



 UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Carolina changes everything

2015-2016 Endowment Report





With eight campuses and 18 locations across the state, the University of South Carolina system is cultivating successful leaders, new generations of bold thinkers and committed problem solvers. We are driven to build healthier, more educated communities, inspiring a better way of life for the state of South Carolina and beyond. With increasingly limited state funding available to us, however, your endowment is crucial to our mission.

With your help, we can fund scholarships to attract students who will become well-educated and successful graduates, improve programs that will help fill the overwhelming demand for qualified professionals and provide a broad range of experiences and opportunities to a diverse student body. All of these actions and more are greatly enhanced by endowed giving, which is less restrictive than state money and gives us the flexibility to address pressing needs as they arise.

This report highlights the strength of our endowments and how your donations help the university create a more prosperous, healthy and vibrant future — for all of us.

Systemwide Enrollment: Fall 2015

Includes USC Columbia, Aiken, Beaufort, Upstate, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union

UNDERGRADUATE

40,569

GRADUATE

7,281

PROFESSIONAL

1,701

TOTAL:

49,551



Dear Friends,

As Carolina jumps into another academic year — my ninth as president of this great university — I am appreciative of those who help move our flagship university forward: our Board of Trustees, members of my executive leadership team, the deans of the university and our many donors whose generosity makes a superior student experience possible. This year, USC received a record number of applications, increased enrollment and welcomed a freshman class that is the most academically talented in our university's history.

However, in South Carolina, as in many other states across the country, public policy has shifted the burden of paying for college away from the state to students and their families. Next year, only 10.5 percent of USC's budget will come from state appropriations while tuition and fees cover 48 percent. Grants, contracts and *gifts* account for 25.5 percent; auxiliary enterprises such as housing, parking and athletics make up 13 percent; and sales and services contribute 2.7 percent.

But despite our economic challenges, and with your help, we are establishing USC as *the* university to provide what the 21st century graduate needs to be successful. While efficiency and affordability remain institutional imperatives, we will never shy away from our pursuit of excellence. I can promise you that we will continue to improve and to strategically invest in the educational and research mission, academic support and student experience that constitute the essence of a USC experience. Your ongoing support continues to play a vital role at the University of South Carolina and, in turn, lifts the Palmetto State's economic and overall well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "H. Pastides". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Harris Pastides
President

90%

90 percent of students at the University of South Carolina receive some type of financial aid.

70%

70 percent of students hold jobs while enrolled at the university to help cover their expenses.



Dear Loyal Supporter,

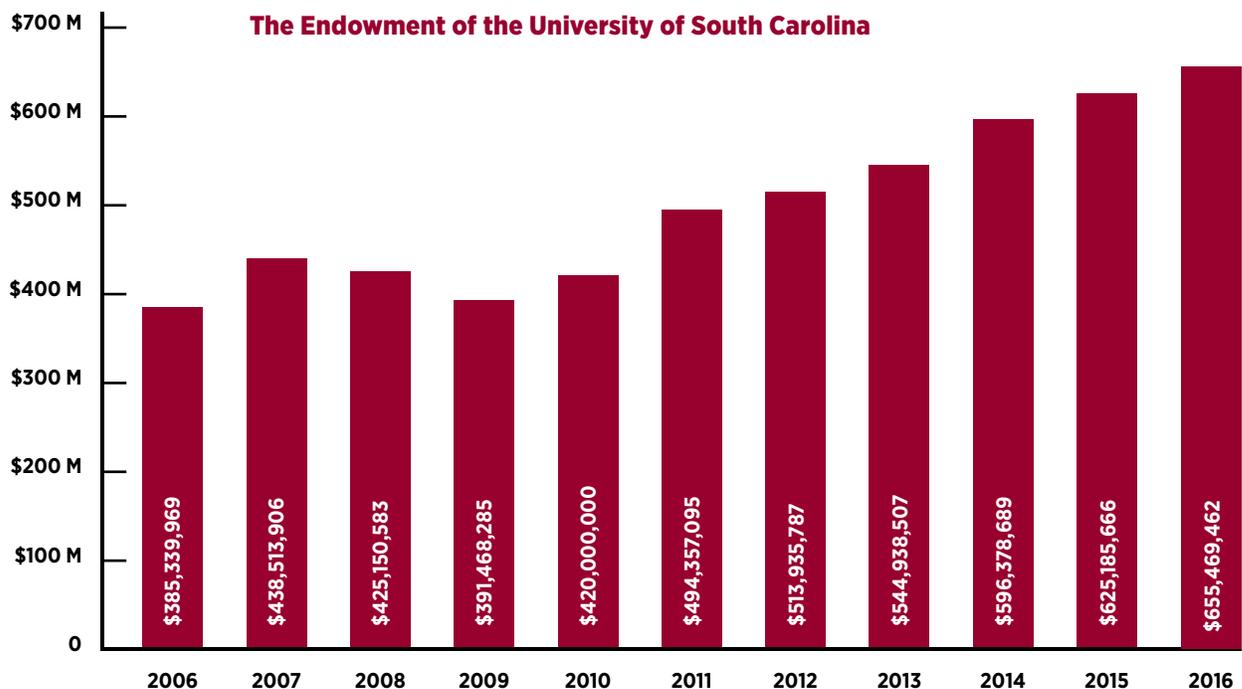
The University Foundations are dedicated to serving the University of South Carolina's flagship higher education institution with passion, purpose, transparency and the highest integrity. Your investment in that mission is the reason the University Foundations are able to give the university such strong support. When you give to the endowment, you create a permanent fund to support USC students and faculty members for generations to come. Eighty-four new endowed funds were created in fiscal year 2016.

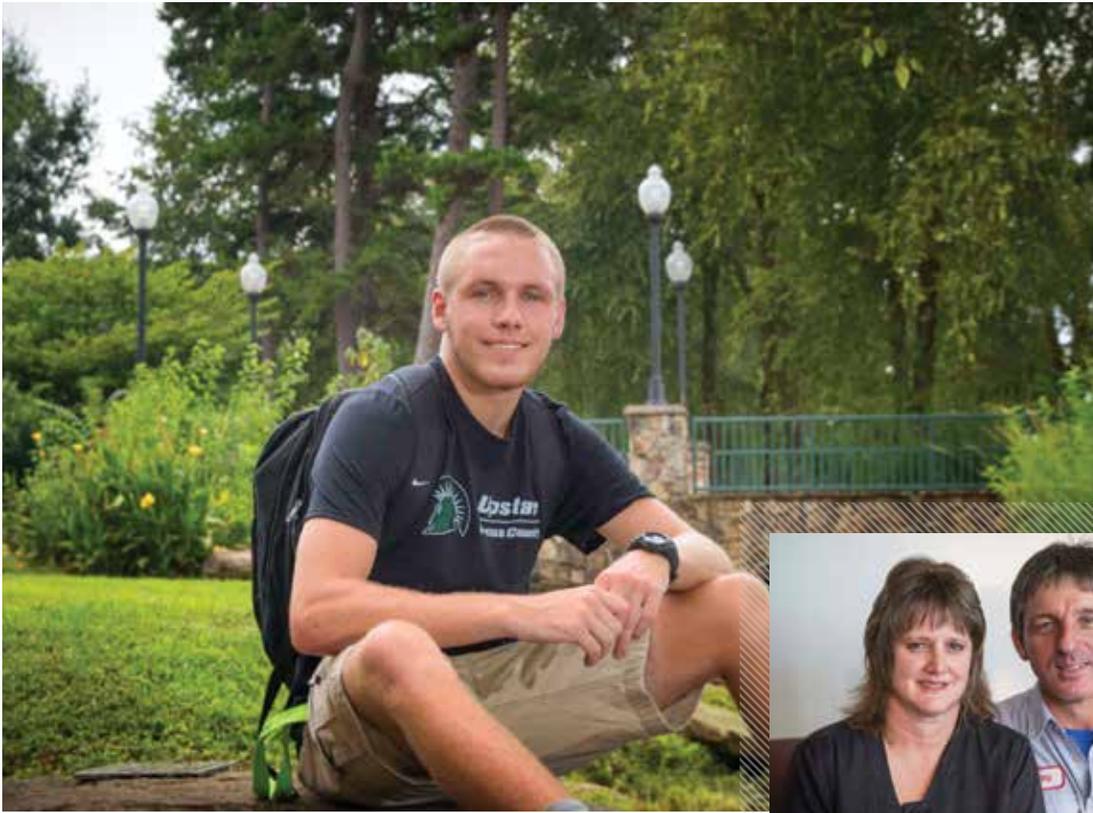
Our volunteer Joint Foundations Investment Committee, with the help of our investment consulting firm, oversees the pooled portfolio of \$400 million. In the graph below, you will note the university's endowment performance over the last several years. With a long-term investment horizon, our committee is very mindful of its goal to increase the endowment to offset inflation while being able to pay out a portion of the income each year. Each quarter, the complete investment report is published at sc.edu/foundations. At that site, you will also find the independent auditor's report and related IRS filings.

The current total endowment as of June 30, 2016, is \$655,469,462. While that number seems large, please remember that nearly all of the funds are restricted by the donors to certain projects and areas, such as scholarships or professorships.

As state support has become somewhat stagnant, the university continues to seek ways to grow and thrive. Through new gifts and from wise investments, we will be able to accelerate the progress of the university. Thank you for your trust in our stewardship and for making a difference in the lives of students and faculty members, now and in the future.

Russell H. Meekins
Executive Director, University Foundations





Above: Josh Lee; right: Laurie and Johnny Lee

Just finish the race

On March 30, 2015, **Josh Lee** sent out a tweet that read, “I’m not striving to make my presence known but instead to make my absence felt.”

He had no way of knowing the profound impact his words would have just a little more than six months later. Josh, along with three of his fellow student-athletes from USC Upstate, was killed in a single car crash on Oct. 11.

The tragedy shook the community. **Laurie and Johnny Lee**, Josh’s parents, feel his absence every day.

The couple established the Josh Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor their son and to pay it forward for future track and field student-athletes. The scholarship will be renewable for three years as long as the student remains in good standing on the track and field team and maintains at least a 3.0 GPA.

“Josh loved USC Upstate,” says Laurie, who graduated from the university in 2004. “This is our way of honoring him.”

According to his father, Josh would go out of his way to help friends and strangers, so he thinks it is only fitting to have a scholarship that will help other students. “Josh always encouraged everyone to ‘just finish the race.’ He always meant to give 100 percent in everything you do. It didn’t matter to Josh if you finished first or last, just as long as you gave all you had. That’s what we want the recipients of his scholarship to do,” Johnny says.

While the Lee family hopes to help future USC Upstate students with this scholarship, they hope everyone benefits from the overall lesson.

“The loss of Josh, James, Sarah and Mills has brought this community together in ways I have never seen,” Laurie says. “It has brought compassion, kindness and faith, and I hope it has taught the kids an important lesson, and that is you are not promised another day. You should live every day to the fullest.”

For more information about USC Upstate, visit southcarolina.edu/our_campuses/upstate.php.



Returning the favor

One telltale sign of a high-quality program is the success of its graduates. When one of those graduates wants to give back by starting an endowed scholarship fund, it's more than a sign: It's a testament to the program's importance.

Aisha Haynes

The Dr. Aisha S. Haynes Endowed Scholarship Fund is that sort of testament for TRIO Programs.

"TRIO Programs have been very instrumental in my success — personally as well as professionally," explains **Aisha Haynes**, an Orangeburg, S.C., native. "Within the programs, I learned the importance of hard work, dedication and giving back to the community."

The mission of TRIO Programs is to encourage and assist people who are traditionally underrepresented in post-secondary education because of income or family educational background. TRIO helps high school students prepare for college and supports them throughout their college experience as well.

Haynes' first TRIO experience was in the Opportunity Scholars Program, but it hardly ended there. She also participated in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, served as an award-winning mentor for three years, interned with TRIO and even got her first job with the program upon graduation.

After the idea came to her to start a scholarship because she wanted to give back to TRIO Programs, she says that she "couldn't wait to talk to Paul Beasley, director of TRIO Programs, about my thoughts."

