

Title: **Gov. Nikki Haley named to Time's 100 Most Influential list**
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 Size: 13.17 square inch
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



Gov. Nikki Haley named to Time's 100 Most Influential list

BY ANDREW SHAIN
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After she rose to national prominence with her handling of a series of tragedies last year, Gov. Nikki Haley was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential Peo-

ple on Thursday.

Under the headline "She rises to the challenge," one of her allies, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, wrote about how well Haley handled a tumultuous 2015.

"Whether dealing with the hate-filled shootings of the Charleston Nine at

Mother Emanuel AME Church, the removal of the Confederate battle flag flying over statehouse grounds, the police shooting of Walter Scott or a 1,000-year flood, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley led with determination, grace and compassion," Graham wrote.

"From shaking up the system to providing kindness and understanding to the individuals and families affected by these tragedies, she put a face on South Carolina that we were all extremely proud of.

"It is during challenging times when you really learn the mettle of a leader, and in the case of Nikki Haley, she excelled to the lasting benefit of our state."

Title: **USCA honors students with 2016 Academic Ceremony**
 Author: BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com
 Size: 79.20 square inch
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



USCA honors students with 2016 Academic Ceremony

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
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USC Aiken honored dozens of students Thursday evening during the 2016 Academic Honors Ceremony at the Etheredge Center.

USCA Chancellor Dr. Sandra J. Jordan opened the ceremony by awarding Timothy M. Hofferth with the Distinguished Citizen Award.

Hofferth is a 1986 USC Aiken graduate who received his Master of Education degree from USC Columbia in 1988. He was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to be the chair of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in 2015.

"Aiken is a very special place for me and my family," Hofferth said. "This is a truly humbling experience. Education is a game changer in life. USCA did more for me than I could ever pay back. This honor means the world to me."

Dr. Jeffery M. Priest, the executive chancellor of academic affairs, presented the Magellan Scholars academic awards to seven students and awarded 10 students with awards in the Honors Program.

The University also recognized students in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering, Business Administration, Education and Nursing.

Dr. Deborah J. Kladviko, vice chancellor of student life and services, awarded the coveted Outstanding Senior Award, USCA's top honor, to Olivia G. Burbage. She also won the award for Outstanding Student in Sociology.

"This award really means a lot to me," Burbage said. "I've always been passionate about learning. My freshman year, I made straight As,

which, I guess, is not typical of most freshmen. I didn't know that. My adviser said if we're looking at these kinds of grades in four years, we could be talking about the Outstanding Senior Award. I was like, that's exactly what I want."

Burbage said she was so naive as a freshman, she didn't even believe this award existed. She also said she was home-schooled until the eighth grade.

"I'm a pretty outspoken person, but learning how to build relationships with people and learning to be a leader on campus has been huge for me," she said. "One of my biggest goals was if I knew your name, I was going to speak to you, and hopefully, a lot of people just

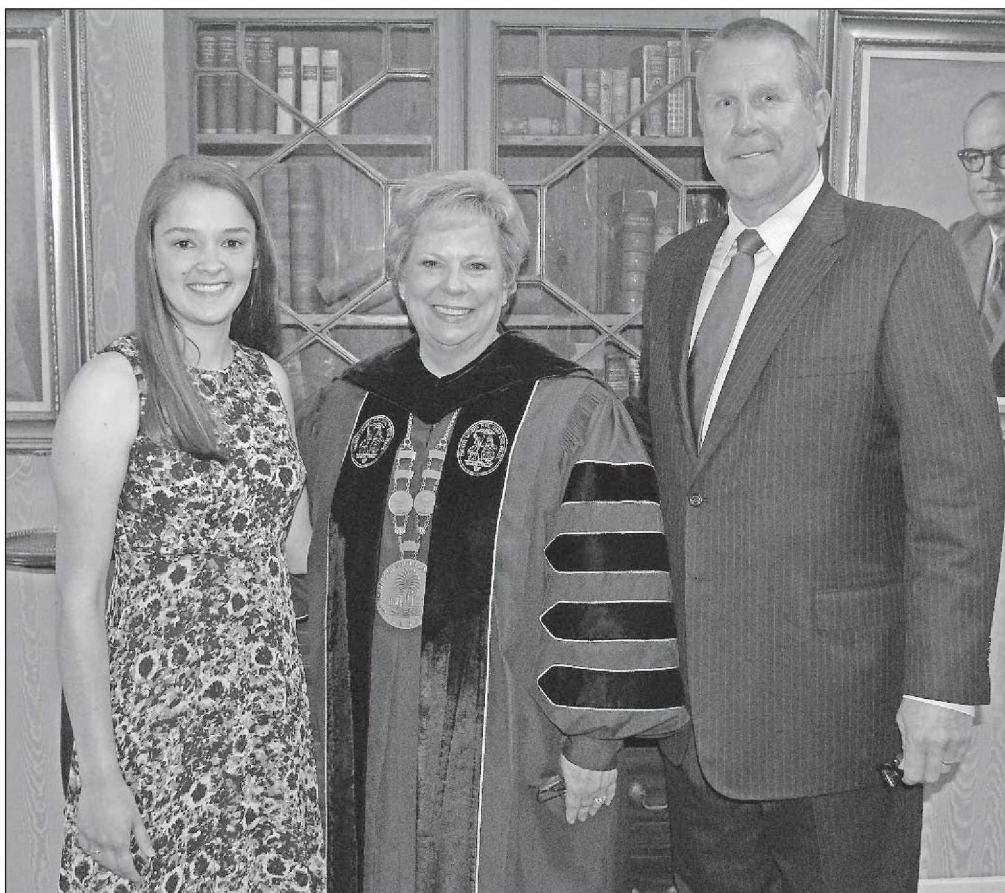
felt valued in being friends with me and knowing me and that even if I never see them again, and that matters to me and to them. I hope that would be a big impact."

