



The Office of the Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

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USC Aiken Recognized for Closing Achievement Gap

Congratulations! The University of South Carolina Aiken received recognition from The Education Trust, who has named USC Aiken as one among a small handful of high-performing institutions in the nation to graduate African-American students at higher rates.

The Education Trust, an independent national organization that studies and promotes high academic achievement, released a report this month that examined the completion gap between African-Americans and their Caucasian counterparts. According to the report, the six-year graduation rate for Black students in the United States is the lowest among all racial and ethnic groups, almost 22 percentage points below that of White students. The Education Trust's report stated, "...many Black students encounter a unique combination of financial, academic, and social challenges that can make the path to degree completion rugged."

Concluding its national study of Black Student success in college, The Education Trust identified USC Aiken as being one of 15 public universities in the nation who is effectively closing the graduation gap. The three-year weighted average completion gap between Black and White students at USC Aiken is only 1.8%.

It is important to note that USC Aiken's "value-added" proposition is enormous. This year, 41% of USC Aiken's student body is the first in their families to attend college, and a large percentage of these students are African-American. Completion of the bachelor's degree not only provides assurances of more job options, more job security, and more job upward mobility, it helps to make entire families more financially secure.

Congratulations to USCA's committed faculty and staff! What you do to support students makes all the difference!

Sandra Jordan
Chancellor