, USC Aiken was one of those selected to be a "Great College to Work For."

Enjoy the remainder of the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone next month as we launch the 2016-2017 Academic Year!

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor

The press release which will appear in tomorrow's Aiken Standard is below.

University of South Carolina Aiken named a “2016 Great College to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education

The University of South Carolina Aiken is a great college to work for, according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a top trade publication for colleges and universities.
The results, released today in The Chronicle’s ninth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of 281 colleges and universities. Only 93 of the institutions that applied for the program achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with USC Aiken included among the medium universities with 3,000 to 9,999 students.

“Nine years in, The Chronicle’s Great Colleges to Work For program is well known as a mark of a college or university that puts thought and effort into serving the needs of its faculty and staff,” said Liz McMillen, editor of The Chronicle.

“The colleges and universities that make the list are highly rated by their employees for creating great working environments, an important achievement that helps them recruit top academic and administrative talent.”

USC Aiken won honors in the collaborative governance category this year.

“I am extremely pleased and highly honored for USC Aiken to be selected as a Great College to Work For. I’m particularly proud that we received recognition in the area of collaborative governance. Whether we are working on new academic programs, the budget, or student initiatives, gathering input from all corners of the campus — faculty, staff, students, and alumni is of critical importance to making the best decisions possible,” said USC Aiken Chancellor, Dr. Sandra J. Jordan.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

To administer the survey and analyze the results, The Chronicle worked with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous “Best Places to Work” programs, surveying hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide.

“It’s easier to be a great workplace during good times, but it’s when times are tough that the commitment to workplace quality really gets tested,” said Richard K. Boyer, principal and managing partner, ModernThink LLC.

“And those institutions that measure up during times of economic hardship reinforce their already strong cultures and put even more distance between them and their peer institutions for whom they compete for talent.”

About the University of South Carolina Aiken:
USC Aiken, a comprehensive university in the University of South Carolina system, offers undergraduate and master’s degrees to approximately 3,500 students in 50 programs of study. USC Aiken is ranked the #1 public regional college in the South by U.S. News & World Report’s guide “America’s Best Colleges.” The 2016 distinction marks USC Aiken’s 18th consecutive ranking among the top three in this category and its eleventh time in first place. For more, go to: www.usca.edu.

About The Chronicle of Higher Education:
The Chronicle of Higher Education is the top professional source for news, jobs, and information for college and university administrators and faculty. The Chronicle provides institutions with multiple paths
to effectively communicate and engage with the largest audience and most influential decision makers in higher education in print and online. Visit www.chronicle.com to learn more.

About ModernThink LLC:
As a research and consulting leader in workplace issues, ModernThink has supported a wide variety of “Best Place to Work” initiatives. Through these programs, the firm has gained substantial survey and industry expertise, including specific insight into higher education. ModernThink knows what it takes to build a great place to work and shares that know-how with its clients. The ModernThink team of organizational development experts is dedicated to helping colleges follow through and capitalize on feedback from employees and benchmark data from peers to drive meaningful change at their institutions. Learn more at: www.modernthink.com.