Burbage's major is sociology with a concentration in criminology and criminal justice. She said she wants to pursue graduate school, but is going to take a break from academics first.

"I just want a job in Aiken so that I can get out of the academic world for awhile to think about things that I enjoy and things that I want to study," she said. "I just love Aiken, and I want to be here for awhile, and I can't do grad school in Aiken."

Tripp Girardeau is a general assignment reporter with the *Aiken Standard*.

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STAFF PHOTO BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU

Pictured, from left, are Oliva G. Burbage, awarded USC Aiken's top honor of Outstanding Senior, USCA Chancellor Dr. Sandra J. Jordan, and Timothy M. Hofferth, awarded Distinguished Citizen Award, at the 2016 USCA Academic Honors Ceremony on Thursday at the Etherredge Center.

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STAFF PHOTO BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU

Hannah P. Oates, left, was given the Outstanding Student of Middle Level Education by Dr. Judy A. Beck, dean of the School of Education, during USCA's 2016 Academic Honors Ceremony on Thursday.

Title: **S.C.sheriffs agree to investigation policies in abuse**
 Author:
 Size: 9.14 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



S.C. sheriffs agree to investigation policies in abuse

COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley and South Carolina's sheriffs have agreed to several policies to make sure domestic violence complaints are thoroughly investigated.

The sheriffs signed a pledge to have officers write incident reports that are reviewed by a supervisor on every domestic violence call, check for arrest warrants or restraining orders for all people involved and give all officers a laminated checklist to follow.

Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon says the checklist would make sure officers gather evidence in a standard way to help prosecutors.

Haley's domestic violence task force is still meeting.

Haley says Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott was the only sheriff to not return her pledge. But Lott says he did return it and his deputies were taking domestic violence seriously long before Haley's task force.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Senators advance \$4billion roadwork proposal**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 36.42 square inch
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



ROADS

Senators advance \$4 billion roadwork proposal

Proposal: Free up money by borrowing \$2.2 billion

Senators acknowledge it's not a long-term solution

Plan avoids reliance on raising taxes

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
COLUMBIA

A bill that provides for more than \$4 billion in road and bridge construction across South Carolina over 10 years advanced Wednesday to the Senate floor.

The proposal approved overwhelmingly by the Senate Finance Committee raises \$2.2 billion through borrowing. That frees up other money the Department of Transportation can use to replace bridges and pave roads, allowing \$4 billion worth of work total, Secretary

tary Christy Hall said.

Senators praised the plan as a way to jump-start improvements to South Carolina's crumbling roads without raising taxes or fees. However, they cautioned that it's not a long-term solution. The DOT has said it needs \$1.5 billion annually over 30 years to bring the state's highway system to good condition.

"Don't be fooled. This is nowhere near the answer to the problem," said Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, whose district includes

western York County.

The proposal builds on a similar law passed in 2013, which leveraged state money with federal aid and borrowing to fund about \$1 billion worth of work over a decade. That money covers only preliminary engineering for five of the nine interstate projects approved for funding under that law.

Those projects would be completed under the advanced proposal.

That includes widening 10 miles of Interstate 85 in Cherokee County, widening

12 miles of Interstate 26 in Berkeley and Dorchester counties and fixing the intersections of Interstates 20 and 26 north of Columbia, better known as "malfunction junction." The latter project - expected to cost more than \$1 billion - has topped the DOT's priority list since 2008.

Hall said the proposal also allows for the replacement of about 400 bridges - eliminating the

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entire list of load-restricted bridges statewide, as well as 51 structurally deficient bridges on interstates and major highways.

The borrowing would be funded with \$200 million annually - over 15 years - from vehicle sales taxes and certain Department of Motor Vehicles fees.

"I see this as a terrific

shot in the road-problem arm," Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said of his bill. "I think it's a step the people of this state will be extremely happy with."

It appears the plan will pass the Senate, where opponents of raising the gas tax last month defeated an effort to raise rough-

ly \$800 million additional yearly for roadwork. Its chief blocker, Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort, was among those voting for the borrowing plan.

After nearly two years of debate, the separate road-funding measure has been reduced to a government restructuring bill. Gov. Nikki Haley wants full

control of the DOT, which is now overseen by both a secretary appointed by the governor and a commission appointed by legislators.

Under the Senate version, Haley would get to choose all commissioners, with approval from the Senate. The House amended the bill last week

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to give that chamber a vote in the confirmation process, too.

Sen. Wes Hayes, R-Rock Hill, said Wednesday the borrowing bill makes it much more likely that the chambers can reach a

compromise on restructuring.

GOP Sens. Kevin Bryant of Anderson and Shane Martin of Pauline, who object to borrowing, were the only two voting against the proposal.