

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER
BLUEPRINT FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
REPORT 2005 – 2006 AND GOALS 2007-2011
SUMMARY REPORT
FULL TEXT AVAILABLE AT: <http://usclancaster.sc.edu>**

Vision Statement

USC Lancaster aspires to be a leader among the university's regional campuses as a comprehensive learning center offering equal access to high-quality university programs and services. USC Lancaster must be a dynamic, forward-looking and proactive institution of higher learning that relates productively to its community and to the University of South Carolina. USC Lancaster seeks to continuously enhance its intellectual environment and expand access to its academic programs.

SUPERIOR EDUCATION

The focus at USC Lancaster is delivery of superior education at an exceptional value. To that end, USC Lancaster will serve as the standard bearer for the regional campuses of the University of South Carolina. By all measures of efficiency and effectiveness, USC Lancaster will excel in the quality of academic programs that lead to associate and baccalaureate degrees. The USCL faculty will be comprised of scholars dedicated to teaching. They will employ instructional methods calculated to engage and challenge students. Faculty will be dedicated to aiding students in achieving their greatest academic potential. In pursuit of continued scholarship, faculty will undertake research, present findings, and publish works in their chosen fields of study. USC Lancaster will seek and maintain accreditation of all academic programs.

STATE OF THE ART RESOURCES

USC Lancaster will operate with state-of-the art resources. In order to amplify the learning environment, classrooms will be designed and equipped for instructional efficiency and comfort. Laboratories will be equipped with technologies that will capitalize on innovation, functionality and safety. Recognizing that libraries are the gateway to the sum of human knowledge, USC Lancaster will provide students and the community with a library that is conducive to reading, research, discovery, and learning. Academic resources and research materials will be readily available through multiple media and from a variety of sources. Students will be trained to ensure they are able to access needed resources. Through its T. J. Blumer Catawba Research Collection, USCL's Medford Library will be the United States' preeminent source of information about Catawba Indian history and culture.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

USC Lancaster will provide strategic leadership in setting the direction for higher education in its six-county service region. As USC Lancaster approaches its golden anniversary, it does so with realization that it has not yet reached its full potential. Moreover, USCL recognizes that economic transformation in its service region translates into increased demand for more diversified degree programs. By actively engaging customers and stakeholders, USC Lancaster will partner with community leaders and organizations in analyzing 21st century challenges and opportunities, both for the university and the community as a whole. Working in cooperation with the Lancaster County Commission on Higher Education and the Educational Foundation of

the University of South Carolina Lancaster, the university's planning will focus on excellence in higher education, strong financial management, and continued growth in service to the region, service to USC and service the state of South Carolina. USC Lancaster will offer health and wellness programs, cultural events and university facilities for the betterment of and enjoyment by students and citizens. In partnership with the Educational Foundation, USCL will endow faculty chairs, establish a multi-million dollar general endowment fund, expand the physical plant and intensify campus beautification programs. In cooperation with the Lancaster County Commission on Higher Education, USCL will ensure cost-effective operations and maintenance of the physical plant maximize energy conservation.

Mission Statement (condensed)

The mission of USC Lancaster is to provide an accessible and affordable student-centered educational opportunity and to enrich our regional community through a strong commitment to public service.

The full text of the USCL mission statement may be accessed at <http://usclancaster.sc.edu/mission.htm>

Despite continuing inequities in state funding among regional campuses, the University of South Carolina Lancaster registered a number of successes. USCL continues to enhance and expand USC's tradition of academic excellence, scholarship, and service by making the University easily accessible to citizens of its service area. To achieve its mission, USCL established basic General Education Goals based on the belief that every student should have the **opportunity** to attend college. Believing that a well-educated citizenry is vital to economic and community development, USC Lancaster resists enrollment caps and "admits all students who show promise of academic success."

Strategic Goals 2007 – 2011

USC Lancaster's Planning and Assessment Committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and administrative representatives who annually evaluate and assess campus progress towards Strategic Planning Goals. The Committee also proposes revisions to these goals, initiatives, action plans, and assessment procedures. The Committee believes the goals adopted by the campus remain consistent with the University's general education goals, the mission statements of the University of South Carolina, the USC Lancaster campus, and the South Carolina CHE's Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

With consistent population growth in the area projected over the next five years, the Committee anticipates a corresponding rise in student enrollment and an increased demand for university services. The Committee established a target of 1500 students (headcount) for AY 2007-2008, when the campus will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Revisions to specific initiatives and action plans will enable USC Lancaster to continue to meet the changing needs of its faculty, staff, students, and communities.

The identified goals are:

1. Enhancing Academic Excellence
2. Enhancing the Fiscal Strength of the Campus
3. Enhancing Academic and Student Support Services
4. Enhancing the Physical Plant
5. Enhancing Campus-Community Partnerships.