

Christen V. Warrington-Broxton
7764 Corley Drive
North Charleston, SC 29418

February 10th, 2015

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

Dear Governor Haley:

I am writing you to as a South Carolina native, fellow native of Bamberg, your constituent, and a 2007 alumna of South Carolina State University. As a woman of each of these proud histories, I find the recent political debate in our state over whether SCSU should be forced to close absolutely abhorrent.

SCSU is not only vital to the African American community as a Historically Black College/University, but also to the community of Orangeburg and South Carolina as an entirety. The university has served as a gateway out of poverty for many of us children born in rural South Carolina with few opportunities and resources. To close the school is to punish the children of South Carolina for the evils of a few people.

I have come to understand you, Governor Haley, as an avid advocate for the creation of jobs in our great state. However, when I hear you and other South Carolina republicans virtually jumping at an excuse to close SCSU, I hear a harsh, inherently race and class-related double standard at play. This is not the attitude our country took toward our banking or automotive industries when funds were mismanaged. We understood the value of each industry to the community, and fought to both keep and improve them.

SCSU serves as a significant job creator for Orangeburg, surrounding communities, and the state. As a student, I worked on campus in research positions, jobs that still strengthen my resume. Not only did I graduate from SCSU magna cum laude, but I also went on to obtain my master's and doctorate. I hope to one day become a professor of education at SCSU because I love the university and believe wholeheartedly in the role it serves in the community. When you and state legislators consider closing SCSU, even for a year, you must also consider the many people working at the college who played no part in the financial problems of the institution, who will also now be punished for sins of others beyond their own control, fired, and forced to join the ranks of the unemployed in South Carolina: professors, adjunct professors, coaches, landscapers, electricians, research assistants, food service workers, librarians, lab technicians, secretaries, financial aid counselors, security officers, and the students, among so many others.

I strongly urge you and each and every other South Carolina legislator to reconsider closing SCSU for any length of time. This is an unacceptable and deplorable punishment to the community, not a solution to a problem caused by a handful of dishonest people.

Thank you very much for your time, Governor Haley. It is my most sincere hope that race and class politics can be set aside so that you and state legislators can come to a fair and equitable decision for the state, the community, and the future scholars that South Carolina State University can and does produce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christen V. Warrington-Broxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christen" being the most prominent.

Christen V. Warrington-Broxton, Ph.D.