



## State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET  
COLUMBIA 29201

March 5, 2015

Mr. Claude Byrd  
3615 Highway 36 North  
Hodges, South Carolina 29653

Dear Mr. Byrd,

Thank you for your correspondence concerning South Carolina State University (SCSU). I appreciate your thoughts and value input from citizens like you.

SCSU is a historic institution that has played an important role in providing access to higher education to many of the state's citizens. We have worked closely with SCSU to navigate the current crisis, including approving an initial \$6 million loan last summer to give the University additional time to get their finances in order. This loan was conditioned on the University working with an independent auditor to provide real answers on their financial state. After several months, SCSU has still not provided the information requested by the auditors to help the University get back on track, and we do not have a final audit.

There is great debate in the General Assembly over the appropriate solution to get SCSU back on track, but the University's lack of cooperation with the auditors has frustrated legislators and me. It is important to understand that SCSU's problems did not happen overnight; rather, they are the result of years of financial mismanagement and declining enrollment. My office will continue to monitor developments regarding SCSU as well as the University's plan to eliminate their deficit.

I am committed to continuing the state's long-term partnership with SCSU, but the administration must be held accountable to ensure this situation never happens again. Should you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/cp

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claude Byrd".