

Josephine Young
829 Ambergate Ln
Columbia, SC 29229

February 17, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Nikki Haley:

I am a proud senior at South Carolina State University majoring in Early Childhood Education. I am writing this letter to share with you why South Carolina State University should remain open and the impact it has had on my life and many of my peers, alumni, and the community.

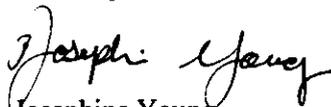
South Carolina State University is the *only* public, historically black university in South Carolina. It is the *only* college in South Carolina that offers a competitive Bachelor of Science program in Nuclear Engineering. SCSU ranks number one of all HBCU for the most enrolled ROTC cadets; and according to Washington Monthly, SCSU ranks number one in social mobility for three years (2006, 2007, and 2009).

The dedicated faculty and staff at SC State University takes pride in providing rigorous instructional opportunities for all students to prepare them to successfully compete in a career field of their choice; while also encouraging and providing opportunities for students to give back to their communities and aware and actively involved in significant worldly events. South Carolina State University was the *only* higher education institute in South Carolina to participate in President Barack Obama's USAID program, which provided textbooks and other learning materials to schools in Africa (Zanzibar, Tanzania).

South Carolina State University is near and dear to my heart because of its rich history and the positive impact it has had in my life. I chose to come to South Carolina State University among many other universities across South Carolina, because South Carolina State University provides an environment that is conducive for learning and growing. Although I am many miles away from home I feel *safe* and *supported* by the faculty, staff, and fellow college students.

Like many other colleges and universities across the nation, we have strengths and areas of improvement. We must find a solution to the financial deficit that has accumulated over many years, which is not possible through a one to two year closing of the university. Please support us through providing assistance and time to correct our financial challenges without closing the doors of a University that is important to my peers, alumni, and our community.

Sincerely,



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