What Faculty, Staff, and Students Should Know

- **USC Connect** includes two key components:
  - Increased student engagement in beyond the classroom experiences (e.g., research, community engagement, leadership, international experiences, internships)
  - Increased support for students to develop deep understandings of how their experiences within and beyond the classroom connect to one another and inform their learning

- **USC Connect** builds on existing structures and innovations in progress at USC:
  - Beyond the Classroom Experiences offered through academic programs (e.g., internships, service learning courses) and university offices (e.g., Community Engagement, Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, Career Services)
  - Technology improvements to more efficiently share information on existing beyond the classroom experiences
  - Center for Teaching Excellence and Division of Student Affairs for programs on integrative learning and beyond the classroom experiences for faculty and staff
  - Orientation, First Year Reading Experience, and University 101 as vehicles for introducing students to USC Connect
  - Integrative Courses in the Carolina Core and culminating experiences in programs (e.g., presentations, portfolios, research projects, seminars) that help students integrate learning

- **USC Connect** is unique in its focus on integrative learning at a comprehensive, research university (such initiatives are more typical at small liberal arts colleges)

- **USC Connect** is a 5-year initiative that will be supported through the Provost’s Office with strong ties to the Division of Student Affairs

- **USC Connect** was developed and will be implemented by faculty, staff, and students from Columbia, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union campuses over the next 5 years

- **USC Connect** grew from collaborative work on the Carolina Core (Gen Ed revision), Focus Carolina, and program development (academic departments and the Division of Student Affairs)

- **USC Connect** is USC’s required Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS Accreditation

- A campaign to highlight students already learning from their beyond the classroom experiences is underway—look for posters on all campuses and see the USC Times!

For further information: [http://www.sc.edu/provost/qep/](http://www.sc.edu/provost/qep/) or contact Irma Van Scoy (ivanscoy@mailbox.sc.edu)