



Dear Governor Haley,

Greetings from Clemson's students! We are so proud to have a Tiger in the Governor's Office, and we want to sincerely express our appreciation for your support of higher education in South Carolina. As public university students, we feel that we will be fully prepared to impact our state, our nation, and the world after receiving a degree from Clemson University. It is dedication from public servants like you who are making dreams come true and driving the future through education.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Clemson University
159 Union Plaza, Box 24404
Clemson, SC
29634-4004

P 864-656-2195

On behalf of the entire student body at Clemson University, we would like to explain why the capital projects that are currently under state review are so important to us. We believe these projects are vital to our future and your support of these projects will positively impact the lives of Clemson's students for decades to come.

Earlier this month, two major capital projects received their respective levels of approval from the Joint Bond Review Committee. The first, Clemson's Core Campus received final approval from the committee and, pending approval from the Budget and Control Board, construction will begin this summer. This project will replace Johnstone Hall to become the new heart of campus and the physical center that ties over 19,000 students to our beautiful campus. This project will add over 700 beds, student meeting space, and academic areas to the center of our campus.

The second project, the Barnes Student Activities Center, received phase one approval at the April JBRC meeting. The Barnes Center, made possible in part by a significant private donation, will allow Clemson to transform an important historic landmark, which currently lies vacant, into a bustling complex of student life. This project is a renovation of an agriculture center on the east side of campus that is commonly known as the "Sheep Barn". This barn was constructed over 100 years ago and is a registered historic site. Plans to reimagine the space have been driven by the innovation of students who saw the need for more engaging space on campus. The Barnes Center will be an inclusive and



stimulating environment that will provide our student body with a hub of safe and controlled entertainment that we desperately need.

As a Clemson graduate and member of our family, we hope your memories of Clemson are as special as ours are, and will be. With Clemson's rise in national prominence, more students across the nation dream of being Tigers. As one of our nations happiest, friendliest, and most engaged student bodies, we desperately need more housing for upperclassmen.

Clemson University has responded to this need through the development of the Douthit Hills project, which is expected to be considered by the Joint Bond Review Committee in June. Douthit Hills will have a drastic impact on our university housing in two ways: half of the development will provide housing for upperclassmen that is comparable to off-campus developments; the other half will provide the much needed housing for students in the very successful and growing Bridge to Clemson program. Clemson students are eager to stay on campus and stay engaged; the students who do so are proven to have higher GPAs (high enough to keep state scholarships) than those who live off campus. Students in the Bridge program deserve the best opportunity to be successful. Our student body is anxiously following the progress of Douthit Hills and dreaming of the day when students at all class levels will have the opportunity to live on campus.

To show our commitment to these projects, Clemson students have launched a campaign entitled *Clemson Needs*. This campaign has given all students a platform to personally describe why these projects are so important to the school we love. In just a few short weeks, it is estimated over one thousand Clemson students posted urging support of these projects. Through shares on social media, Clemson research was able to conclude that these conversations reached *over 313,000 unique viewers*. It is our hope that this will show the power of Clemson students to make an impact on our region and the level of dedication that our student body has to the future of both Clemson and South Carolina. To further this point, we have also included resolutions passed by our elected student representatives in the Student Senate; these

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resolutions express support for the Barnes Center and new housing on campus. For your review, we have also included letters from the Blue Key Honor Society, the Clemson College Republicans, and the Residence Hall Association along with data and examples from the student-run Clemson Needs Campaign.

It is our hope that this information, along with our personal appeal, conveys the need for these new developments. Our student body is extremely invested in the future of the school we love and the state to which we owe so much. Thank you for your support of higher education, Clemson University, and the great state of South Carolina. With your help, we can build for a future that is increasingly bright.

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Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayley Seawright".

Kayley Seawright
Undergraduate Student Body President
2013-2014

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maddy Thompson".

Maddy Thompson
Undergraduate Student Body President
2014-2015