Faculty and Staff --

While the temperatures are a bit cold outside, it warms my heart to share with you that we just learned that USC Aiken has earned another honor!

By demonstrating continued dedication to High-Impact Educational Practices that influence both student learning and student success, USC Aiken has been named as one of the nation’s Colleges of Distinction.

Thanks to everyone’s efforts, USC Aiken has created a truly unique learning environment where students not only earn college credit and valuable life experience, but also participate in character-building first-year seminars, community-based learning programs, service learning programs, alternative spring breaks, diversity and global learning programs, intensive language programs, intensive writing courses, interdisciplinary programs, collaborative assignments and projects, undergraduate research, living-learning communities, common intellectual experiences, capstone projects, study abroad programs, and internships. As you can see, the award recognizes the student’s experiences in the classroom (especially high-impact pedagogical practices), the student’s co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities (especially developing leadership and citizenship), and the institution’s over-all student-first environment (especially a strategic plan focused on student success).

While USC Aiken has a longstanding tradition of being committed to our students' success, it is exciting to know that others also recognize it. I credit the entire campus community, faculty, staff, and leadership with this accolade. By developing cutting-edge curricula, enriching our students' college experience with High-Impact Educational Practices, and providing an education that stretches far beyond what’s typically required from an academic major, you have earned USC Aiken this honor.

The selection process at Colleges of Distinction requires that institutions adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. This process also includes a review of each institution’s freshman experience as well as its general education program, strategic plan, alumni success, satisfaction measures, and more. Institutions who earn this distinction are 100% focused on the student experience and driven to produce well-rounded graduates who are prepared for a global society and economy.
Thank you for your commitment to our students!

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor