



## Chancellor's Corner



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

**H**appy holidays! I hope that all of you are wrapping up the semester and preparing for some much-deserved rest and relaxation during a wonderful holiday season.

This year, 2018, marked a significant milestone for us. The University of South Carolina Palmetto College was launched in 2013 with four regional two-year USC campuses (USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union); two sites (Fort Jackson and Shaw Air Force Base) and seven bachelor's degree completion programs from the four senior USC institutions.

The initial and ongoing mission has been to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible higher education and the opportunity for South Carolinians to earn a USC associate degree or to complete an online USC bachelor's degree within their local communities.

In the ensuing five years, Palmetto College has grown tremendously.

Enrollment at the two-year Regional Palmetto Colleges has risen 13.8 percent and enrollment of the online degree

*Chancellor's Corner, continued page 5*

## Palmetto College Campuses expand into Indian Land and Lexington communities

**P**almetto College is expanding its mission and footprint to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible education to more South Carolinians within their local communities.

In doing so, USC Lancaster has added a location in nearby Indian Land, S.C., near the border with North Carolina, and Extended University has added a Midlands location within the Town of Lexington, S.C.

Toward the end of 2018, both sites received approval from the S.C. Commission on Higher Education and the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees to begin offering academic instruction in 2019.

These two locations join other community locations among the Regional Palmetto Colleges, including Fort Jackson (Extended University), Shaw Air Force Base (USC Sumter) and USC Union's Laurens location, which opened in January 2014.

Both the Indian Land and Lexington locations are anticipated to meet the needs of growing

*New locations, continued page 12*



## Pastides' Palmetto College vision extends UofSC reach to local communities across S.C.

*Excerpt from the President's Ten-Year Report (2018)*

**D**r. Harris Pastides will retire from the university presidency in Summer 2019. His impact on the higher education landscape in South Carolina has created a path toward an accessible, affordable and flexible online bachelor's degree education for South Carolinians in local communities across the state.

From the day he took office, Harris Pastides has envisioned South Carolina's flagship university providing a better educated workforce and



a higher standard of living throughout the state. As the 2011-12 academic year began, he was gladdened to welcome a freshman class that was not only the largest ever, at 4,569 students, but also among the most accomplished. He was also pleased that of the 45,774 students enrolled throughout the university system, about three-quarters were South Carolina residents.

Even so, President Pastides felt strongly

*Pastides legacy, continued page 5*

# Kingkade's short film *Songbird* gathers accolades on the international film festival circuit



USC Lancaster Professor Howard Kingkade has written the screenplay for and co-produced *Songbird*, a 2018 short film that has won four awards and been nominated for six others along the international film festival circuit this year. Two of the awards given were specifically for the Kingkade's screenplay.

*Songbird* tells the story of a troubled street musician who finds a magic camera that ends his loneliness while opening a door to his darker side.

At the Crimson Screen Horror Film Fest (2018) in Charleston, S.C., *Songbird* won a Crimmy Award for "Best Actor in a Short Film" and was nominated for a Crimmy Award for "Best Actor."

At the International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema (2018) in Nice, France, *Songbird* was nominated for a filmmaker award for "Best Cinematography in a Short Film."

At the Nice International Film Festival (2018) in Nice, France, *Songbird* was nominated for the festival awards in the following categories: "Best Original Screenplay of a Short Film," "Best Lead Actor in a Short Film," "Best Cinematography in a Short Film" and "Best Sound Design."

At the Oregon Scream Week (2018) in Portland, Ore., *Songbird* won the "Festival Award."

At the Spotlight Horror Film Awards (2018), *Songbird* won the "Gold Award" – the second highest award given for films at the festival.

At the Things 2 Fear Film Fest (2018) in Virginia, *Songbird* won the Jury Prize for "Best Original Story."

Kingkade has received other honors as well. In 2008, Kingkade won the Beverly Hills Film Festival jury award for "Best Screenplay" for the short film

*Hole in the Paper Sky*. In 2006, Kingkade wrote and directed the short film *A Bedtime Story for the End of the World*, which was an official selection of both the 2006 Southern Fried Film Festival in Augusta, Ga., and the Estes Park Film Festival in Estes Park, Colo. He has written five other films, and also worked in front of the camera as an actor.

He was also a S.C. Arts Commission Screenwriting Fellow in 2008. In addition, he was awarded the "We the People" grant from the S.C. Humanities Council in 2005, and he was awarded a 2008 screenwriting fellowship from the S.C. Arts Commission.

He is a member of Screen Actors Guild of America, the National Council of Teachers of English and the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers.

Learn more about the film at [SongbirdTheMovie.com](http://SongbirdTheMovie.com).



**Howard Kingkade**  
USC Lancaster



## About USC Palmetto College Connections



### This Issue's Contributors

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**Please submit all items for the Spring 2019 issue by Monday, April 8, 2019.**

The **USC Palmetto College Connections** newsletter is published biannually, at the conclusion of the spring and fall semesters.

If you have an interesting story to share with the USC Palmetto College community, please share the news with the communications contact for your respective area:

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# Palmetto College honored for online programs with UPCEA South Award



*USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins accepts the 2018 UPCEA South Region Award for Program of Excellence (Credit) from UCEA CEO Bob Hansen and UPCEA President Sandi Pershing.*

The University of South Carolina Palmetto College has earned regional top honors for its innovative online bachelor's degree completion programs from the leading association for professional, continuing and online education.

Palmetto College, a division of the University of South Carolina system that includes four two-year regional colleges and 14 online bachelor's degree completion programs drawn from three comprehensive universities and a Research I institution, earned the UPCEA South Region Award for Program of Excellence: Credit. The award recognizes "a credit program engaged in activities that promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas of global significance." It was given for online programs offered through Palmetto College from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate.

Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins accepted the award this week from UPCEA President Sandi Pershing and UPCEA CEO Bob Hansen at the joint SUPER 2018: UPCEA Mid-Atlantic and UPCEA South Region(s) Conference in Bethesda, Md., on Oct. 2.

"We are pleased that our peers in UPCEA recognize outstanding programs," said Elkins. "It is an honor to accept this award on behalf of the innovative and collaborative efforts of Palmetto College and the University of South Carolina system in accepting this award. Together, we are making high-quality 'U of SC' degrees an accessible, affordable and flexible option for all South Carolinians."

UPCEA is the leading collegiate association for professional, continuing and online education. Founded in 1915, the Washington, D.C.-based organization offers conferences, research and benchmarking information, professional networking and publications to many of the leading public and private colleges in North America. Palmetto College is a member of the UPCEA South Region and, in early 2014, earned a national UPCEA Gold Marketing Award for its broadcast advertising campaign.

## Tenure and Promotion

### Promotion to Associate Professor



**R. Mac Jones**  
Extended University



**Rebecca Freeman**  
USC Lancaster

### Promotion to Full Professor



**Stephen Criswell**  
USC Lancaster



**Howard Kingkade**  
USC Lancaster



**Sarah Sellhorst**  
USC Lancaster



**Eran Kilpatrick**  
USC Salkehatchie



**Sarah Miller**  
USC Salkehatchie



**Becky Hillman**  
USC Sumter



**Ray McManus**  
USC Sumter

## Executive Vice Chancellor Elliot Vittes retires from administrative role, joins Extended University faculty

Dr. Elliot Vittes, Executive Vice Chancellor for Palmetto College, announced on Dec. 3, 2018, that he will relinquish his administrative duties and responsibilities to return to teaching political science full-time as an Extended University faculty member, effective Jan. 2, 2019.

Dr. Vittes joined Palmetto College in 2015, following 30 years of progressive responsibility within the University of Central Florida and its nine regional



**Elliot Vittes**  
Executive Vice Chancellor  
USC Palmetto College

campuses. During his UCF tenure, the institution experienced phenomenal growth. He was instrumental with the leadership team – in roles that included interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate studies – working to grow the UCF regional campus system and the distance learning and online environment.

“We appreciate his service and, particularly, in his advocacy to expand Palmetto College military personnel and veterans in South Carolina,” said USC Palmetto

College Chancellor Susan Elkins. “And, we congratulate him, thank him for his service, and wish him well as he resumes his duties as a political scientist.”

Even as a senior administrator within Palmetto College, Dr. Vittes has remained immersed in scholarship related to his discipline. Earlier this year, he served as served as guest lecturer and a keynote speaker on “American Politics Today: America the Country, America the People, America the Dream” at the Student Research Symposium at the Faculty of Organization and Informatics at the University of Zagreb in Varaždin, Croatia.

## Associate Chancellor Tabatha McAllister retires after 28-year career with USC Palmetto College and its precursor

Dr. Tabatha McAllister, associate chancellor for student enrollment services at Palmetto College, on her upcoming retirement from the University of South Carolina, effective December 31, 2018.

Over the years, Dr. McAllister has contributed a lot to Palmetto College and to the higher education enrollment management profession. After serving several years’ service as director of financial aid for the central financial aid office her duties were expanded. As associate chancellor f, she managed admissions, financial aid and recruitment for the Palmetto College campuses and online programs. She is also significant figure in the financial aid profession at a state, regional and national level.

Dr. McAllister served as a past president of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SCASFAA). Under her leadership, the association instituted College Goal Sunday (now College Goal South Carolina) – a volunteer program that provides free information and assistance to students and families who are applying for financial aid for post-secondary education. She is the recipient of the SCASFAA Distinguished Service Award and The Fearless Nine Service to SCASFAA Award (the highest honor given to an active member), respectively.



**Tabatha McAllister**  
Associate Chancellor  
USC Palmetto College

She also represented the state as a decentralized trainer through the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and traveled across the nation to train financial aid administrators. Within the region, she trained new aid officers for the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA).

“Dr. McAllister has been a dedicated and valuable member of our Palmetto College team and played an important role in the growth and success of Palmetto College,” said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins.

## Hospitality Management ranks among Top 30 online programs nationally

The Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management online degree completion program offered by USC Beaufort through USC Palmetto College Online was recently ranked among the top “30 Great Online Colleges to Earn a Hospitality Degree (Bachelor’s)” by “Great Value Colleges.”



The site’s methodology and scoring are largely based on three criteria: (1) tuition, (2) student-to-faculty ration and (3) national recognition.

The Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism industry is the number one industry in the state of South Carolina, offering multiple job opportunities for students pursuing careers

in the field. Beaufort’s program allows students to pursue their interest in different areas of concentration such as hotels, food service or tourism in general. It also encourages students to focus on destinations within South Carolina, contributing to the state’s economic health.

View the complete listings at <https://www.greatvaluecolleges.net/30-great-online-colleges-to-earn-a-hospitality-degree-bachelors/>

## Pastides legacy, continued from page 1

that the university could do more to reach more South Carolinians. He asked his team several exploratory questions: How could the university improve access and affordability statewide? How could USC bring higher education to those who are place-bound in the small towns and rural corners of South Carolina? How could USC increase the number of baccalaureate degree holders in the state?

In January 2012, with these questions in mind, he announced the most significant reorganization in the university's modern history – a new initiative called Palmetto College. By offering online baccalaureate completion courses to students who had earned associate degrees but could not relocate to attend a four-year college, USC was now expanding access to higher education and to the quality and prestige of a USC degree. Within a year, Palmetto College would have its first chancellor, Susan Elkins, as well as resources from the entire USC system and recurring funding from the state legislature. Palmetto College officially launched in January 2013 and would provide an affordable and convenient way for South Carolinians to pursue a bachelor's degree, new jobs and promotions.

President Pastides spent his fourth year as president successfully connecting the dots between the needs of a growing student body and those of the statewide community. His reflective plan included growing a dynamic and well-educated workforce while creating programs that would directly and positively impact community needs. From Palmetto College to the USC School of Medicine-Greenville to USC Connect, his team began to raise the standard for all South Carolinians.

## Chancellor's Corner, continued from page 1

completion program majors has risen 95.6 percent. And, while Palmetto College Online was launched with seven bachelor's degree completion programs, the ensuing five years have seen the number of programs rise to 13.

In addition to the existing Regional Palmetto Colleges and sites, Palmetto College has expanded its physical footprint into three additional Upstate and Midlands communities, including: Laurens (USC Union) in 2014, Indian Land (USC Lancaster) in 2018 and Lexington (Extended University) in 2018. Through these new locations and existing sites, our Regional Palmetto Colleges have been able to successfully reach not only an adult population, but also talented middle school students through the University of Possibilities programs and dual credit opportunities for

high school students. The latter of which has served to save millions of dollars in tuition and fees for families across the state (over the course of the past five years) before their students have earned their high school diplomas.

As we conclude this historic tenth year of the administration of President Pastides, we want to express our deepest gratitude to him for establishing Palmetto College as a key initiative for ensuring a successful path toward a college degree for all South Carolinians.

