



The Office of the Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

November 17, 2016

Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues,

Election Day 2016 has passed, and I would like to thank all of you who made the effort to engage our students in the electoral process. Without question, this has been a particularly difficult national campaign and the acrimonious and inflammatory campaign rhetoric was concerning to many. As a place of advanced learning, USC Aiken values civility and respect for others, thus, the often divisive rhetoric that took place during the campaign was disappointing and difficult to explain to our students.

The results of the election came as a surprise to many, including to professional pollsters. But, now that the national elections have ended, our attention must turn to helping our students understand the election results and place the election into historic, political and sociological context. Please encourage students to attend the forum this Friday (Penland 106 at 2:00 p.m.) where several of our colleagues have agreed to discuss the election from their disciplinary perception. This national election provides us with a powerful teaching and learning opportunity. Let's use that moment to reinforce our university values and demonstrate our concern for others.

Please encourage students to participate in meaningful dialogue and to remain engaged. As we move forward, we will continue to identify opportunities to bring our community together to promote understanding and support each and every student.

As a place that fosters human endeavor and mutual understanding, we will pause today for *One Table*. Please make a special effort to be present. I encourage you to reach out to a colleague or student who may feel disenchanting and invite them to attend with you. Please take every opportunity to demonstrate to our diverse and multi-national student body that USC Aiken values them as individuals and as members of our learning community.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving,

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor