

A close-up photograph of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a black graduation cap and gown. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. In the background, other graduates in caps and gowns are visible, though slightly out of focus. The lighting suggests an outdoor event, possibly at dusk or dawn, with warm light illuminating the scene.

# Celebrating Our First Year of Service

Inaugural Annual Report  
Fall 2013 through Fall 2014



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
PALMETTO COLLEGE

# In Honor of Dr. John J. Duffy, Jr.

April 25, 1931 - September 1, 2014

We dedicate this inaugural annual report to Dr. John J. Duffy, Jr., a gifted teacher and administrator who devoted his University of South Carolina career to making higher education accessible to all people in the state, regardless of age, geographic location or income.

For more than two decades, Dr. Duffy led the University of South Carolina's regional campuses and Continuing Education with great passion, generosity and humility. His distinguished service and tireless energy have helped generations of South Carolinians improve their lives by earning high-quality college degrees.

Dr. Duffy left a powerful legacy for our university and state. We are honored to carry on his mission of enabling future generations to succeed beyond their imaginations.

*Dr. John J. Duffy (center) leads a groundbreaking ceremony at USC Union.*



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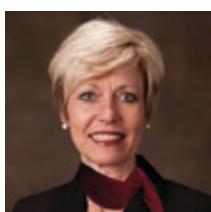
**Dr. Harris Pastides**  
*President*  
University of South Carolina



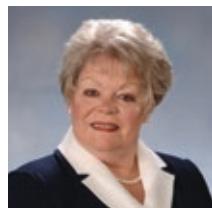
**Dr. Sandra Jordan**  
*Chancellor*  
USC Aiken



**Dr. Michael Amiridis**  
*Provost*  
USC Columbia



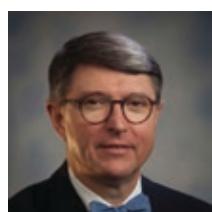
**Dr. Susan Elkins**  
*Chancellor*  
USC Palmetto College



**Dr. Jane Upshaw**  
*Chancellor*  
USC Beaufort



**Dr. Lacy Ford**  
*Senior Vice Provost*  
USC Columbia



**Dr. Tom Moore**  
*Chancellor*  
USC Upstate

## A Year of Innovation, Teamwork

Dear Friends,

On behalf of a talented and tireless system-wide team from the University of South Carolina, we are proud to share this inaugural annual report, which marks a historic moment: the launch and first year of operation for USC Palmetto College.

This new initiative was conceived to foster accessible, affordable and flexible options to South Carolinians seeking bachelor's degrees.

Today, USC Palmetto College is a nationally recognized model of innovation. It supports student success through a system-wide collaboration among our eight campuses and online programs that gives our students the opportunity to earn a degree anytime, anywhere.

During our first year, it's been incredibly rewarding to see all the USC Palmetto College elements working together seamlessly. A new path to degrees in high-demand fields is open, ready and working for all South Carolinians.

USC Palmetto College's first year showed great promise for a bright future. From 2013 through 2014, we have served 1,015 students working to earn majors in seven online degree-completion programs offered by our four-year institutions – USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate. The students represent 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Additionally, for 2014-15, USC Palmetto College received the honor of being ranked number 11 on the list of "Most Affordable Colleges" by Best Online Colleges.

In addition to the successes of the new online degree programs, our four USC Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – remain strong in service to their communities as they continue to offer associate degrees, along with the new online bachelor's degree opportunities for students in their geographic areas.

A recent study conducted at USC's Darla Moore School of Business shows that a bachelor's degree provides a lifetime of better earnings, a benefit not only to individuals, but also the communities in which they live. South Carolina residents with a bachelor's degree earn an average of \$15,000 more annually than those without a bachelor's degree.

Furthermore, U.S. Census data indicates that those with bachelor's degrees can earn up to one million dollars more over the course of their lifetime than those with an associate degree. Actually, when the number of college graduates in an area increases, the community-wide average salary also rises.

So many people from all eight campuses have worked tirelessly as one USC Palmetto College team, contributing to the successes realized throughout our historic first year of service to students across this great state. The result is a win-win situation for both our campuses and the students we serve. USC Palmetto College has a determined vision to create a better-educated workforce for our state while broadening the education and employment options, thus increasing financial stability and quality of life for citizens across every county of South Carolina.

**"So many people from all eight campuses have worked tirelessly as one USC Palmetto College team, contributing to the successes realized throughout our historic first year of service to students across this great state."**

On behalf of USC Palmetto College, we are grateful to the USC Board of Trustees, and President Harris Pastides, for outstanding leadership and an unwavering commitment to innovation that benefits our students and our state. We also applaud our elected and government officials for their focus on improving education and the resulting impact on workforce and economic development. Our partnership consistently generates new economic opportunities for all South Carolinians, and our state as a whole. The legislative support and appropriation for USC Palmetto College are critical and, for our students, we thank you.

Our faculty, and the full USC Palmetto College implementation team, are true pioneers – heroes of this innovative, institutional approach and our mission. I thank you for your countless hours, ideas that brought USC Palmetto College to life, and your commitment to our current and future students.

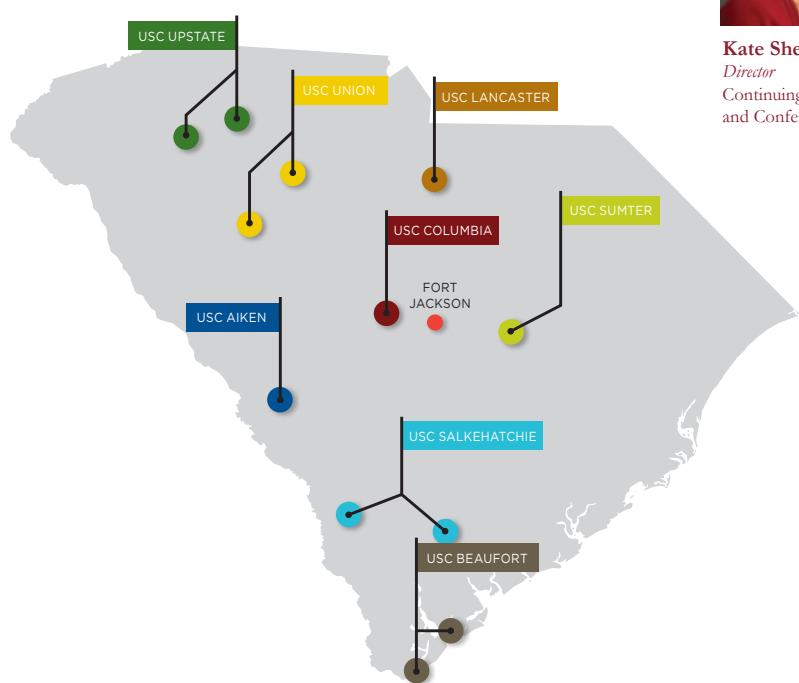
To the communities we are privileged to serve, our generous donors, USC Palmetto College employees and their families, as well as the countless others that help us each day, we deeply appreciate your support and contributions.

Thank you for connecting with USC Palmetto College. You have helped us accomplish so much in our first year. It is a privilege to serve our state, and each of its communities, through innovative and flexible new programs that facilitate degree completion and enable more South Carolinians to compete, achieve and earn at higher levels.

We look forward to working with you as we implement even more opportunities that build on the strong foundation of our first year.

Sincerely,

Susan Elkins, Chancellor



**Dr. Chris Plyler**  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Vice Provost  
USC Palmetto College



**Dr. Walt Collins**  
Dean  
USC Lancaster



**Dr. Ann Carmichael**  
Dean  
USC Salkehatchie



**Dr. Michael Sonntag**  
Dean  
USC Sumter



**Dr. Alice Taylor Colbert**  
Dean  
USC Union



**Dr. Chris Nesmith**  
Assistant Vice Provost and Dean  
Extended University



**Kate Shelton**  
Director  
Continuing Education  
and Conferences

# *USC Palmetto College*

# **Executive Council**

**Dr. Susan Elkins**  
*Chancellor*

**Dr. Chris Plyler**  
*Executive Vice Chancellor  
and Vice Provost*

**Dr. David Hunter**  
*Associate Chancellor  
Academic and Student  
Support Services*

**Dr. Tabatha McAllister**  
*Associate Chancellor  
Student Enrollment Services*

**Mr. Kevin Russell**  
*Associate Chancellor  
Business and Human Resources*

**Dr. Chris Nesmith**  
*Assistant Vice Provost and Dean  
Extended University*

**Mr. Jason Darby**  
*Marketing and Communications Director*

**Mr. Chris DeWolf**  
*Development Director*

**Mr. Randy Rollings**  
*Information Technology Director*

**Ms. Summer Yarborough**  
*Executive Assistant to the Chancellor*

**Dr. Walt Collins**  
*Dean  
USC Lancaster*

**Dr. Ann Carmichael**  
*Dean  
USC Salkehatchie*

**Dr. Michael Sonntag**  
*Dean  
USC Sumter*

**Dr. Alice Taylor Colbert**  
*Dean  
USC Union*

# *USC Palmetto College*

# **Faculty Senate**

# **Executive Committee**

**Dr. Jolie Fontenot**  
*Chair*

**Dr. Hennie van Bulck**  
*Vice Chair*

**Dr. Bruce Nims**  
*Past Chair*

**Dr. Thomas Bragg**  
*Secretary*

**Dr. Lisa Hammond**  
*Faculty Manual Liaison Officer*

**Dr. Janet Hudson**  
*Member-at-Large*

**Dr. Carmella Gottesman**  
*Rights and Responsibilities  
Committee Co-Chair*

**Dr. Rodney Steward**  
*Rights and Responsibilities  
Committee Co-Chair*

**Dr. Ray McManus**  
*Faculty Welfare Committee Chair*

**Dr. Andy Kunka**  
*System Affairs Committee Chair*

## **2014 John J. Duffy Award Winner**

Dr. Bryan Lai, assistant professor of mathematics at USC Salkehatchie, was the recipient of the 2014 John J. Duffy Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is a USC Palmetto College campus award given to recognize outstanding teaching.

The USC Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate's Faculty Welfare Committee judges the nominees based on student assessments and evaluations, innovation in teaching, professional development activities, student involvement and difficulty of course load. The award is presented at the annual USC Honors and Awards ceremony and announced at the final USC Palmetto College Campuses Faculty Senate meeting at the end of each academic year.

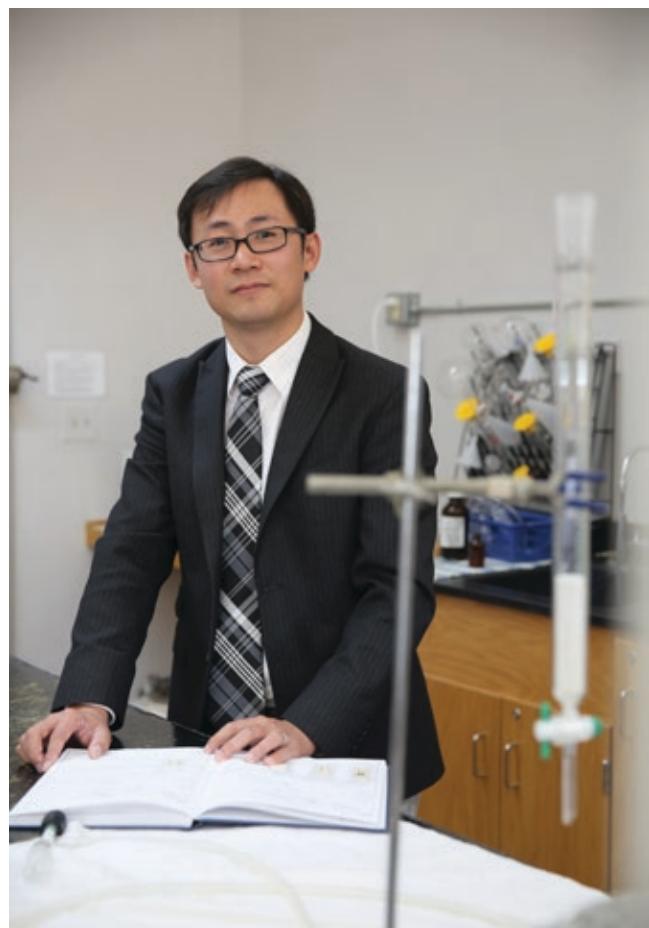




## Outstanding USC Palmetto College Faculty

*Core ingredients in USC Palmetto College's first-year success have been the commitment, ideas and top-rated talent of faculty members from all eight University of South Carolina campuses.*

Faculty members throughout the university system embraced alternative course delivery of online instruction to make USC Palmetto College courses a success. In fact, 50 faculty received grants for USC Palmetto College online course development and 15 faculty received funding from the University's Provost's Distributed Learning grants. These professional development opportunities enabled faculty to utilize technology to facilitate student learning and increase access to a first-rate university education.



# About USC Palmetto College

*The University of South Carolina began the behind-the-scenes work to create a valuable new pathway to accessible, affordable and flexible bachelor's degrees of the highest quality in Fall 2012.*

Several months later, in April 2013, the new USC Palmetto College officially launched to meet higher education needs for all South Carolinians. It brings the quality of USC online to students anywhere in South Carolina and around the world. The college's first academic year began in August 2013.

USC Palmetto College gives students access to innovative online bachelor's degree completion programs and the benefits of a high-quality University of South Carolina degree. It also leverages the entire university system that extends to the four USC Palmetto College two-year campuses, continuing education programs and Extended University, and sites at Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base.

The four USC Palmetto College two-year campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – provide access to associate degrees in communities across the state. Participating students and others who have met admission requirements have access to affordable online bachelor's degrees without leaving their home communities.

USC Palmetto College Online's seven bachelor's degree programs are in fields that are in high demand and offered through USC's four-year campuses, including Business Administration (USC Aiken), Criminal Justice (USC Upstate), Elementary Education (USC Columbia), Human Services (USC Beaufort), Liberal Studies (USC Columbia), Organizational Leadership (USC Columbia) and an RN-BSN Program (USC Upstate).

## **Total Enrollment Fall 2014 Semester**

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**4,372**

Palmetto College  
Campuses

**147**

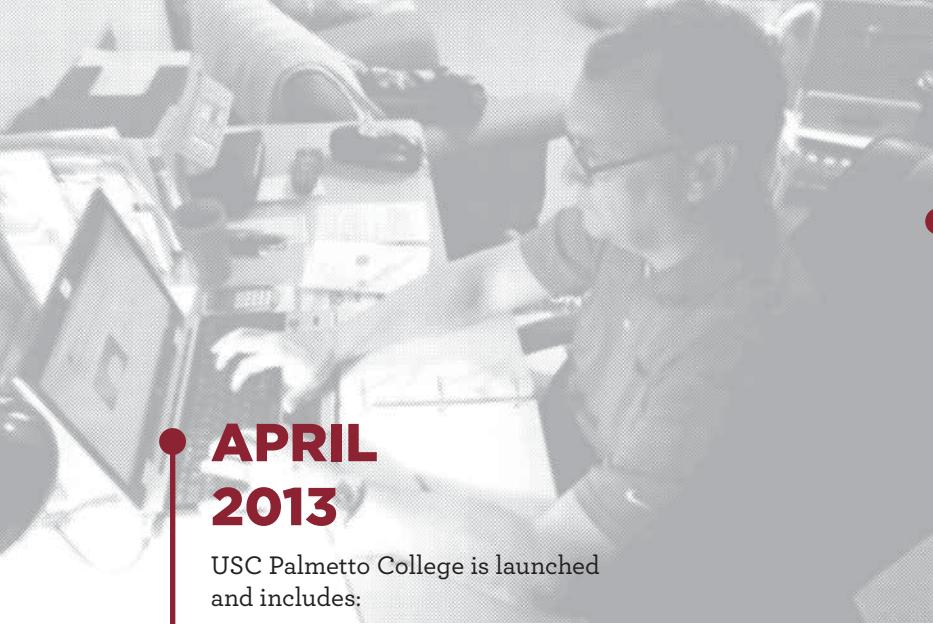
2+2 On-Site Bachelor's  
Degree Programs

**689**

Online Bachelor's Degree  
Completion Programs

**5,208**

Total Enrollment



## JANUARY 2014

**542** USC Palmetto College  
Online students enrolled

## APRIL 2013

USC Palmetto College is launched  
and includes:

*Seven new online bachelor's degree programs*

*Four regional USC campuses—USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, USC Union—which will become USC Palmetto College Campuses*

*Extended University*

*Continuing Education*

Grand opening announcement at  
SC State House

Recruitment begins for USC Palmetto  
College Online bachelor's degree  
completion programs

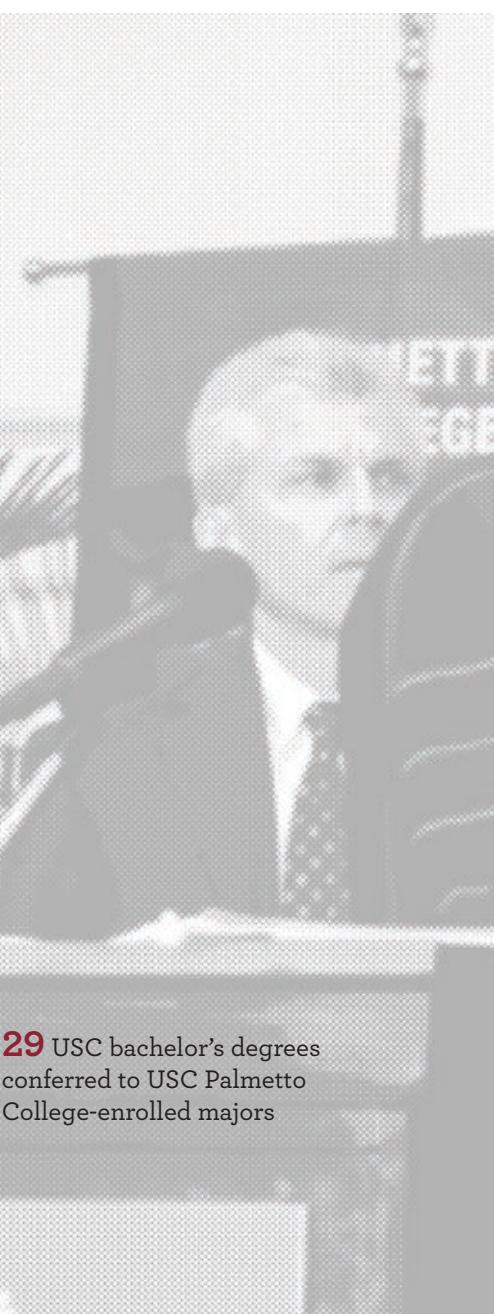
## AUGUST 2013

**503** students enrolled  
as USC Palmetto  
College majors

## OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2013

USC Palmetto College Board  
of Visitors is established

USC Palmetto College  
Online students hail  
from 43 of 46 South  
Carolina counties





● **MAY  
2014** **34** USC bachelor's degrees conferred to USC Palmetto College-enrolled majors

**JUNE  
2014**

*June 20*  
Investiture of Dr. Susan Elkins as first USC Palmetto College Chancellor

**AUGUST  
2014**

**121** degrees conferred, including 112 RN-BSN graduates

**689** students are enrolled as USC Palmetto College majors in Fall 2014

● **DECEMBER  
2014**

**USC Palmetto College Online**

**8,192** potential students inquired between April 18, 2013, and Dec. 31, 2014

**1,015** USC Palmetto College Online majors enrolled from Fall 2013 through Fall 2014

**5,936** seats filled in 209 USC Palmetto College Online courses between Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

An average of **28** students enrolled in **209** different online course offered from Fall 2013 through Fall 2014

**57** USC bachelor's degrees conferred to USC Palmetto College-enrolled majors in December 2014

**241** total degrees confereed from Fall 2013 through Fall 2014

**USC Palmetto College Total Headcount**

**5,208** students (Fall 2014), including USC Palmetto College Campuses, 2+2 On-Site Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs and USC Palmetto College Online



*Campus Highlights*

# **USC LANCASTER**

*A Palmetto College Campus*



*USC Lancaster celebrated its 56th year of service with a major new campus building completion, outstanding community service and engagement programs – as well as a Fall 2014 enrollment of 1,737 students.*

USC Lancaster strives to educate students, in part, by demonstrating a commitment to enriching the community through the celebration of local culture, public service and community engagement events.

#### **Founders Hall Completed**

Thanks to generous contributions from donors and community members, plus the combined efforts of the USC Lancaster staff and students, this 40,000-square-foot building will serve as a center for student engagement and program expansion.

Founders Hall features 18 classrooms, a spacious lecture hall, two seminar rooms, two meetings rooms, 25 faculty offices and an art department.

Founders Hall will be recognized with two awards from the architectural and green building industry. At AIA Charlotte's Annual Design Awards Gala in March 2015, Founders Hall will receive a Merit Award for design. The new facility is also set to be granted LEED Silver certification.



**1,737**

Fall 2014  
Enrollment



### **Students Win Scholarships**

Mallory Blackmon and Keeonn Wilson were recipients of two privately funded scholarship awards.

Blackmon, recipient of the Thomas Gibson Mangum Scholarship, is a broadcast journalism major aspiring to be an anchor for ESPN. While speaking at this year's scholarship appreciation luncheon, she expressed her gratitude toward the Mangum family saying that when the scholarship donors saw Mallory on television, they would know just how much they helped her achieve her dream.

Wilson received both the Oscar Hyatt Bell and Ella Roddey Bell Trust Fund Scholarship and the John M. Barnes Scholarship. He talked about the impact that having an opportunity to earn money toward his education had on his work ethic.

"Receiving a scholarship has convinced me that I can do anything if I continue to work hard. I know that I will spend the rest of my life trying to help young men and women realize their own potential and become successful."

### **Students Commit to Active Community Service**

The character of its students is what makes USC Lancaster special. Since 2012, the student body has engaged in more than 2,000 hours of community service.

Leading the effort are two student groups, the Omega Scholars and Delta Links. Sponsored through TRiO programs, these groups organize food and clothing drives and assist in fundraising for local charities.

TRiO and the Student Government Association hosted a canned food drive and luncheon for Hope of Lancaster, Inc. USC Lancaster sponsored an Angel Tree for Christian Services and Salvation Army during the month of December, helping 305 local families.



## Nursing Students Provide Aid Abroad

Two USC Lancaster College of Nursing graduates took their skills overseas to help people in developing countries. Katrina Graske visited Nicaragua with a group from the Palmetto Medical Initiative of Charleston, S.C. Katrina and her team traveled to several cities helping set up medical clinics in local schools. While in the clinics, Graske spent time assessing patient needs and checking vital signs.

Ciarra Ellis, another nursing graduate, visited the Dominican Republic with a church from Edgemoor, SC. She helped with construction work, performed maintenance, organized and painted classrooms. She says the Dominican Republic became a second home to her and that she learned a lot during her time there. She hopes to one day lead a medical team there to give back.

## Tyler Reeves Chosen as OXFAM Change Leader

Tyler Reeves, an Organizational Leadership graduate, was chosen as one of only 50 students in the nation to serve as an OXFAM Change Leader for 2013-14. OXFAM is a global organization dedicated to eradicating poverty, hunger and injustice around the world. Reeves held a Hunger Banquet at USC Lancaster to educate students about the realities of worldwide hunger and poverty.

He traveled to Chicago to represent OXFAM at the IMPACT Conference, an annual gathering of students who are focused on community-based research and service learning.



## Faculty and Staff Highlights

In 2013-2014, USC Lancaster faculty attended or made scholarly presentations at numerous regional, national and international conferences. Professors Rebecca Freeman and Kaetrena Davis Kendrick made several presentations about their research on information studies and the importance of information literacy.

Dr. Michael Bonner recently agreed to co-edit a book titled, "Civil War and Reconstruction Essays from the South Carolina Historical Association." Bonner also serves as the president of the South Carolina Historical Association.

To help increase the longevity of university structures like the new Founders Hall, the facilities maintenance professional staff applied for and received a grant to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera. The device can predict equipment failures and structural flaws before they happen. USC Lancaster is also offering to share the camera with all regional USC campuses.

Kenneth T. Cole, director of financial aid, is serving as president of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA) and is serving on the board of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) for 2014-2015.

*Campus Highlights*

# USC SALKEHATCHIE

*A Palmetto College Campus*

*USC Salkehatchie celebrated a year of achievements in the classroom, on the stage and on the baseball field.*

As the university approaches its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, USC Salkehatchie has continued expanding the Allendale and Walterboro campuses. In fact, USC Salkehatchie was the fastest growing campus of all state institutions between 2007-2013. Fall 2014 enrollment reached 1,076, and, enrolment surpassed 1,100 in 2012, which is the school's highest ever.

### **Carolina Theater Reopens in Downtown Allendale**

Headlining USC Salkehatchie's expansion of its Allendale campus was the renovation and grand re-opening of the Carolina Theater. Thanks to donations from local businesses, private donors and a grant from the USDA Rural Development Fund, the neon yellow lights of the Carolina Theater light up Allendale's North Main Street once again. The restoration project was part of an effort to revitalize Allendale's historic downtown, while providing USC

art education students with invaluable experience by helping restore one of the state's oldest entertainment venues.

On re-opening night, theater goers lined the street and enjoyed the art-deco décor while waiting for the celebratory illumination of the classic theatre's sign. The two-day celebration embraced the history of Carolina Theater, which dates back to the 1920s. Dr. Harris Pastides and other university dignitaries danced the night away in honor of preserving South Carolina's history.

# 1,076

Fall 2014  
Enrollment



*The first lighting of the theater marquee, paid for by  
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.*



*Athletes, family and friends at the Inaugural Athletic Reunion for West Campus Sports.*

### **Alumni Keep Connected: Former Athletes Take the Field**

More than 500 current and former USC Salkehatchie athletes, family and friends participated in the Inaugural Athletic Reunion for West Campus sports. Current teams faced off against alumni in softball, baseball and soccer, then enjoyed an evening picnic. The next alumni athlete reunion is planned for the Fall 2015 semester.

### **Colleton County High Wins USC Salkehatchie High School Bowl**

The Colleton County High School Academic Quiz Bowl team won first place in the 35th annual USC Salkehatchie Academic High School Bowl, which was held February 21 on campus. Team members are Matthew Germoth, Peter Sanders, Haley Gregorich and Kristen Ulmer. George Smith coaches the team.

### **King Named Division I NJCAA Pitcher of the Week**

Right-handed sophomore pitcher, Bryce King, was named one of the NJCAA Players of the Week after he delivered a shutout performance against USC Lancaster in a 2-0 victory.

### **USC Salkehatchie Hosts Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours**

USC Salkehatchie hosted the Walterboro/Colleton Chamber of Commerce Business after hours. The event sponsored by USC USC Palmetto College and Carmichael Propane. Guests enjoyed a reception on campus in Marvin Park before watching the men's basketball team defeat Denmark Tech.



## **Student Receives USC Magellan Grant**

Jenni Haman, a senior in the Bachelor of Liberal Studies program at USC Salkehatchie, has received the Magellan Grant from the University of South Carolina's Office of Undergraduate Research. Haman will use the grant to identify, repair and display artifacts at the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society's Bedon-Lucas House. Haman says she fell in love with the rich history of the house and hopes to share its story through her work with its artifacts.



*Pictured left to right are: Salkehatchie Student Government Vice President Drew Floresca, Business Professor Jeff Irwin, USC Palmetto College Chancellor, Dr. Susan Elkins and alumnus Brantley Wiggins.*



*Campus Highlights*

# USC SUMTER

*A Palmetto College Campus*



**879**

Fall 2014  
Enrollment



USC Sumter's 2013-14 year was filled with fresh energy and excitement, everywhere from the classrooms to campus life. The academic year kicked-off with an enrollment of 879 students along with 34 full-time faculty and 23 adjunct members.



USC Sumter Psychology students **Alyson Shelton**, **Michael Howard** and **April Andrews** received first place at the South Carolina Psychology Association (SCPA) conference. This is among stiff competition from other universities across the state. Andrews was one of the authors who placed first last year as well, making her the only author of two first place research projects in the history of SCPA. The students competed under the guidance of USC Sumter Professor of Psychology Dr. Salvador Macias.

## Campus Highlights

Five art galleries are now open and thriving with new exhibits since the program's return in 2013. Artists such as Ann Hubbard, Susan Lenz, Carole Carberry and Dr. Richard E. Getty have featured displays this year.

USC Sumter celebrated 20 years of Rivalry history with the annual Big Wednesday Tailgate Party in November 2013 with Cocky, Blaze and Tiger cheering on the crowd.

USC Sumter joined the Columbia campus in becoming tobacco free at the start of the 2014 Spring semester.

## Baseball Team Wins Honors

The Fire Ants baseball team won another NJCAA Region 10 Championship and was honored in June at the South Carolina State House with a special resolution from the South Carolina State Senate. The future looks bright for USC Sumter Baseball as the program continues to bring in premier talent looking to make a mark on the team's brief but impressive history.

Since 1909, the **U.S. Congressional Baseball Game** has been the only annual partisan showdown beloved by all and enjoyed by thousands. Members usually sport the uniform of their home states and districts. **U.S. Congressman Mick Mulvaney, representing the Fifth District of South Carolina, chose to wear a USC Sumter Fire Ants jersey in the game.** The jersey was a gift from Coach Medlin.



## Inaugural Sumter Color 5K

In May 2014, more than 900 people gathered at USC Sumter for the inaugural **Sumter Color 5K**. Sponsored by the USC Sumter Fire Ants Softball program and local businesses, runners were blasted at color stations along the route, then stayed for the “color party” near the finish line to ensure no one went home clean.



USC Sumter introduced its **new mascot, Blaze**, who made regular appearances pumping up crowds at football games, parades and community events.

USC Sumter student **Rachael Horne** recently had an essay published in the latest (ninth) edition of the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*, one of the top-selling grammar handbooks for writing instruction. Her essay on “cyberbullying,” which she wrote for Dr. Andrew Kunka’s English 102 course, was selected from a number of submissions to serve as the “Sample Argument Paper” in the textbook. This paper now serves as a model for writing an argument paper, which will be seen by students around the world who use this textbook.

## Faculty and More Honors

Biology Instructor Dan Kiernan was named a finalist for the South Carolina Governor’s Professor of the Year award.

Fake AP Stylebook, a humorous Twitter feed in which USC Sumter’s Dr. Andy Kunka participates, was a finalist for a Shorty Award for exceptional social media.

Dr. Ray McManus’s third book of poetry, titled *Punch*, was recently published by Hub City Press in the Fall of 2014.

USC Sumter was named a 2014 “Military Friendly School” by the nationally distributed magazine *G.I. Jobs*.

## *Campus Highlights*

# USC UNION

### *A Palmetto College Campus*

*Big things are happening at USC Union as the school sets a new enrollment record of 680 students for the Fall 2014 semester. The campus also celebrates its 50th anniversary during the 2015-2016 academic year.*

USC Union continues to expand its positive impact on the surrounding area. Just last year, it added more courses, increased scholarship funds, developed new infrastructure and fostered ties with local businesses to spur community development and create new opportunities for students.

#### **New Location Opens in Laurens**

USC Union's Laurens site now has a new home at the Oaks Shopping Plaza on North Harper Street. Opened in January 2014, the facility boasts new classrooms, offices and a library, and sits in a prime location for visibility in the area. The Laurens site helps make expansion easier as USC Union continues to grow. The new campus location offers upper level courses for the bachelor's degrees in Liberal Studies and Organizational Leadership, as well as dual-credit course work for area high school seniors.

#### **Partnering with Waffle House for Job Training**

USC Union teamed up with Waffle House to provide a safe and practical place for the restaurant to train employees for its new Union location. Two days a week, Waffle House

used the USC Union auditorium to train employees on everything from healthy kitchen practices to writing ticket orders. USC Union and Waffle House entered the partnership determined to provide valuable job training while generating sustainable economic growth in the area.

#### **Baseball Team Wins Eastern Division**

Last year, Bantam Baseball won the Eastern Division Championship, finished second in the District IV Central Conference, and capped off the year with a number four ranking out of 105 schools. This made the team early season contenders to make a run at the NCBA National Title. The Bantams are consistently ranked within the top five teams in the nation throughout the season. They finished the season as District III West Champions.



**680**

Fall 2014  
Enrollment





# USC Union Faculty Member Creates Memorial Scholarship Endowment

*Bill Taylor, an adjunct professor of computer science at USC Union, suffered a personal tragedy this past spring when his wife of nearly 39 years, Alice Dawn Taylor, was struck and killed in her car during a two-vehicle accident in Wellford, S.C.*

Dawn Taylor, a caring woman who knitted hats, scarves and other clothes for the homeless, had been on her way home to Spartanburg from an alpaca farm, where she picked up wool for her volunteer tasks.

Taylor said, "She and her knitting group would meet at the local library here in Spartanburg." In addition to knitting, she loved to correspond with pen pals "all over the world," he said.

Taylor decided that an endowed memorial scholarship was the best way to honor her life. So he invested nearly \$90,000 to establish The Dawn and Bill Taylor Scholarship Fund, with Dawn's maternal aunt, Lucille Barnett, also contributing another \$10,000 to reach a total of \$100,000.

Starting in Spring 2014, the scholarship benefits one USC Union student annually. They will have completed two years of college and attend USC Palmetto College Online to earn a bachelor's degree. Essentially, the scholarship assists the student for their junior and senior year.

USC Union is one of USC Palmetto College's four regional campuses. Bachelor's degrees are offered online through programs at USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate.

Traditionally, USC Union has been a two-year school, but students now can graduate after

receiving four-year degrees online in Union. "It's one of the reasons I've configured the scholarship the way it is—to promote USC Palmetto College," said Taylor.

**"It's one of the  
reasons I've  
configured the  
scholarship the  
way it is — to  
promote USC  
Palmetto College."**

Taylor, who previously managed textile plants in the area, has taught computer science at USC Union for eight years. He has two children, Bill Taylor IV and Elizabeth Dawn Taylor, who live in Chicago. The couple would have celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary July 27. "I also consider the University of South Carolina part of my family," Taylor added.

The quality of  
**USC online.**

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**PalmettoCollege.sc.edu**

Accessible, Affordable and Flexible  
for all South Carolinians.

# Online Bachelor's Degree Completion Programs

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**Ranked #11**

[www.affordablecollegesonline.org](http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org)  
(January 2015)

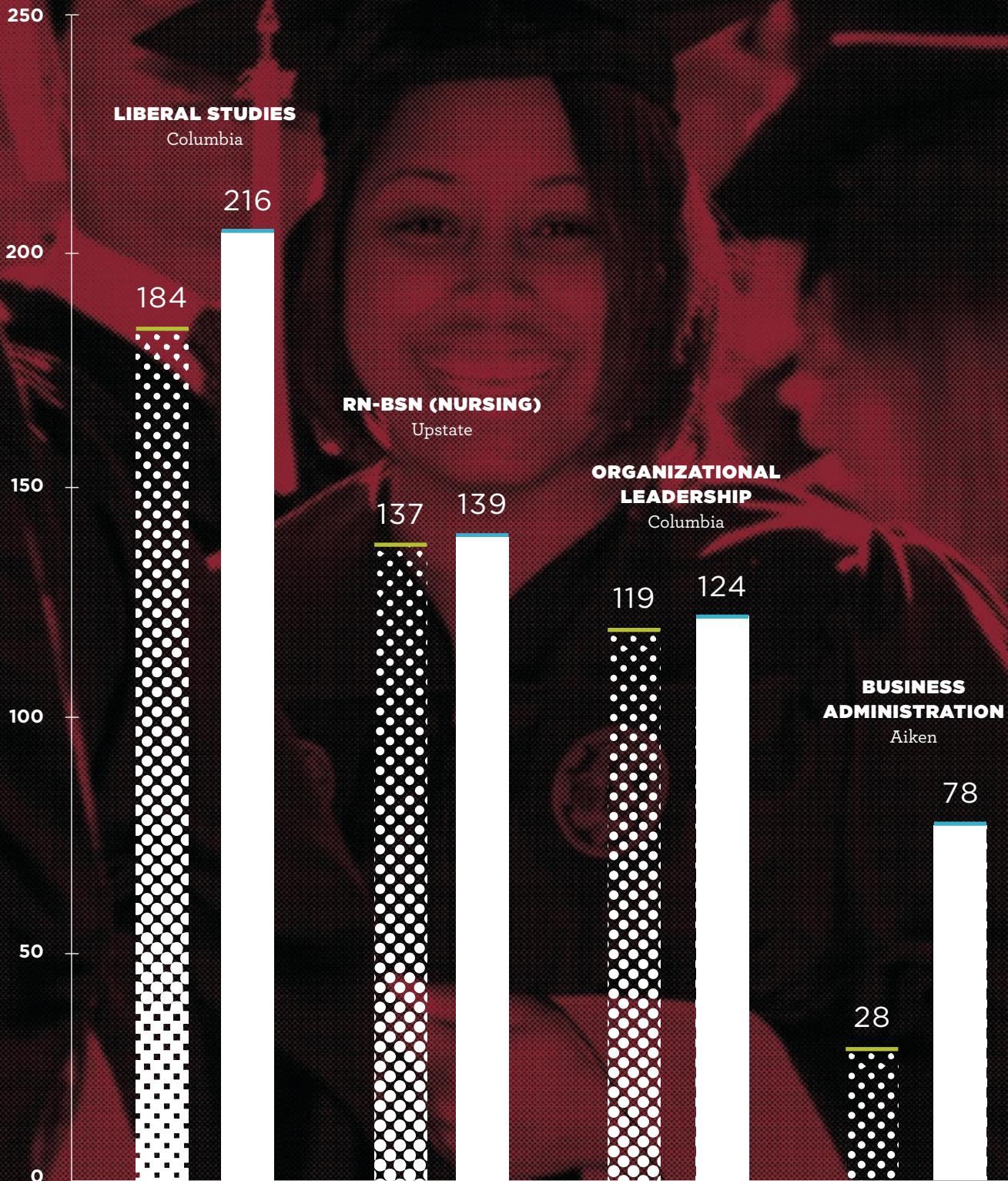
**USC Aiken** Business Administration

**USC Beaufort** Human Services

**USC Columbia** Elementary Education  
Liberal Studies  
Organizational Leadership

**USC Upstate** Criminal Justice  
RN-BSN (Nursing)

## Seven New Online Bachelor's Degrees and the Number of Majors Enrolled



## First Year of Online Enrollments Exceeds Goal

*USC Palmetto College Online enrolled more 1,015 students between Fall 2013 and Fall 2014. Having completed their general education requirements prior to enrollment, these students have chosen to complete their upper division bachelor's degree requirements online. Already, more than 20 percent of those students (241 in total) have earned their degrees.*

"USC Palmetto College was designed to expand educational access to people who simply have not been able to complete coursework through the traditional method," said Chancellor Susan Elkins. "This online model puts bachelor's degrees within reach for a myriad of students across South Carolina, including those in remote areas of the state and those in the middle of their careers who are juggling families and other responsibilities."

And, through USC Palmetto College, the University of South Carolina leads the way for South Carolinians to have an affordable, convenient way to take advantage of new jobs, promotions or salary increases that often require a four-year bachelor's degree.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE Upstate

57

17



### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION Columbia

33



### HUMAN SERVICES Beaufort

42



FALL 2013

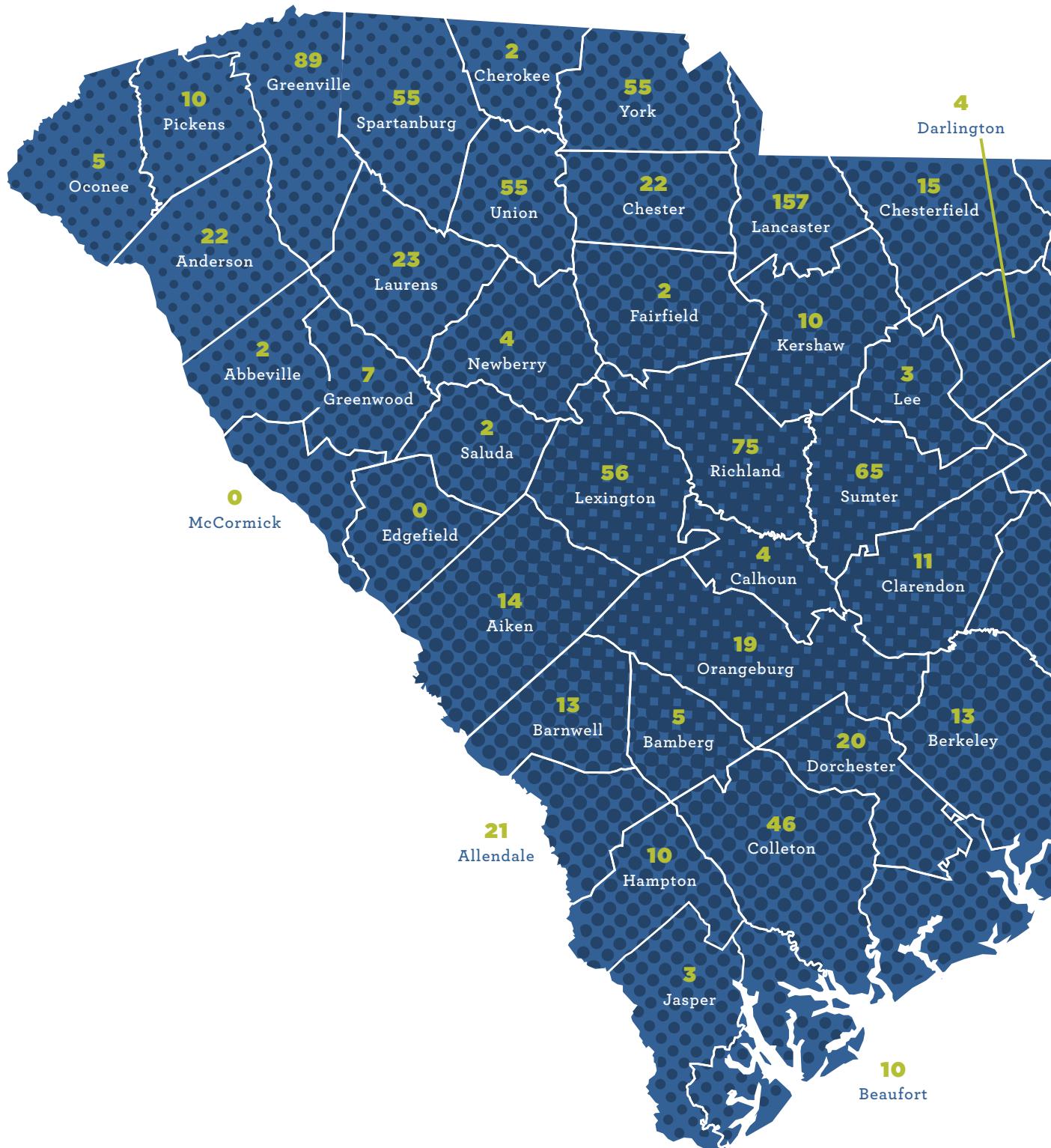


FALL 2014

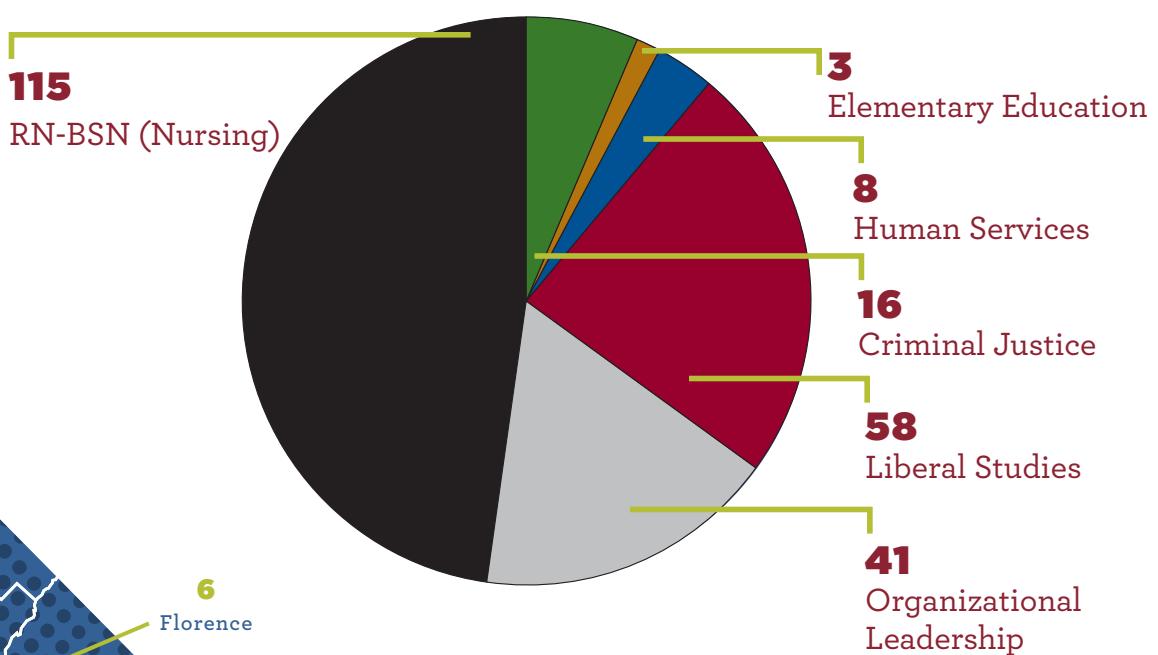
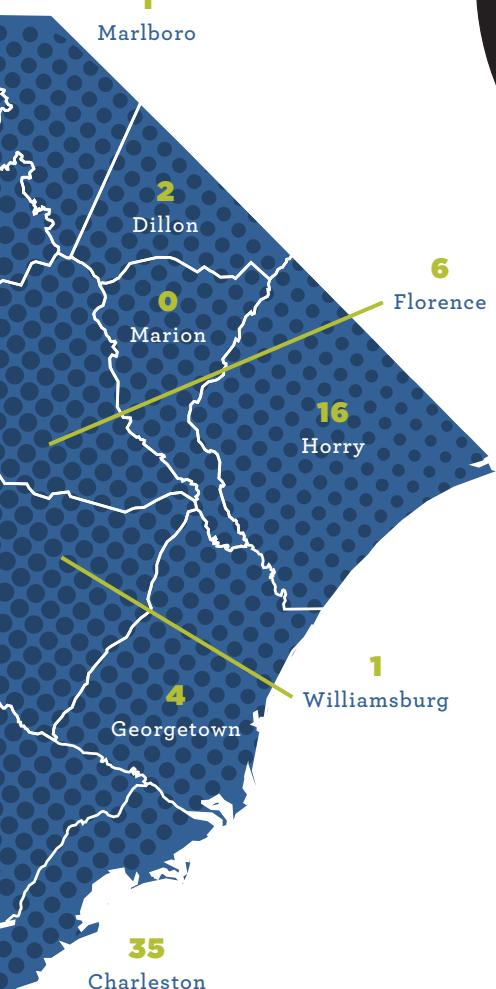
# USC Palmetto College Online: By The Numbers

## Where They're From

Students entering USC Palmetto College from Fall 2013 through Fall 2014 hailed from 43 of 46 South Carolina counties. Seventeen out-of-state students were also enrolled.



## 2013 - 2014 Graduates



1,015

Enrolled as USC  
Palmetto College Majors

# Tara Olivia Davis

## *Earning Her Degree 200 Miles from Campus*

*Job-hunting, family obligations and church activities don't leave much spare time for Tara Olivia Davis. Yet, this bright 24-year-old is determined to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in human services from USC Beaufort – even though it's 200 miles away from her home in Pageland, S.C.*

Thanks to the online degree program offered by USC Palmetto College, Davis can take online courses to earn a bachelor's degree from USC Beaufort in just two years. To be accepted into the USC Palmetto College program, students must have earned 60 hours of college credit and meet degree admission requirements.

"The Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services is a unique program that no one else in the state is offering," said Dr. Randy Lamkin, faculty coordinator of the online human services program and a visiting associate professor of sociology in the Department of Social Science at USC Beaufort. "It's solid, broad preparation for people who want to work in the social services and human services field."

It doesn't prepare people to be licensed counselors or therapists, but it does prepare them to work with individuals and groups."

This fits in perfectly with Tara Davis's plans. She plans to graduate in 2015 and work with children in elementary-school-aged children. Davis earned 60 credit hours at USC Lancaster, working toward a degree in social work. When she learned about USC Beaufort's human services online program, which is available through USC Palmetto College, she applied for admission and was accepted.

"Online classes are much more convenient for me," said Davis. "At home in Pageland, I spend about an hour on each of the classes I'm taking. By noon every day, I'm usually done with classes. Then I have the afternoon to devote to everything else I have to do. It's great."

"The big benefit for students is that they can live anywhere in the state and they don't have to change their lifestyle to earn a degree," Dr. Lamkin added. "They can complete online courses in their own time and place."





**“The Bachelor of Science degree in  
Human Services is a unique program that  
no one else in the state is offering.”**

— Dr. Randy Lamkin, Faculty Coordinator



# Tommy Phelps

*Back to School Online*

*Tommy Phelps, a lifelong USC football fan, has cheered on the Gamecocks with more enthusiasm than usual these days. Now, the 48-year-old is rooting for his favorite team as a fellow student.*

With a daughter, Caroline, who soon will be attending college, and his wife, Sue, who graduated from Columbia College, Tommy Phelps's desire to finish his college degree has been rekindled. His original plan to work on an associate degree at Midlands Technical College and transfer to USC was postponed in 1986 when he accepted a promotion into sales at JanPak.

"I decided to try my hand at sales and never looked back," he said. Tommy also says he missed out on some leadership skills that would have been helpful throughout his career. He credits Dr. Susan Elkins, Chancellor of USC USC Palmetto College, for convincing him to action.

"Dr. Elkins spoke to our Rotary Club this past year about USC Palmetto College," he said. "It occurred to me that I could earn a bachelor's degree online through this program while continuing to work and participate in community activities."

In August 2013, as 30,000 students arrived on USC's campus to begin the fall semester, Tommy began his USC educational journey online through USC Palmetto College. "The flexibility to complete assignments after I've spent time with my family is what makes this all possible," added Tommy.

"I can watch a class webinar, post comments to the discussion board and professors reply the same day. It's a juggling act to balance work, family and school, but I've made it a priority to be a Carolina alumnus by 2017."

**"The flexibility to complete assignments after I've spent time with my family is what makes this all possible."**

— Tommy Phelps, current USC Palmetto College student



# Eric Grabski

## *One class at a time – USC Palmetto College gives a long-time student a new way to complete his bachelor's degree*

*Like many young adults, Eric Grabski saw the Army as a way to serve his country and pay for his college education. Little did the Wisconsin native know that it would take him to Fort Jackson and the University of South Carolina (USC) to earn a bachelor's degree.*



Grabski arrived at Fort Jackson in 1985, when he was 20. He was eager to earn a college degree and start a family with his wife, Debbie.

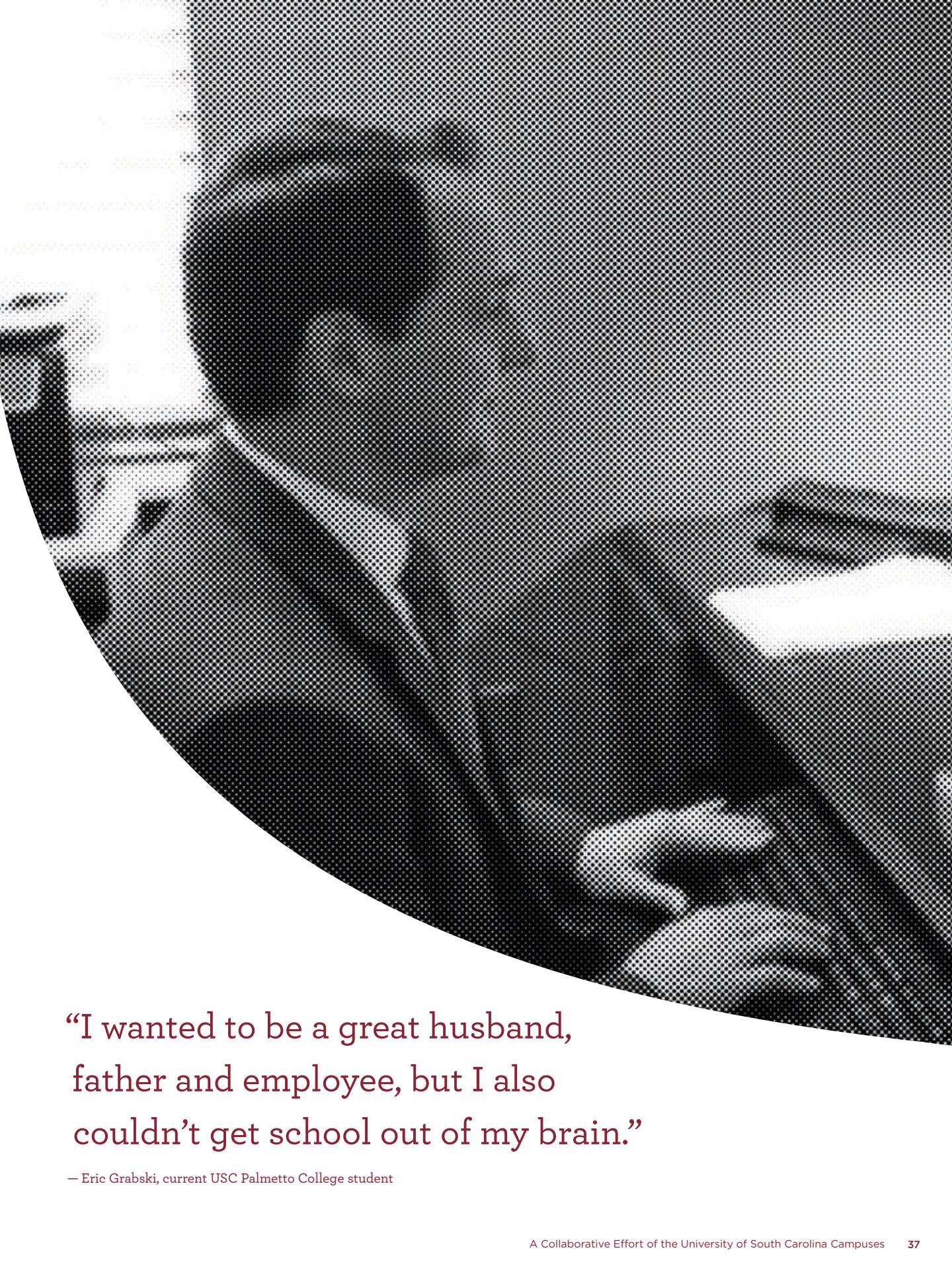
“After I got out of the Army, I thought a university would be a good idea so that I could work and go to school,” said Grabski, who joined the USC police department as a patrol officer in 1986.

A few years later, he headed to class. He started with early childhood education at USC and then switched gears after starting a family to earn an associate degree in criminal justice from Midlands Technical College.

“I wanted to be a great husband, father and employee, but I also couldn’t get school out of my brain,” Grabski explained. “So I slowly kept taking classes over the years.”

Grabski retired in 2008 as USC’s deputy director of field services. He returned shortly later to serve as captain, managing law enforcement’s community, campus relations and public information. That’s when he heard about the Back to Carolina program and, later, USC Palmetto College.

“I thought, this is the answer to everything. Over the past 25 years, I’ve worked on classes and really experienced the value of a USC degree,” said Grabski, who will soon earn a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies through USC Palmetto College.



“I wanted to be a great husband,  
father and employee, but I also  
couldn’t get school out of my brain.”

— Eric Grabski, current USC Palmetto College student

# Making Connections With All Students

## Continuing Education

*The Continuing Education program serves as a non-credit unit of USC Palmetto College and expands the scope, depth and breadth of university outreach and engagement programs.*

We provide value-added expertise and services through a range of programs, including:

- Professional and personal development through academic enrichment
- Continuing education units (CEUs) and non-credit certificates
- University test preparation
- Year-round, pre-university academics for youths
- Conference and event services

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Office of Continuing Education and Conferences served 24,828 students, community members, federal and state agencies and national higher education constituents. We continue to serve the university and communities across the state with a comprehensive and professional one-stop center for administering and issuing CEUs and non-credit certificate programs.

In addition to CEUs, our non-credit programs grew in the areas of personal and professional enrichment through the expansion of University Test Prep, Professional Education programs and a personal enrichment course offering called Carolina Classroom.

This year, Carolina Classroom continued to showcase the talents of USC faculty, staff and alumni. Our digital photography courses and the Rudy Mancke Nature Series are among our most popular offerings.

Our pre-university programs give exciting opportunities for students in grades 5-12 to experience student life and academic programs not generally offered in K-12

schools. The Carolina Master Scholars Adventures Series celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing summer courses for academically talented 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. During the year this program enrolled 274 youth from around the country, and 75% of those students had never participated in a pre-university program before. We also continued to partner with Duke University to offer two academic enrichment programs for fifth and sixth graders. The University Test Prep program prepares both undergraduate and high school students for high-stakes entrance exams, including the SAT, LSAT, GRE and GMAT. This year we also held three customized SAT preparation courses for Orangeburg School District 5. This district received a federal grant to help students increase SAT scores.

## Conference & Event Services (CEC)

*Conferences with academic focus affirm the university's mission of sharing research to meet statewide, regional and national demands for educational resources and professional expertise.*

Our unit provides services to manage the logistics and registration services for a wide range of events and conferences that showcase the university's faculty research and scholarship. During 2013-2014, CEC helped 26 university, state and national organizations host international, national and local symposiums, conferences and events.

One such conference this year was the prestigious, international Second World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education, which attracted more than 400 physicians from around the world to Columbia, SC.

Nearly 11,000 participants received 325 educational hours through conference and event programs on subjects varying from social work to photography.

## Extended University

*The USC Extended University provides more than 300 courses to 6,000 students each semester through evening, weekend and military programs.*

It also serves as the academic college for USC Palmetto College's online bachelor's degrees in liberal studies and organizational leadership. These two programs have combined to graduate 289 students. Growth is expected to continue as 293 students are currently enrolled for 2014. Of the 15 highly qualified Extended University faculty members, 11 have the terminal degree and teach in a variety of disciplines.

Extended University also provides a military program at Fort Jackson that awards A.A. and A.S. degrees to active-duty personnel from all branches, their family members, Department of Defense civilian employees, reservists and veterans. Evening, weekend and online classes provide flexibility to students so that they may reach academic goals while maximizing the university's use of classroom space.

An important Extended University mission is to extend aid to students returning to the classroom after an extended leave of absence. The Adult Student Advancement program caters to students who are 25 years or older and want to begin or complete a degree program, or who simply need a new start. Many of these students take advantage of our back to school workshops. These offer adults considering a return to the classroom the opportunity to meet with our Adult Student Services professionals who provide specialized, individual support to help them on their path toward a degree.

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