



The Office of the Chancellor

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

Dear Pacer Family,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a relaxing break and that you are returning to campus refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready for an outstanding 2017 spring semester. We have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

Carolina Day, January 25

Carolina Day at the Statehouse gives Chancellor's Ambassadors, alumni, and members of our Partnership Board an opportunity to meet with state legislators in Columbia to share the good news of USC Aiken and highlight the positive impact our institution has on the state. During Carolina Day, the USC Aiken contingent will remind our policy makers of our outstanding programs, departments and organizations on campus and share with legislators why USC Aiken continues to be a transformational university for so many students. There will be many visits to the Statehouse this semester, allowing us to articulate our physical plant and operating needs during the budget development process. This year, we are requesting support for renovations to the Gregg-Graniteville Library, parity to help us fund academic and student support programs, and capital funding to replace the HVAC system in Penland.

Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC)

As you may recall, two entities in D.C. must approve the project: the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Last fall, the DOE approved the need for the project and approved the public/private lease structure to build the AMC. The OMB approved the need for the project but has not made a final decision due to concerns about the structure of the lease and funding. Based on meetings between Dr. Terry Michalske (director of the SRNL) and the president-elect's transition team, individuals at DOE, and others familiar with the process, it seems we have an opportunity to help move the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC) forward with the new administration. We are mapping out a robust communication effort intended to facilitate a final (positive) decision.

Pedestrian Bridge and Homecoming

As part of our homecoming festivities, we will celebrate the completion of the Pedestrian Bridge with students, faculty, staff, and alumni Saturday, January 21, at 4 p.m. I hope you and your families will join us for this celebratory crossing. After we cross the bridge, we will have a short ceremony as part of the homecoming tailgater, which will take place on the Convocation Center side of the bridge, just before the women's basketball game starts. January 16-21 is the week of Homecoming. Scores of individuals have been working hard to make this the best ever. Watch for more information and plan to join alumni and current students in the week-long celebration.

Key Administrative Positions

We are conducting two searches for key administrative positions: the athletic director and the vice chancellor for finance and administration. Dr. Klavivko is heading the committee conducting the athletic

director search, and Dr. Jeff Priest is leading the committee seeking our new CFO. Thanks to both committees for their work to find talented individuals for these positions. We hope to fill both positions this spring.

Mission and Values Revision

The Faculty Assembly has approved and the Classified Employees Assembly has endorsed the recommendations of the Mission and Values Committee. The Board of Trustees for the USC System has approved the proposed revisions to our mission and values statements. The CHE now has them to review. We expect the new mission and values will be approved this semester. Thanks, again, to members of the Mission and Values Revision Committee who “got the ball rolling” on this project.

Comprehensive Diversity Planning

Mr. Juan Johnson will lead a workshop for approximately 40 faculty, staff, and directors January 12 to discuss the development of a comprehensive, strategic, interconnected approach to diversity. We will explore: how to enrich the experiences of our broadly diverse campus community and how USC Aiken can structure and foster empathy, share diverse perspectives and opinions, cultivate and encourage a range of talents, build deeper understanding about individuality and community, and offer formal and unscripted opportunities to open minds and inform thinking. This is just the beginning of a broader discussion and long-term project that may ultimately expand or revise what we do in the areas of student orientation, educational programming, competency building, and compliance training.

Generation Z Summit

Prior to the winter break, approximately 75 professional staff members from across the USC system (many from student life and student support offices) gathered at USC Aiken’s Conference Center for a summit entitled, “Meet Generation Z.” (Generation Z is usually defined as individuals in the U.S. born between 1996 – 2011). Attendees discussed research associated with characteristics of this student population, negative behaviors that may disrupt the educational goals of these students, and best practices to work with and support them. Informational materials from the summit are located at: <http://intranet.usca.edu/ooc/media/Generation+Z.pdf>.

Honors High School Located at USC Aiken

The Aiken County Board of Education has approved the concept of locating an honors public high school on campus. The school, operated by the Aiken County School System, will be phased-in during the coming years. Qualified high school juniors and seniors will be encouraged to become dual-enrolled. Currently, dual-enrolled students take college level classes on a space available basis. High school students who qualify to attend the honors school at USC Aiken will be among the highest performing students in the county.

USC Aiken Accolades

This academic year, we have received significant honors. Ranked #1 – again -- by *U.S. News & World Report* (Our 12th year at #1). We were also named: a Great College to Work For; a Teaching Fellow Institution; *U.S. News* Best College for Veterans; Best for Vets by *Military Times*; a Top University by *Military Advanced Education*, A Tree Campus USA, and a Military Friendly School by *Military Times*. Stay tuned for more!

In December, when I paused during the season’s busyness to take stock of all we’ve accomplished and noted the scope and quality of the work being accomplished across this campus, I was again awed by our diligent and dedicated faculty, staff, administrators, and student leaders.

Thank you for all that you do! You are amazing, and I'm proud to work with you to achieve our mission and serve our students and the region.

I look forward to seeing you on campus. Here is to a productive and rewarding Spring 2017!

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor