

# NEWS

University of South Carolina Lancaster  
Lancaster, SC 29720



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
LANCASTER

*A Regional Palmetto College*

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## **UofSC announces iCarolina Learning Lab at USC Lancaster**

The University of South Carolina announced that the Palmetto College iCarolina Community Learning Lab at USC Lancaster will be open to the public on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The computer lab, located in room 102 of the James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building at 476 Hubbard Drive, will be one of eight labs opening throughout South Carolina and will provide underserved communities with access to high-speed broadband internet.

“I would like to congratulate Palmetto College and USC Lancaster for opening the second iCarolina Learning Lab,” said Governor Henry McMaster. “This lab network will increase opportunities for our rural students and communities by providing access to broadband internet and programming that will allow all South Carolinians to participate in our state’s growing economy. I look forward to the opening of several more labs in the coming months.”

In March 2021, Governor McMaster awarded \$6 million of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the University of South Carolina, who, in partnership with Benedict College, will establish eight Apple computer labs statewide. The network will include hubs in Columbia’s Bull Street District and at Benedict College, along with satellite labs at six of UofSC’s Palmetto College regional campuses. UofSC Palmetto College campuses are all located within 15 miles or less of a broadband desert, according to the South Carolina Broadband Map, providing reliable technology and internet access to these communities.

“We are delighted to open another Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab at USC Lancaster,” said Dr. Susan Elkins, Palmetto College Chancellor. “This technology investment in our campuses and communities opens the door for so many South Carolinians to gain skills and certifications that will enable them to grow both academically and professionally. Thank you to Governor McMaster for his leadership and vision to create this tremendous opportunity for our community. Also, thanks to USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins and the USC Lancaster team, along with Mr. Blake Faulkenberry, USCL’s Director of Information Technology, for this excellent partnership that will serve Lancaster and the surrounding communities.”

The labs have been strategically located for use by our UofSC Palmetto College regional campuses, local school districts, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the South Carolina Technical College System and citizens in the community. Each site will provide Apple products and educational programming to faculty, staff, students, and the community at no cost to the user.

We are thrilled to have one of the state's eight Apple Labs here at USC Lancaster, said Dr. Walter Collins, Dean at USC Lancaster. "We are appreciative of the generosity of Governor McMaster in funding this initiative and of the assistance of Chancellor Elkins at USC's Palmetto College for bringing the idea to life and facilitating the project. We know that this lab will have a great impact for years on access to technology and learning for our community and campus."

"Initiatives like the iCarolina Learning Lab network are part of what it means to be a flagship institution," said Bill Kirkland, Executive Director of the UofSC Office of Economic Engagement. "At the University of South Carolina, we are educating and training the workforce of the future across the entire state. This investment in our rural and underserved communities will provide essential tools and resources, giving opportunities for more of our communities to participate in the modern economy."

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Ribbon Cutting Photo

Front row L to R: Mr. Blake Faulkenberry, Director of Information Technology, USC Lancaster; Dr. Walter Collins, Dean, USC Lancaster; Dr. Susan Elkins, Chancellor, USC Palmetto College; Ms. Gayle Walsh, Director of Information Technology, USC Salkehatchie; Mr. Bob Dyer, Director of Information Technology, USC Palmetto College; Dr. Carl Owens, Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Project Director and Apple Distinguished Educator

Back row L to R: Mr. Tim Matheny, Senior Systems Engineer, Apple Education; Mr. Rusty Boozer, Senior Account Executive, Apple Education; and Dr. Todd Lekan, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, USC Lancaster.