Dear USC Aiken Faculty and Staff,

Welcome back! With weather alerts and unscheduled (and unwelcomed) interruptions to our telephone and internet services, it hasn’t been the smoothest launch possible. But despite these challenges, it’s an exciting time for the University as we begin the spring 2018 semester. Winter won’t last forever and, before we know it, the azaleas will be in bloom and the quad will be bursting in full color. Until then, we have a lot to look forward to - and to collaborate on - as we ensure our students’ success.

Two quick reminders as we start the New Year.

1. Please consider how you can be a part of the Strategic Planning process. I sincerely hope you will share your insight as the Steering Committee helps map out our way ahead.

The Steering Committee has been busy conducting a SWOT analysis and planning the launch of Strategic Planning. Please keep your eyes open for messages that will detail dates and times for your participation. I’m grateful to Brittney Alls and the members of the Steering Committee, who have made a significant commitment of time and effort already to this important endeavor. The members include the following.

- Rebecca Barnwell
- Bridget Coleman
- Lloyd Dawe
- Todd Hagstette
- Martha Lawrence
- Carmen Williams
In addition to getting ideas and suggestions from all of you, the committee will reach out to students, student leaders, and community groups and will have discussions over the next several weeks to gather the perspectives of the constituent groups. This is a collaborative effort, and it’s critical that the committee have insight from as many people as possible so they can make informed recommendations.

2. In a complex organization, effective communication is always a challenge. Information, campus news, and updates on emerging higher education issues are included in the OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR NEWSLETTER – also known as the OOC.

Please bookmark the following link https://intranet.usca.edu/ooc/.

The OOC is updated frequently and is a good source of information. Please refer to the link for the most current information. Additionally, frequenting Faculty or Classified Employees Assemblies, attending the State of the University and Budget presentations, reading committee meeting minutes online, taking time to attend the informal gatherings with the Chancellor (next one is March 21st), or inviting the Chancellor or Vice Chancellors to departmental meetings are effective ways to stay abreast of what is happening and share information. Additionally, you are always welcome to make an appointment with me for a one-on-one meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Jordan
Chancellor