Carolina, McNair, Hamilton, and Horseshoe Scholars Award Agreement

Congratulations on receiving one of the University of South Carolina’s most prestigious merit awards. You and your family should be very proud of your accomplishments. The Carolina, McNair, Hamilton, and Horseshoe Scholars awards are primarily funded by the generous contributions of donors, and secondarily, by the University. Great effort is expended by the University to secure and maintain funding for these elite programs. While your award offers immediate recognition of your current achievements, it also carries an expectation that you will actively engage in your college life at the University, and that your ongoing academic, leadership, and service pursuits will enrich the Carolina community.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus, and we will follow your college career with interest as it unfolds. While celebration is in order, please take a moment to carefully review the important information below. Each criterion must be met each year in order to renew your scholarship for the following fall.

Award Requirements & Renewal Criteria:

1. **Academic Requirements**: Your scholarship may be renewed for a total of four consecutive years (eight semesters) provided: 1) you enroll full-time (at least 12 credit hours) at the University of South Carolina as a first-time, full-time freshman in the fall 2014 semester; 2) you maintain full-time enrollment each consecutive spring and fall (at least 12 credit hours per semester); and 3) you maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. If you fall below the minimum requirement during the regular school year, you may be eligible to attend summer classes in order to improve your grade point average.

2. **Participation in Events and Meetings**: As a Scholar, it is expected you will participate in the enhanced undergraduate experiences designed for academically talented students by the Office of Fellowships & Scholar Programs. These experiences include, but are not limited to, programs, events, and one-on-one meetings, including evaluations and assessments of these. Calendars of Scholar Programs activities and events will be provided at the beginning of each semester. Additionally, communication with this office as your collegiate home base is very important, so you will be asked to complete a press release form each year in order for us to capture any new or changed information. Receipt of this award also acknowledges your interest and willingness to participate in the life of the University campus, including those opportunities and programs provided by the South Carolina Honors College.

3. **Thank You Notes**: Each year, all Scholars are required to write one note or letter (not e-mail) to their scholarship donor(s). While we will remind you of this obligation, **it is solely your responsibility to fulfill this requirement each year in order to continue to receive your scholarship.** Failure to submit a donor note during the fall semester will result in the revocation of your scholarship for all subsequent semesters enrolled.

Additional details:
- a. Your donor contact information will be provided to you by the end of August each fall semester.
- b. You may complete your donor correspondence any time during the fall semester. Correspondence is due on or before the last day of class for the fall semester according to the Registrar’s academic calendar, [http://registrar.sc.edu/html/calendar5yr/5YrCalendar3.stm](http://registrar.sc.edu/html/calendar5yr/5YrCalendar3.stm).
- c. You may complete your correspondence on your own, but opportunities will be provided for you to do this during social events throughout the fall semester.
- d. You must submit your notes and letters (donor correspondence) to the Development Office of the South Carolina Honors College.
- e. Students who are on leave of absence will not receive their scholarship funding and are not required to complete donor correspondence. Students who are enrolled but away from campus for programs like study abroad, National Student Exchange, Washington Semester, etc. are responsible for their donor correspondence.