

From: Baker, Josh
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Subject: FW: [My Carolina] President Pastides asserts legislative priorities

From: My Carolina Alumni Association [mailto:noreply@email.imodules.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 3:07 PM
To: Baker, Josh
Subject: [My Carolina] President Pastides asserts legislative priorities

President Pastides asserts priorities for legislative support of the University

In advance of next Wednesday's annual **Carolina Day at the State House**, University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides on Wednesday [outlined](#) for a House budget-writing panel some of the school's priorities in need of support by the State legislature. Carolina Day at the State House is sponsored by My Carolina Alumni Association's Carolina Action Network and draws more than 300 advocates from all eight of the University's campuses to speak one-on-one with State legislators.

The University of South Carolina is leading the way in higher education innovation, increasing affordability and accessibility to our state's citizens seeking a college degree in high-demand professions. Among the University's priorities for the legislature are Palmetto College, "On Your Time" graduation initiative, equitable parity funding and deferred maintenance.

- **USC's Palmetto College** will allow working or place-bound South Carolinians to complete or earn baccalaureate degrees online without leaving their jobs, families or communities; ensuring a USC degree opportunity for all our state's residents. In coordination with the regional campuses, Palmetto College will offer an array of degrees through the system's flagship and comprehensive campuses.
- With the new **"On Your Time"** graduation initiative, USC students will have the flexibility to complete their degrees quicker, reducing overall tuition costs and student loan debt. By redefining the traditional university academic calendar, USC will become a model by providing a third full semester of classes during the summer, increasing the number of core and STEM courses, reducing class size, and more opportunities for degree completion.
- **Equitable Parity Funding.** A dramatic disparity exists among higher education institutions in funding received per in state resident student. For 2012, the calculated

- funding per South Carolina Full-Time Equivalent student averaged \$2,487. USC asks the legislature to bring Senior (Aiken, Beaufort & Upstate) and Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Sumter, Salkehatchie & Union) to that average.
- **Deferred Maintenance.** The USC system is comprised of eight campuses across the state with more than 6 million square feet of teaching and research space. Several of our buildings are more than 100 years old. As state funding for higher education has been drastically reduced over the last decade, routine maintenance has been delayed or funded internally by revenue that would ordinarily support the core University missions. USC is grateful to the General Assembly for previous appropriations that help defray USC's overall annual deferred maintenance costs. FY 2013-14 deferred maintenance funding will allow USC system to address dire needs in renovation, roofing, HVAC and safety concerns with existing infrastructure.

Carolina Day at the State House is Wednesday, February 6 in Columbia. My Carolina offers opportunities for all alumni to donate their time to make the University stronger through advocacy, supporting academic scholarships and many other programs. For more information, visit www.MyCarolina.org.

Membership dues to My Carolina Alumni Association support its mission to keep alumni engaged and informed through a variety of programs, events and services. My Carolina is also a supporter of academic scholarships for current University of South Carolina students.

Carolina Action Network
1600 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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