

Lila Nolen Meeks  
911 New Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
August 21, 2014

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

Dear Governor Haley:

I hope the enclosed resume will provide you with enough information to consider me for the vacant at-large position on the South Carolina Commission for Higher Education. My parents instilled in me at an early age a great appreciation for learning, and I am quite certain that I have never been as happy and productive as when I was in a classroom, as student and as teacher. In my opinion there is no greater gift that a community can give its young than the desire to learn, and, of course, the return on such an investment to the community is invaluable.

The educated workforce that such learning provides is certainly a cornerstone for economic diversity and expansion. I have followed with great interest your successful efforts to expand economic opportunities in our state, particularly those opportunities in research and development, and I suggest that by bringing in such companies as Mannan Pharmaceuticals, you have encouraged present and future students to engage in their studies more rigorously because they see career opportunities within the state opening up. Obviously a thriving economy is essential to support South Carolina's 33 public institutions of higher education and scholarship programs, but perhaps it is even more important as a motivator for our students.

Having worked with CHE staff and members over the years, I see this group as central to your efforts to diversify and expand our economy as well as to improve access to exceptional educational opportunities across our state. I would consider it an honor to work with the Commission during your second term as our leader to ensure that young people and non-traditional students around our state have the opportunities for first-rate educations at all levels of higher ed and that our institutions work cooperatively to create a climate of learning that will ultimately support individual and community goals.

I would be happy to discuss my qualifications for this position and your expectations for the Commission with anyone from your office at his convenience. I would also be pleased to assist with the upcoming campaign when you swing into the lowcountry if someone will contact me about how best that can be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Lila N. Meeks, Professor Emeritus, USC Beaufort

cc: Mr. Tedd Pitts

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## **Lila Nolen Meeks**

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Auburn University, Auburn, AL**

M.A., English, May 1966

B.A., English, Summa cum laude, May 1962

Elected to Alpha Lambda Delta Honorary, Mortar Board and Phi Kappa Phi

Recipient, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, May 1962

Recipient, Dorothy Shaw National Leadership Award, May 1962

Recipient, Towers Award for top female graduate, May 1962

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **The University of South Carolina Beaufort, Beaufort, SC**

August 1980 – June 2007

*Vice-Chancellor for University Advancement*

*Dean of Academic Affairs*

*Professor of English*

*Adjunct Professor*

Taught undergraduate English courses and served in various administrative capacities; Lobbied for the right to bestow four-year degrees as there were no public colleges in the region entitled to do so

#### **University of South Denmark, Odense, Denmark**

July – December 1999

*Visiting Professor, Center for American Studies*

Taught courses in American literature and gave guest lectures on southern American literature with a focus on Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, and William Faulkner

#### **The White House, Washington, D.C.**

*Staff member, Office for Presidential Appointments*

September – December 1963

Researched the backgrounds of potential appointees and made recommendations to the President's office for appointments to commissions and delegations

#### **Director, White House Summer Intern Seminar Program**

May – September 1963

Created a summer seminar program for university students working as summer interns for the U.S. government in the D.C. area with guest speakers such as Hubert Humphrey, Robert Kennedy, Edward R. Murrow, and John Glenn

#### **Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.**

May 1962 – April 1963

*Researcher and speech writer, Legislative Reference Service*

Compiled reports and prepared speeches for Senators on health issues and legislation

## AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

University of South Carolina Beaufort Distinguished Teaching Award - 1982

Inaugural Honora Rankine-Galloway Award Designee and Speaker, 2001

Given by the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark and awarded at the University of South Denmark's Center for American Studies for contributions to the study of southern American literature

Paul Harris Fellow for contributions to education, Sea Island Rotary Club 1988

Acknowledged for research and assistance, 1963

Smoke Screen: Tobacco and the Public Welfare by Sen. Maureen Newberger

## SCHOLARSHIP

Author, *Flannery O'Connor's Art: A Gesture of Grace* in Flannery O'Connor's Radical Reality (USC Press 2006)

Presenter, *Flannery O'Connor's Mule and Wagon*, USCB Southern Literature Conference, 2005

Presenter, *Humor and Grace in Flannery O'Connor's Art*, during "O'Connor: Faith, Fiction and Fact" an international symposium in Sandbjerg, Denmark, 2002

Presenter, numerous community lectures on southern American literature and issues in higher education

## SERVICE

Director, USCB Chamber Music Festival Series

President and board member, Beaufort Historic Society

Board member, CBC National Bank

Board member, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

Board member, Beaufort Academy

Member, St. Helena's Episcopal Church Vestry

Member, American Association of University Women

Member, Beaufort Chamber Orchestra Guild

Lecturer, Christianity in American Literature, St. Helena's Episcopal Church

Lecturer, Beaufort County Library brown bag lunch series

Lecturer and executive committee member, Clover Literary Society

Chair/coordinator, USCB program to introduce Andrew Billingsley's Robert Smalls: Yearning to Breathe Free