

## Office of the Chancellor

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**From:** Office of the Chancellor  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2019 2:38 PM  
**Subject:** End of Year Message from Chancellor Jordan

Dear Colleagues,

As I meet with Pacers on our campus, speak with parents, and interact with alumni, I am constantly reminded of how much impact we have on the lives of our students during the fairly short period of time they spend with us. The university's impact is greatly influenced by you and the time you take with our students both in and beyond the classroom, literally across all corners of our university.

As the academic year comes to a close, I want to thank you for your commitment to our students. The success of our university is built on the efforts of each of us -- our dedication to our students, our support of each other, and our shared commitment to our abiding mission. Thank you for your hard work and your steadfast determination to provide the best experience possible for those who learn, live, and work at USC Aiken.

The strategic planning and implementation process of our new plan, *Leading Forward*, is well under way, and I appreciate the input and involvement of the university community in this effort. The recommendations of the eight task forces, that focused on specific areas under our four institutional goals, have now been posted and can be found on our intranet: <https://intranet.usca.edu/strategic-plan/2018-2023/>.

Soon, we will gather at commencement to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and recognize the end of another successful academic year. At our commencement on Wednesday we will confer 446 degrees (including August graduates), bringing the total number of graduating students this year to 639. Dr. Harris Pastides will be our honored guest speaker, and it will mark his last formal presentation at USC Aiken before he retires as the President of the USC System. Many of your colleagues are hard at work to make certain that Commencement 2019 will be an impressive and happy occasion, so, I hope you'll be able to join us.

Additionally, our traditional faculty and staff year end celebration is planned for this Friday, May 10, at noon, in the SAC Gym. It will be a time to recognize our friends and colleagues, have a little fun together, and wish our retiring colleagues a fond farewell.

Once again, we've come through a year that was filled with many successes and a few challenges. As a university, we should all take pride in our many achievements, while we recognize the importance of maintaining high aspirations for our future. Although it is a busy time of year with a final flurry of activity before commencement, when things begin to quiet down before the onset of summer school, please log on the "Office of the Chancellor" (OOC) newsletter that will soon include end-of-year information and highlights from all over campus. This wrap-up information will be posted at: <https://intranet.usca.edu/ooc/index.dot>. Like the other OOC postings throughout the year, the latest newsletter update will include announcements and information of general interest to campus members.

One of the things that makes this a special university is that we can always count on each other. How reassuring it is for me to know that I can count on all of you to do your best and to focus on student success regardless of what fresh challenges we may face. On behalf of all USC Aiken students and members of the administration, please allow me to extend my personal and genuine appreciation to each and every one of you for your valuable contributions to this institution. Everyone has an important role to play, and each one is imperative to the success of our university. Working with you -- and for you -- this past year has been a pleasure!

Please accept my best wishes for a rewarding, restful, and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Jordan  
**Chancellor**