



The Office of the Chancellor  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

January 17, 2017

Dear Campus Community,

I hope everyone had a nice holiday celebration and took time yesterday to remember Dr. King and the profound impact he had on so many aspects of American life, including providing greater access to higher education. The Higher Education Act of 1965 was written, passed by congress, and signed by President Johnson to ensure that the ideas advanced by Dr. King and guaranteed by the Civil Rights Act would actually come to fruition. An important aspect of the HEA of 1965 was the creation of Pell Grants which made federal funds available to low-income and minority students. Pell grants allow greater access to a college education, ensuring that more students would have this opportunity to succeed.

MLK Day always reminds me of how one individual can powerfully impact the lives of so many. If you were unable to attend the Day of Service initiative yesterday at the Convocation Center, I hope you will consider dropping by the Student Life Office in the SAC to find out the many ways you can volunteer in our community. While neither you nor I may be able to change the world on our own, we can collectively make a world of difference through philanthropic and volunteer service.

USC Aiken will join our neighbors and formally gather on Sunday, January 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Convocation Center, to honor the memory, service, and difference made by the Civil Rights movement and Dr. King. Our special guest will be former Representative Bakari Sellers, who has had a stellar career as a politician and attorney, and more recently as a commentator for CNN. When Mr. Sellers was elected to the state's General Assembly in 2006, he made history. At age 22, he was the one of the youngest people to ever be elected to the position. Sellers was in elected office from 2006-2014, representing South Carolina's 90th district. Mr. Sellers is an attorney at Strom Law Firm, and a member of the Democratic National Convention rules committee. He recently argued for equal protection for unmarried same-sex couples under South Carolina's criminal domestic violence laws. In 2010, *Time* magazine featured Sellers in its "40 Under 40" issue and in 2012, *Politico* named Sellers on its list of "50 Politicos to Watch."

The community-wide celebration of MLK, hosted by USC Aiken and Aiken Technical College, is free and open to the public. I hope you will join me and many community members as we continue to honor the life and service of Dr. King.

Best wishes for a great week,

**Chancellor Sandra Jordan**