

February 1, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

As president of the Atlantic Institute at South Carolina, I write to invite you to be *keynote speaker* at our 2016 prestigious *Peace and Dialogue Awards Dinner*.

The purpose of the Atlantic Institute is to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue through initiating events and activities which bring peoples of different faith, ethnic, and/or cultural persuasions together in encounters which foster sincere mutual regard and acceptance. One of the most significant of all our foundation's events is the *Peace and Dialogue Awards Dinner*.

For each dinner we invite a keynote *speaker who represents in word and action* the kind of mutual acceptance toward which we aspire. We thought of you because of the recent events in which *you exhibited leadership* compatible with the goals we seek to recognize and encourage. In both your *Republican Response to the President's State of the Union* speech and your own *State of the State* address, you specifically and directly focused on promoting *values related to entering a new era of mutual understanding*. Of course, we hardly need to mention how the issue of the removal of the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds relates to this need in our country now.

At each dinner we recognize people in our community with awards in the following three categories: 1) *Peace & Dialogue* 2) *Public & Community Service* 3) *Media & Communications*

**This year, we would be honored if you would accept the invitation to be our keynote speaker.**

We could arrange the date to fit your March or April calendar. We feel that this dinner would serve your own goals and give you another significant opportunity to articulate a vision of a community of mutual understanding and respect. The dinner's program is by invitation only and includes guests from universities, media, government, social institutions, faith organizations, and more.

We shall look forward to your positive reply as soon as possible. Of course, I shall be glad to supply any further information toward making that possible. Please contact Paula Ludwig at 803-386-4377 or [pludwig@atlanticinstitutesc.org](mailto:pludwig@atlanticinstitutesc.org) with your response.

Sincerely,



Akif Aydin  
President, Atlantic Institute of SC