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November 23, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

We graciously invite you and members of your staff to attend the 16th Annual Ernest Everett Just Scientific Symposium that will be held on the campus of the Medical University of South Carolina on Friday February 26, 2016 at 9:00 AM. This symposium was established to celebrate the distinguished life of Dr. Ernest Everett Just, an eminent African American scientist and Charleston native. Dr. Just had a productive scientific career highlighted by numerous publications of significant scientific importance. The symposium is held every year in February in conjunction with Black Heritage month. We use this opportunity to both recruit and expose undergraduate students to Dr. Just through discussions of his research and presentations by scientists working in related areas of biomedical science. The website is included;

<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/grad/ernestjust>.

This year we expect a large group of students, faculty and other guests (librarians and family members of Dr. Just). In the morning there will be an "Impact of E. E. Just" presentation, which is followed by "Role Model Presentations" which will be given by one outside faculty member and two students. The morning session ends with a panel discussion in which attending students can ask questions of the morning speakers. The afternoon session is science-intensive; prominent scientists will give presentations on their research progress. The 2016 symposium is especially important because we will have Paul Adams, Ph.D, Chairman of the International Advanced Degree Committee of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. as one of our speakers. Dr. Just was one of the founding fathers of the fraternity. Malcolm Byrnes, Ph.D. from Howard University will give the "Impact of E. E. Just" presentation. Dr. Byrnes has written several papers on E. E. Just and the importance of his research legacy. Garth Graham, M.D., M.P.H., is Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut and Director of the AETNA Foundation, Inc., and will give a combined research/role model presentation.

Last year, there were nearly 300 undergraduate students from Universities and Colleges in the states of South Carolina (SC State University, Claflin University, Benedict College, Morris College, Voorhees College), Georgia (Clark Atlanta,

Morehouse College, Spelman College, Paine College, North Carolina (Fayetteville State University), Florida (Florida A&M), and Maryland (University of Maryland Baltimore County). There were also 15 faculty advisors, members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, approximately 30 students from the DC/Maryland areas and local faculty and students.

We would be honored to have you attend and address the students. Your presence would underscore the importance of pipeline programs that encourage undergraduate students, and in particular minority students, to join the biomedical workforce. This is the largest attended-event that supports diversity in graduate medical education in the state of South Carolina. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Most Sincerely,



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