You can follow the first five years of Palmetto College history, successes and milestones in our new fifth-anniversary publication. The link to view (and download) the book online is featured on the last page of this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to the many faculty, staff and leaders

## USC Salkehatchie Dean Ann Carmichael retires

Dr. Ann C. Carmichael, dean of the University of South Carolina Palmetto College's USC Salkehatchie Campus, has announced her retirement, effective December 31, following a 35-year career in higher education. She has served as USC Salkehatchie Campus dean since 2000.



**Ann Carmichael  
Dean, USC Salkehatchie**

Under Dean Carmichael's tenure, USC Salkehatchie — which has campuses in Allendale and Walterboro — has boasted record student enrollments, with one of the highest increases in the state over a five-year period (2007-2013).

Carmichael worked to develop partnerships with USC Columbia and USC Aiken to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing and engineering, respectively, on-campus to accommodate students who may not be able to leave the region for a variety of reasons to complete a four-year degree.

Salkehatchie's athletics programs compete in the NJCAA Region X Conference and, under Carmichael's tenure, sports offerings have increased from one to seven. Student-athletes compete in softball, men's and women's soccer, baseball (in Allendale), men's and women's basketball and volleyball (in Walterboro).

across the University of South Carolina System whose diligent efforts have made Palmetto College a success. We anticipate many more years of enriching

The university has also significantly improved the appearance of both the Allendale and Walterboro Campus, and the campuses' footprints extended beyond

their existing borders to initiate a "college town" approach to growth in both communities by providing local student housing. Campus leaders collaborated with private developers,

municipal and civic leaders to build The Reserve in Allendale and Salk Place, in Walterboro.

In addition to working to ensure the academic successes of the campus' students, Carmichael also worked to ensure that Salkehatchie played an integral role in the revitalization of region. Carmichael worked with community members to establish the Salkehatchie Leadership Institute, the community-outreach arm of the institution that assists municipalities and community groups with economic development and other projects that strike directly at the quality of life experiences by residents of the region.

Cumulatively, Carmichael has helped secured over \$11 million in external funding through grants and private support to further campus and community growth.

the lives of South Carolinians by providing opportunities for education, growth and advancement.

# Scholarship for nontraditional students honors former student adviser

**H**eather Coleman might be the perfect student to receive the inaugural Harriett Hurt scholarship.

Coleman, 49, is working on a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with concentrations in sociology and psychology, with plans to graduate in 2020, the same year her youngest child will finish high school.

"The classes have helped me understand people in a way I had never understood them before," she says. "My interest is where conservative religions and women intersect. I want to try to help women at that intersection."

Years ago, Coleman had planned a career in a nursing specialty, but life got in the way and she decided to return to school after her three children were mostly grown.

"I transferred deliberately to Palmetto College to protect my education from life circumstances," says Coleman, who has worked the past 10 years as a legal assistant.

Coleman says after she completes her degree, she would like to do something to help women who want to grow personally. That may be as a counselor, a sociological researcher or even as an adult education advocate.

"I will decide on a path while I finish my undergraduate degree, then go to graduate

school," she says.

Nearly 30 years ago, Harriett Hurt took a similar path as Coleman, when, at age 47, she applied to the University of South Carolina as a nontraditional undergraduate student. Hurt had been through a personal tragedy and had told a friend that she needed to do something with her life that mattered.

Hurt was, by all accounts, an excellent student and was engaged in many activities on campus — fully embracing the college experience. That's when she met

Sally Boyd, whose office included Adult Student Services and who told Hurt that if she went to graduate school, she would have a job in Boyd's office. After Hurt completed graduate school, her assistantship became a full-time job and she became the best friend adult students had at Carolina.

"Harriett made such a difference for so many people," says Boyd, who retired in 2016 as assistant vice provost of extended university after more than 40 years in the university system. "There are so many stories of 'I never would have had the guts to try this without Harriett.'"

Hurt died unexpectedly in 2013, leaving her colleagues and those she helped devastated.

"When I came to USC, I was afraid and nervous and thought I was too old to return to college," Earnestine Walker Culler says. "Ms. Hurt talked with me as

an adviser and shared her story with me. I was working at the time, but she reassured me that I could do it and said I would not be sorry when I graduated. 'And you will graduate!' she told me, with that wonderful smile on her face.

"I did not have a chance to thank her for her encouragement and patience that she showed me when I constantly returned to her office for advice and assistance."

Boyd says she started the Harriett Hurt Endowed Scholarship Fund for Nontraditional Students to continue both

Hurt's legacy and her own. Students older than 25 in either the Bachelor of Organizational Leadership or Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies program in Palmetto College are eligible. Hurt was adviser to those students.

"A scholarship named for Harriett would be the best way to memorialize the kind of work I was involved in at USC — providing opportunities and access for those students who are not on the typical path," Boyd says.

Coleman never met Hurt, but she says she appreciates all that Hurt accomplished, and she is trying to embrace her college experience like Hurt did, including being inducted into the adult honor society Alpha Sigma Lambda.

"I love school," she says. "And I am so grateful for the scholarship and the opportunity to pursue my education."



**Heather Coleman**  
Liberal Studies major



**Harriett Hurt**



**Sally Boyd**

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**"I transferred deliberately to Palmetto College to protect my education from life circumstances."**

- Heather Coleman, Liberal Studies major

# Inaugural Palmetto College Endowed Scholarship announced

The USC Palmetto College Endowed Scholarship was created to provide financial assistance to students that have graduated from a two-year Regional Palmetto College and are transferring into one of the bachelor's degree completion programs offered through Palmetto College Online.

The inaugural recipient of the USC Palmetto College Endowed Scholarship is Vicky Bynum. Vicky first enrolled at USC Salkehatchie during the Spring 2015 semester. She has been enrolled as a full-time student every semester since,

earning Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, respectively, in December 2017. She is currently enrolled in the Organizational Leadership program via USC Palmetto College.



**Vicky Bynum**  
Organizational Leadership  
major

Vicky is married with four children – ages 2, 4, 5 and 14 – and has also worked the entire time she has been enrolled at Salk, including a work-study position in the campus library for two semesters. Currently, she is employed full-time with Disabilities and Special Needs while being a mother and full-time student.

One of her professors said

of her that as a mother and a student, Vicky has the ability to find balance between her personal and educational life. She researches, finds and utilizes resources to help herself to make the best choices towards her education. She has displayed the knowledge, desire and ability to perform at a capacity that promotes lifelong learning. Another professor says Vicky is always asking questions and researching information and strategies to help her excel academically. She displays a willingness to listen, learn and grow.

She anticipates completing a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership later this academic year. She intends to pursue a career in working with abused and neglected children.

## An unlikely path leads Palmetto College, education graduate to his dream job

This is not an uncommon story — Pennsylvania native David Dutka went to community college after graduating from high school. In his freshman year, financial and family obstacles led him to drop out. The uncommon part is what Dutka accomplished 14 years later.

In May, Dutka was one of 17 students who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education through Palmetto College, the University of South Carolina's online degree completion program. He is the first person in his family to earn a college degree. In August, he will begin his first year as a fifth-grade teacher at Midway Elementary School in Lexington, South Carolina — the same school where he repaired pipes and buffed floors as a custodian for several years.

"I've always considered myself a lifelong learner," Dutka says. "Whether I was working with the maintenance crew learning about plumbing or in my university courses learning about teaching strategies, I just really enjoy learning new things."

His passion for learning impressed the principal of Midway Elementary School,

Janet Fickling ('92, M.Ed. '97), who encouraged him to consider elementary education when he decided to complete his degree.

"I knew from talking to him that he was well read and very smart," Fickling says. "He mentioned that he was thinking about teaching at the high school level because teenagers are, of course, more advanced in their studies. But I encouraged him to stay open minded about teaching young children."

While attending Midlands Technical College, Dutka worked as a substitute teacher at Midway Elementary.

"As a substitute, I learned so much from working with the kids," Dutka says.

"They challenged me to think differently. They ask such thought-provoking questions. You have to be ready for anything. They are capable of learning advanced concepts just like older students."

After earning an associate degree from Midlands Tech, Dutka enrolled in the elementary education program through Palmetto College. During this time, he joined the custodial staff at Midway elementary full time.



**David Dutka, '18**  
Elementary Education

"I liked working with the custodial crew in the summer and needed full-time pay and benefits. The online learning environment of Palmetto College allowed me the flexibility to continue working, which was imperative for me and my family," Dutka says.

Like all College of Education students, Dutka was taught by experienced education professors and spent weeks in the classroom alongside veteran public-school educators during his clinical experiences.

Fickling, who also worked full time while earning her degrees from Carolina, gave Dutka the flexibility with his job to complete coursework and student teaching. She then welcomed him back with open arms when he graduated in May.

"He is a role model for our children," Fickling says. "He is proof that if you continue to pursue your dreams no matter the obstacles, you can find success."

"His experiences will help him be a better teacher. We teach our students to set goals, persevere and work hard to obtain them. David did just that."

The next time Dutka walks through the doors of Midway Elementary, he won't be carrying a broom or hammer. Instead, he'll bring the tools of an educator — a heart for service, a skill for inspiring children to learn and a No. 2 pencil, of course.

# Native American Studies Center Archivist Burgin honored by S.C. Archival Association with endowed scholarship

At its annual meeting in October 2018, the South Carolina Archival Association read and passed a resolution creating the Brent Burgin Endowment Fund in honor of USC Lancaster Native American Studies Center's Archivist, Brent Burgin. The fund was designed to help new archivists learning their craft.

Money from the endowment will assist new archivists in purchasing new professional development materials and literature to help them perform their job duties.

Beth Bilderback, SCAA president and visual materials archivist at USC's Caroliniana Library, said that she came up with the idea of setting up an endowment in Burgin's honor to recognize the work he has done not only for the association, but also for his work with archives in South Carolina.

"When you go through school and you have a new job, usually new jobs don't pay a lot, especially if you're working in a smaller institution or organization that doesn't have a budget for those sort of things," said

Bilderback. "We felt it would be a good way to assist our membership, as well as honor Brent for what he's done."

Burgin has been a SCAA member for over a decade and has held several offices in the group, such as membership officer, chair of the nominating committee, and first- and second-year director, a position that works with the SCAA's continuing education program presenting workshops, arranging guest speakers, and coordinating the annual meeting.

In 2005, Burgin helped to establish the Native American Studies Center's Archive,



*The South Carolina Archival Association is creating the Brent Burgin Endowment Fund in honor of Native American Studies Center Archivist Brent Burgin, pictured with SCAA President Beth Bilderback.*

which contains roughly 200-linear-feet of materials and continues to grow. Burgin also created the USCL University Archive and curates the papers of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, also located at USC Lancaster.

## 2018 Philips Military Endowed Scholars announced



At an October 2018 scholarship luncheon, two students were awarded scholarships as recipients of the Robert V. Phillips Palmetto College Military Endowed Scholarship. Named for decorated WWII veteran Bob Phillips, the scholarship was established in 2017 by his family to ensure that veterans and active duty personnel would have additional financial support to complete their degrees.

This year, 10 students were awarded the Philips Scholarship recipients, including Staff Sgt. Kurt Reiss and Staff Sgt. David Conn (pictured). Reiss is an instructor with the Drill Sergeant School and Conn is currently a drill sergeant. Both are first-time college students working on their associate degrees on-post at Fort Jackson while holding down very demanding work schedules. The photo to the left also



includes Joel and Rhonda Collins and Mike White. Mr. and Mrs. Collins established the scholarship in honor of her father. White was also a major donor. Joining them in the photo to the right are (from far right) Development Director Chris DeWolf, Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, Associate Provost and Extended University Dean Chris Nesmith and (far left) Fort Jackson Program Director Connie Vise.

# Sumter Utilities gift to USC Sumter makes it easier for veterans to complete a college degree

Supporting student military members at the University of South Carolina Sumter just got easier thanks to a generous gift from Sumter Utilities.

Many people assume that active-duty military members and veterans attend college for free with the help of the G.I. Bill and other federal tuition assistance. Although these certainly help ease the financial burden of college, most military members have to pay additional out-of-pocket fees before attending class and earning their degree. That cost difference averages only \$150 to \$200 per course but often makes the difference between choosing USC Sumter or another institution that covers all of their out-of-pocket costs.

Having a Carolina degree or diploma offers a significant advantage to a military member once he or she returns to the private sector.

USC Sumter wants to ease the financial burden by creating a "last dollar" scholarship to cover the financial shortfalls between federal aid, the cost of tuition and educational fees. This scholarship is specifically targeted to students at Shaw Air Force Base who are enrolled at USC Sumter

and Palmetto College through Shaw and was initiated by local veterans and leadership at Sumter Utilities.

"Sumter Utilities Inc. values the sacrifice and commitment of our nation's brave service men and women, and more specifically we are proud of our home town heroes from Shaw AFB, South Carolina," Sumter Utilities President Derek O'Bradovich said.

"We are honored to live and work in the same community of such fine military professionals. The Sumter Utilities and USC Sumter Scholarship Fund is but a small token of our gratitude to the men and women that deploy and serve our country while still in pursuit of higher education."



Staff Sgt. Jhodeci Redmon (center), is one of three recipients of the Sumter Utilities and USC Sumter Endowed Scholarship Fund for Shaw Air Force Base Hometown Military Heroes. Included in the picture with Redmon are Sumter Utilities President Derek O'Bradovich (left) and USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag (right).

Dean of the university Michael Sonntag added, "We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Sumter Utilities and appreciate their contribution to our community and USC Sumter. This is the beginning of a relationship between our organizations

Sumter Utilities, continued page 11

# SRNS loans engineering executive to USC Salkehatchie

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is working to increase cooperative programs with USC Salkehatchie by loaning an SRNS employee to teach an introductory engineering course on campus. Salkehatchie's Industrial Process Engineering program encourages students to consider engineering as a major while remaining in the Savannah River Site (SRS) region to attend college, live and work.

SRNS Department Manager of Fire Protection Engineering Technical Support Eric Johnson is currently teaching ENCP 101 (Introduction to Engineering I), twice a week at USC Salkehatchie. "I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to seeing the students grow this semester. I



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employee Eric Johnson teaches an Introduction to Engineering I class at USC Salkehatchie

have a great deal of work ahead of me, but I can already see the benefits," said Johnson.

The Loaned Executive assignment is consistent with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) policy to be a constructive

partner within the region, while also aligning with DOE's intent to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of community, regulatory, and stakeholder relationships; engage regional stakeholders in issues and concerns of mutual interest; and recognize that giving back to the community is a worthwhile business practice.

"We deeply appreciate the support and partnership with SRS as we strive to meet the needs of the communities we serve," said USC Salkehatchie Dean Ann C. Carmichael.

"SRNS is proud to partner with USCS and contribute to the education of future engineers," said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. "We want to give back to the community where our employees live."

## Building the future of USC Union

Beginning in the Fall 2019 semester, USC Union will be able to deliver the USC Aiken Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This new expansion will allow students to study all four years in Union and Laurens, including coursework and clinicals. A new science and nursing center will capitalize on the growing USC Union campus. The goal is to attract more nurses to our area in order to impact local healthcare workforce needs.

USC Union strives to make meaningful, top-quality education both accessible and affordable. Continued success and growth of USC Union depends on our ability to evolve with changes. In today's world, technology is a critical component of any educational program and incorporating cutting-edge technology will ensure that our students have the resources necessary to succeed.

In order to successfully achieve this goal, the campus will need upgraded biology and chemistry laboratories, additional online classroom capacity, and additional nursing faculty. Union County has provided a building on Main Street in Union to accommodate this expansion but extensive renovations are necessary.

Students will use virtual reality to build familiarity with scenarios in a controlled environment by “doing,” rather than “seeing.” Virtual labs are used presently at Harvard and Stanford. Students will learn using unique state of the art virtual reality. They will be able to explore with life-like 3D models that cover the entire human body. This teaching style drives student engagement and will accelerate learning. It will also give instant feedback to the student during the simulation.

Renovations in the new science and nursing building are needed to accommodate the invaluable educational tool that will assist students on their path of receiving their nursing degree. Virtual labs are safer and preferable because there are no chemicals or vent hoods. The labs also increase access and reduce costs. Research space will support student and faculty

projects to drive learning by allowing hands-on experience. The additional space in the nursing building will enable USC Union to recruit top faculty and students.

USC Union Development and Marketing Director Annie Smith said, “The growth at USC Union is significant for our county and especially our downtown. It is remarkable to see how our campus has developed in just a few years and

my wish is that every single person in Union will stand behind USC Union to help us grow even more.”

For over 50 years, USC Union has housed a small library downstairs in the USC Union Central Building. It offered students the tools and resources they needed for research and any computer services. The library hosted workshops and maintained a comprehensive collection of resources that support the academic offerings of USC Union's curriculums.

One block from USC Union is the Union Carnegie Library. It is housed in the oldest library building in South Carolina that was built with the assistance of the Carnegie Corporation. The library recently went through an extensive renovation and restoration of the original historic section. This added more space for children, teens, and additional space for meeting and workshops. During the renovation, USC Union campus was a satellite

location and a strong partnership was formed between the two.

“The agreement between USC Union and the Carnegie Library is a positive for the University, the library, and the community. It enables the University to expand services and hours in a beautiful location. It frees up space on campus for much needed classrooms and faculty offices. It provides the Carnegie with working capital. It allows the community to see that two government agencies can combine efforts in order to provide better service for all while cutting overall expenses,” expressed Dr. John Catalano, USC Union's dean.

With two libraries being situated within a block of each



*Renovations in the new science and nursing building are needed to accommodate the invaluable educational tool that will assist students on their path of receiving their nursing degree.*



*Erected in 1905, the Union Carnegie Library is housed in the oldest library building in South Carolina and it was built with a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. In 2009, the Union library was named the Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal.*



*A discontinued U.S. Post Office facility on Main Street in Union, S.C., will be repurposed to become the new USC Union Fine Arts building. The facility will house a printing press room, gallery area, a kiln room, office space for two artists, studio space and a large lecture room.*

other, it made sense to move the USC Union library system to Carnegie. The partnership benefits faculty, staff, students, and the community as a whole. Carnegie offers more resources, technology, computer usage, and much more. Their extended evening and Saturday hours will greatly benefit the students, especially during exam times.

Rieta Drinkwine, director of Union Carnegie Library, stated, “We are incredibly excited about this collaboration and the new ways we will be able to serve the community together, and we hope that this collaboration will serve as template for other similar partnerships across the state. USC Union is doing wonderful things for Union and we are glad to be a part of their efforts.”

Once emptied, the USC Union library will free up over 6,000 square feet. Future plans for the area consist of a foreign language active learning lab, four large classrooms, three office spaces, and additional storage. The area will be designated

for humanities faculty, including foreign language, literature and philosophy. The move and renovations will support USC Union’s growth without having to build a new building.

USC Union has also acquired an older post office building across from campus on Main Street. Once the Science and Nursing building renovations are complete, the post office building will become the USC Union Fine Arts building. It will house a printing press room, gallery area, a kiln room, office space for two artists, studio space and a large lecture room. Thanks to Lockhart Power, the parking lot at the Fine Arts building also has two car charging stations. City of Union and the Union County were the first local governments to participate in the state’s Plug In South Carolina campaign and USC Union is proud to be a location. The initiative is a push to bring attention to the charging stations installed throughout the state.

### **Sumter Utilities**, *continued from page 9*

focused on the success of our students, support of the military and economic development in our region.”

The Sumter Utilities and USC Sumter Endowed Scholarship Fund for Shaw AFB Hometown Military Heroes covers active military, veterans, reservists, National Guard and their families. It provides support for students pursuing their associate degree at USC Sumter or enrolled in one of 13

online bachelor’s degrees through Palmetto College.

Three local military members have been named as the first recipients of this scholarship. Technical Sgt. Kathleen Brophy, Technical Sgt. Michael Leone and Staff Sgt. Jhodeci Redmon will receive enough money from the scholarship to close the gap of what they owe and help them pursue their degrees.

Charlotte native Redmon has been in military service a little less than eight years and is stationed at Shaw.

“I am going to school currently for a degree in biology to eventually get accepted into a dental school,” Redmon said. “College has been a hard thing to achieve due to the constant moving, deployments and TDYs. I cannot express how much this scholarship means to me.”



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# Salk Place brings college housing to downtown Walterboro

*Reprinted from The Walterboro Press & Standard*



**T**he Walterboro campus of the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie will soon have the one jewel in place that has been missing from its crown — local student housing.

In an effort to further develop the community as a college town, community officials joined forces with USC Salkehatchie to find a viable solution to add local student housing convenient to the campus located on Hampton Street.

The solution? Salk Place, formerly known as the historic Albert House.

“This summer the City of Walterboro put Salk in touch with a developer, Billy Cannon, who was interested in purchasing and renovating part of the Albert House property located on East Washington Street directly across from the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market,” said Jane Brewer,

USC Salkehatchie associate dean for student affairs and director of Walterboro Campus. “Both city and county officials thought it would be perfect for student housing and we could not agree more.

“Cecelia Chafin and Alexander Eames purchased the property on Mr. Cannon’s recommendation,” Brewer. “They are busy getting the newly renovated property

to be ready for Salk students to move in to before our semester begins on August 23. As of now, the housing is completely reserved, and we are all really excited about this.

“As the campus continues to grow, student housing becomes more and more important,” said Brewer. “Renovating property in the downtown area is a wonderful way for Walterboro to be a college town! Not only will it be convenient for our students, but it will add vitality to an already beautiful bustling downtown area. We are so fortunate the City of Walterboro had this vision of growth and made it happen.”

“With this location, students will be within walking distance of our campus, downtown restaurants, the post office, the library, the farmer’s market and a grocery

store,” said Dr. Anne Carmichael, dean of USC Salkehatchie. “It is a great location for the students — which in turn will bring more business and activity to downtown Walterboro. Plus, they will be able to enjoy living in a really cool downtown area.”

“Having been in real estate for most of my career, I’ve seen and done many types of deals,” said Billy Cannon of Berkshire Hathaway Realtors. “But none of them are quite like Salk Place. Anytime, a city gets behind you and you can help solve a problem for students and young people, it’s highly rewarding. We are very excited about the opportunity.”

The owners of Salk Place, Alex Eames and Cecilia Chafin, with Borah Peak Properties in California were pleased to see the historic Albert House repurposed for the cause. “I’m very excited about the opportunity to renovate such a beautiful historic building while simultaneously meeting the real need for housing for the students at USC Salkehatchie,” said Eames. “Repurposing this great old hotel into student housing is a perfect match because of the great location near Washington Street with its shops and restaurants, and yet it is within walking distance to the local USC campus,” said Chafin.

USC Salkehatchie will show off the newly renovated Salk Place when they co-host the Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours on Thursday Aug. 16.

## USDA grant will enhance STEM and nursing programs at Regional Palmetto Colleges

**T**he four University of South Carolina Palmetto College Campuses, will share in a nearly half-million-dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand distance learning opportunities to citizens in its service territory and throughout the state.

Earlier this month, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced USDA grants to fund 128 projects to increase access to job training, educational and health care services in rural areas across the nation. USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union will collectively receive a \$478,556 USDA Rural Development grant to bolster Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs.



As part of the grant, interactive video equipment will be installed at USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union. The project will enhance network and video-conferencing equipment, increasing access to 33 STEM-related courses and Bachelor of Science in Nursing courses reaching more than 3,580 students. The project will provide increased opportunities for nursing degrees, addressing the need due to the expected shortage of 10,400 nurses statewide in the future.

In total, the USDA awarded \$39.6 million through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program. More than 4.5 million residents in 40 states and three territories will benefit from the funding.

# USC Sumter's Upward Bound and TRIO Programs help students raise scores

Preparing for all of the aspects involved in a college education – such as entrance exams, grade-point averages and financial responsibility – can be overwhelming for students and parents.

Representatives of USC Sumter's new Upward Bound (UB) program at Manning High School officially started at the beginning of the summer, which covered all the above and then some.

"The Upward Bound program has gotten off to a fantastic start," said Lisa Rosdail, director for USC Sumter TRIO Programs. "We were able to hire qualified, caring staff members who really make student success a priority."

As a matter of fact, in just five weeks this past summer, the USC Sumter Upward Bound staff helped participants improve their ACT composite test scores by 2.5 points overall.

Sixty high school students who committed to be a part of Upward Bound descended on the USC Sumter campus at the beginning of the summer. The first order of business was to administer a pre-test for the ACT.

"Many of our students had never taken a standardized test before," Jodi Robbins, UB Administrative Assistant said.

The test was given as a gauge to see what students needed to learn over the summer and see what their strengths were. Although a little disappointed to find out their initial results, students were motivated to learn and improve.

"We spent five weeks tutoring students in English, math, reading and science skills, as well as tips on time management and process of elimination to help them with their tests," said Steve Evans, UB Program Coordinator.

By the end of the summer, students showed an increase in all areas of the test including 3.5 points in English, 2 points in math, 2.9 points in reading and 2 points in science. UB Staff are able to take the data collected and pass it on to teachers and administrators at the high school to help continue the learning process.

Even though test preparation is important, especially for first generation college students, it is not the only priority the Upward Bound staff is charged with.

"Our students benefit from a variety of services, including admission application fee

waivers, an introduction to college classes, cultural trips, seminars and workshops," Evans said.

Upward Bound was developed as a result of the Economic Opportunity Act (1964) and is one of several federal funded TRIO programs currently funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. USC Sumter also offers the Opportunity Scholars Program, a student support services grant, to assist



college students.

UB provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. There is no cost to apply for the program, but certain criteria must be met. The student must be a first-generation college graduate, income eligible and meet academic requirements. There are more than 960 Upward Bound Programs throughout the United States.

As a part of the five-week summer program, participants spent four days in the classroom and one day making college visits.

"We used a point system to earn a once-in-a-lifetime trip to New York City at the end of the summer," Robbins said.

"We visited local colleges and universities in South Carolina, but we also made visits to Seton Hall and Caldwell University," Evans said. "A lot of the students felt like attending an out-of-state college was impossible. But after this trip, they learned

that there are opportunities to do just that and be able to afford it."

Upward Bound student Amard Graham said Upward Bound is an opportunity that a lot of kids need to take advantage of. "I feel as though it's there to help, but we also have fun. I hope to gain better test scores, especially on the ACT. Upward Bound has already made that happen."

During the academic year UB Academic Advisor Kyndall Locklear will be located at Manning High School. She advises students in course selection promoting graduation with rigorous courses of study.

"Being at the high school daily helps create personal relationships with our UB students and Manning High School staff," Locklear said.

Academic tutoring is provided to all UB students to increase their grade point-average in all core subject areas.

The UB staff helps students and parents focus on the next steps of college preparation. "Throughout the academic year we will help students and parents research scholarship opportunities, learn about the FASFA, continue preparing for standardized tests and make more college visits, just to name a few," Evans said.

As for parents like Glinda Brock, the program has already shown to be a "blessing" for her son Amarion Anderson.

"It is so nice to know that someone is there for my son, pushing him and encouraging him like I do at home," Brock said. "Everyone who can take advantage of this program, should. The staff is not only concerned for his future, they are helping him achieve his dream of going to college."

USC Sumter cares deeply about the success of students, all students. UB is designed to follow students from their freshman year of high school all the way through college.

Clarendon School District 2 and the staff at Manning High School, especially the guidance department, have been extremely supportive in helping establish the Upward Bound program.

"If we can continue showing progress like we had this summer, only good things will come from our program at Manning High School. We are all looking forward to what the future holds for these students," Evans said.

populations in exurbs and suburbs in the metropolitan Charlotte, N.C., and Columbia, S.C., respectively.

## USC Lancaster Indian Land Location

USC Lancaster's new Indian Land location, which opened in mid-2018, is housed on the campus of Indian Land High School, and the site allows the institution to reach students in the surrounding metropolitan Charlotte, N.C., suburbs and exurbs.

USC Lancaster Dean Walter Collins said the move to Indian Land follows what the population has done, shifting north in Lancaster County.

"Indian Land and Fort Mill are a couple of the fastest growing areas in our two counties," Collins said. "We were interested in expanding our presence that way."

Indian Land already is a "fairly large" recruiting base for USC Lancaster.

Collins, in addition to leading the new campus, sits on the school improvement council at Indian Land High School. From young families to retirees to new business, more people means more opportunity for USC Lancaster.

"Population increases in all demographics there," Collins said.

"USC Lancaster is adapting to the countywide changes in demographics and population centers in order to further etch USC Lancaster's brand and to ensure that we remain the preeminent institution in the Indian Land community," said USC Lancaster Dean Walt Collins. "As we grow in Indian Land over the next several years, we commit to making a positive difference in the lives of our students by helping them become everything they can be both personally and professionally."

USC Lancaster wants to work with Indian Land, Fort Mill and Nation Ford high schools on dual credit courses, he said. Offerings will be available to senior citizens, too.

"We want to provide opportunities for students the best we can, and this is an example," said Butch Dutton, director of secondary instruction for the Lancaster County school district. "We put our heads

together, and it just worked."

Dutton said USC Lancaster came up with the idea, and Indian Land High principal David Shamble worked out spacing logistics.

The school district has worked with USC Lancaster in the past, as it does with York Technical College, which has a site in the panhandle. For Indian Land students, the new site may mean fewer hours on the road.

Over the course of a class or two, trips to the Lancaster campus can add up for students.

"It affords them the opportunity to take classes without having to make that travel adjustment for time," Dutton said. "It's right there in their own backyard."

Collins sees an opportunity to start small, and grow.

"As the new Indian Land High School building is built, we'll gain more space at the current high school location and we'll be able to offer more courses at this point," he said.

It's unknown whether the Indian Land

associate or bachelor's degrees at the school or through Palmetto College, credits that transfer to other universities, dual credit courses for high school students and continuing education courses. Last fall USC Lancaster had 1,910 students.

"That's all kinds of students," Collins said. "It's senior citizens. It's high school students enrolled in dual credit courses. It's traditional students."

With current high school students and recent graduates, the school provides an affordable route to a degree, he said.

"It's a good deal for families, with the cost of higher education, and we believe it reduces the time for a degree," Collins said.

## USC Palmetto College Lexington Location

The USC Palmetto College Lexington location is housed on the campus of Lexington Middle School, in a building that is separate from the school's student population. Opening as a transfer center in November 2018, the site was opened to

allow prospective adult students can learn about Palmetto College Online bachelor's degree completion programs and parents to learn more about how their high school students can take advantage of dual credit programs to earn early college credit.

"We're delighted to partner with Lexington town and county officials, and with Lexington School District One and other area school districts to extend opportunities to Lexington County residents to either complete a bachelor's degree online or enroll their students in high school dual credit programs," said USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins. "This transfer center will provide information

and assistance on affordable and accessible options for families seeking to learn about how Palmetto College can help them to begin college while in high school or finish a bachelor's degree online."

Palmetto College's growing relationship with the Town of Lexington and Lexington County extends back to shortly after the division's 2013 launch, representing online bachelor's degree completion enrollment among working adults in a partnership



*A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the USC Palmetto College Lexington location was held at the Nov. 13 Lexington District One school board meeting. School District Superintendent Gregory Little and Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins (center) are surrounded by school board members and USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag. USC Sumter offers dual credit courses for high school students within the school district.*

campus will offer duplicate classes to USC Lancaster in the long-term, or will offer something complimentary, allowing students to choose courses at either site.

But Dutton is optimistic about "another pathway" to education opening. He, too, sees room for growth.

"My hope is it's going to have a good start, and maybe escalate and grow," Dutton said.

USC Lancaster offers classes toward

with the Lexington County Public Library System and through dual credit programs for area high school students in a partnership between area school districts and Regional Palmetto College.

“We are excited to welcome Palmetto College to the Town of Lexington,” said Lexington Mayor Steve MacDougall. “Our children are served by one of the premier school districts in the state and now have the opportunity to advance their education prior to leaving high school through dual credit programs. Also, having Palmetto College in the heart of downtown provides our citizens a perfect location to learn more about bachelor’s degree completion or tackle new subjects to advance their career path.”