Beasley put her in touch with Will Elliott, then the director of development for the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support. After some planning and paperwork, the fund became a reality in 2014.

Now a program manager for distributed learning through USC's Center for Teaching Excellence and an adjunct faculty member with the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management, Haynes contributes twice monthly to a savings account for the scholarship. She's also been able to tap into her network of friends to support the fund.

"I've told many people about my goal," she explains, "and many friends, family members and colleagues from USC have stepped in to help. I'm happy to say that we're on track to fully fund the scholarship in two more years."

Haynes' generosity is certainly something to crow about. It's also just the sort of outcome you might hope for with programs as successful as TRIO.

"I love TRIO Programs and am so thankful for the foundation the program provided me," Haynes says. "I'm also so thankful for the entire USC family."

Now that her fund is well on its way to being fully funded, there's a new scholarship — with her name on it — that will ensure future generations of USC students get the same opportunities to succeed.

For more information about TRIO Programs, visit sc.edu/trio.

10.5%

Just 10.5 percent of the university's total operating budget came from state appropriations last year, a precipitous decline over the past decade.

15

U.S. News & World Report ranks USC as one of the 15 most efficient national universities.

84

Donors opened 84 new endowments in 2015-16.

Leading by example

After a personal tragedy, **Harriett Hurt** decided she wanted to do something more with her life. She knew her plans to make a difference in the lives of others would require her to earn a college degree first.

So at age 47, Hurt got accepted to USC Columbia as a nontraditional student. It didn't take long for people to notice her passion and positive attitude.

"I met Harriett through a friend," explains **Sally Boyd**, former assistant vice provost of regional campuses and continuing education. "Learning through my friend that Harriett was establishing a stellar academic record while at the same time totally engaging in her university experience as an older student, I suggested that if she ever entered graduate school, I would love to offer her an assistantship in what was then Adult Student Services."

Adult Student Services advised and advocated for older students returning to school or entering for the first time. When Hurt entered graduate school, Boyd did give her the assistantship, which upon graduation turned into a full-time adviser position. Eventually, Hurt became director of the office.

"For many years," Boyd says, "Harriett Hurt was *the* face known as the friend to adult students seeking opportunity at USC."

During a huge period of growth at USC, the Back to Carolina program was begun to invite students who had left school to return and complete a degree. In addition, online programs were put in place; students were advised remotely instead of in person; and Palmetto College was established. All the while, students needed to know what prior course work could help them earn a degree.



Above: Harriett Hurt, Right: Sally Boyd

"Harriett was the backbone of all of these efforts," Boyd says, "and large numbers of former students count her as a huge force in helping them reach their goals."

Hurt's untimely death in 2013 "left a gap where an advocate, a supporter, a passionate adviser, and a friend and colleague had been," Boyd says. "But her mark was broad and lasting on many lives. I will be forever grateful for her carrying out so much of my office's work that mattered the most to me."

To honor Hurt, Boyd, who has also championed the causes of nontraditional students as well as regional campuses and women's and gender studies, has started the Harriett Hurt Endowed Scholarship Fund to help nontraditional students pursue a degree of their own.

Thanks to the fund, Hurt's impact will still be felt by future generations of nontraditional students. It's a legacy Hurt would surely appreciate.

To find out more about the many offerings of Palmetto College, visit sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/palmetto_college.

63

In 2015-16, 63 funds became fully endowed.

>5,000

More than 5,000 students received financial assistance through endowed funds in FY 2015-16.

32

USC is one of only 32 public universities to receive the Carnegie Foundation's highest research and community engagement designations.

Help your endowment grow

As the benefactor of an endowed fund, you are aware of the great impact your fund has had on the university's students and faculty members. Your generosity helps us make our campuses, communities, state and world healthier, more prosperous and more vibrant, and for that we are extremely thankful.

There are many ways to help your endowment grow to ensure that future generations continue to receive the wonderful benefit of your generosity. Options include cash contributions, matching gifts, stock gifts and planned gifts. For more information about planned giving options, visit giving.sc.edu.

For more information

General questions, or to update contact information:

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