During the past Spring 2018 semester, 81 Lexington County residents were enrolled in Palmetto College’s online bachelor’s degree

completion programs, and 38 residents have graduated with degrees from USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate through Palmetto College Online.

Dual credit enrollment for some Lexington County high school students previously existed; however, the initiative has expanded greatly within the past few years through a new partnership with Lexington School District One. Courses are taught by faculty from selected Palmetto College Campuses, including USC Sumter and USC Lancaster. USC Sumter faculty taught 113 students at Lexington High School during the Spring 2018 semester. In Lexington-Richland School District Five, USC Lancaster faculty taught 78 students from Chapin and Irmo High Schools during the Spring 2018 semester.

“Palmetto College has been a wonderful

partner in our growing dual enrollment programs over the last two years, and we are thrilled to expand our partnership by offering this wonderful opportunity to our community,” said Lexington District One Superintendent Gregory Little. “Having higher education in Lexington District One is a real game-changer, and I am excited about what the future holds.”

Palmetto College has also had an existing partnership with the Lexington County Public Library System for the past few years in which Palmetto College has held information sessions and offered brochures to library patrons regarding available online bachelor’s degree completion programs at various branch locations.

*This story includes excerpts from a May 31, 2018, article (“How higher education is heading north in Lancaster County – again”) in The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.)*

## USC Salkehatchie launches engineering partnership, scholarships available

*Reprinted from The Walterboro Press & Standard*

Students interested in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in engineering have a new degree pathway with USC Salkehatchie’s 2+2 partnership with USC Aiken. Students complete the first two years of the industrial process engineering degree at the USC Salkehatchie campus and then transfer to USC Aiken to complete the degree.

By starting at USC Salkehatchie, students receive the same quality education as at any USC campus, but with the advantage of saving thousands of dollars in tuition, housing and fees. Smaller class sizes allow students to interact more with their professors and receive instruction tailored to their needs. Additionally, STEM scholarships are available to students who meet certain criteria.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are funding the program through the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers (WORC) Program. The program was established to strengthen the local workforce pool needed to support their missions, particularly in the Savannah River Site (SRS) region. The SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) serves as the fiscal agent and provides coordination of regional efforts for the WORC Program.

“We are so pleased that USC Salkehatchie is a partner in this program. Our aim is to provide support for students interested in engineering and other STEM fields and give them the opportunity to pursue their field of study locally, with the objective of growing our own workforce that supports SRS and the surrounding community,” explained Mindy Mets, Nuclear Workforce Initiative (NWI) program manager for SRSCRO.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills are in high demand locally and across the nation. DOE-EM and NNSA recognize the importance of developing these skills locally in support of workforce needs.

Heading USC Salkehatchie’s initiative is Allen Kanapala, who not only has a passion for teaching, but also has over 10 years industry experience in both mechanical and software engineering.

“USC Salkehatchie is excited to offer this program at a time when the demand for employees to fill STEM jobs continues to increase. Our partnerships with industries located in our service areas allow us to provide opportunities for our students to interact with senior engineers who are experts in their respective disciplines. Additionally, internships are available for eligible students,” Kanapala said.

The industrial process engineering program prepares students to fill unique roles within any engineering division. Unlike the traditional paths where recent engineering graduates are required to work within technical roles which focus on limited aspects of the field, industrial engineers can work on broader challenges. Students in the program are exposed to the various topics in physics, economics, general engineering, production design and manufacturing processes.

This program will prepare students for industrial engineer or general engineering positions at medium to large-scale companies. The median salary reported for these positions by Salary.com is \$65,543. USC Salkehatchie also has opportunities for students wishing to pursue degrees in other STEM fields.

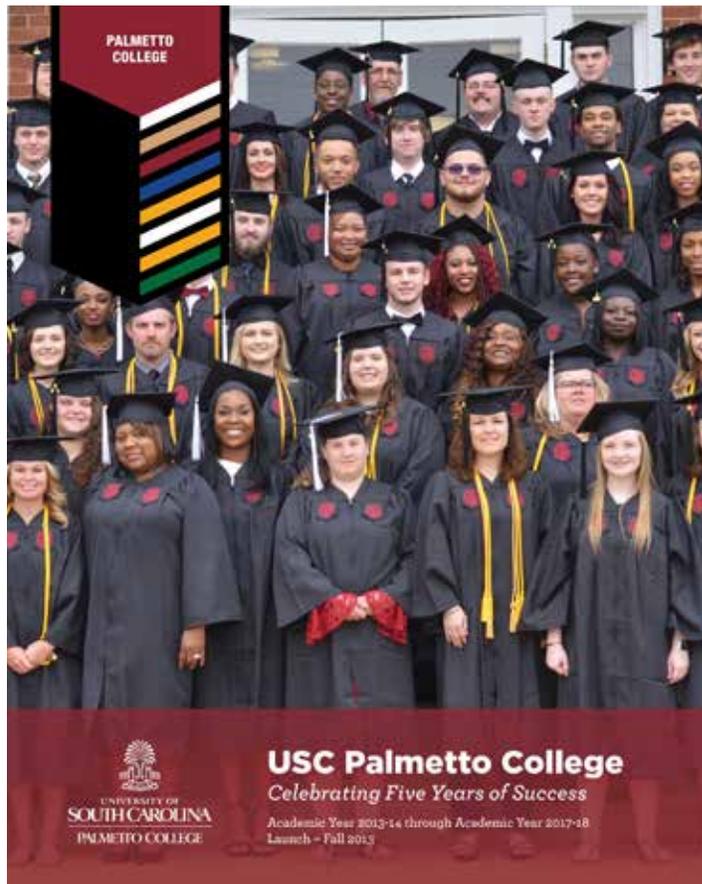
“There are multiple STEM careers that require the coursework offered at USC Salkehatchie. For instance, students can pursue careers in computer science by enrolling in relevant undergraduate coursework at our institution. If a student is passionate about a career in healthcare, we have an excellent nursing program that can be completed at our campus. If a student is interested in pursuing careers in mathematics or biological sciences, we have courses that cater to needs of those students, too,” Kanapala said.

# The new USC Palmetto College Fifth-Anniversary publication is available for download

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS of Palmetto College history and successes are chronicled in a new fifth-anniversary publication.

Download or view the report on the USC Palmetto College website at [https://www.sc.edu/about/system\\_and\\_campuses/palmetto\\_college/internal/announcements/2018/usc\\_palmetto\\_college\\_five-year\\_report.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/system_and_campuses/palmetto_college/internal/announcements/2018/usc_palmetto_college_five-year_report.php).

You can also scan the QR code to the right to access the report PDF on your mobile device.



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