

AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF ARTS & SCIENCES

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley  
1205 Pendleton St  
Columbia, SC 29201-3756

Dear Governor Haley,

We are pleased to share the final report of the Lincoln Project: Excellence and Access in Public Higher Education, titled: *Public Research Universities: Recommitting to Lincoln's Vision – An Educational Compact for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The Lincoln Project has studied the important role public research universities play in their communities and in the nation, and assessed the implications of rapidly declining state support for public higher education. Now, the Lincoln Project offers its recommendations, in support of the public research universities that serve 3.8 million students each year and perform much of the nation's groundbreaking research.

*An Educational Compact for the 21st Century* argues that PRUs cannot continue to cut academic programs without a negative impact on educational quality, and they cannot further raise tuition without simultaneously increasing need-based financial aid. In this context, the report acknowledges that PRUs must pursue new revenue streams and cultivate partners from across the private and public sectors. Most importantly, the report formulates a new educational compact—a call for state and federal governments, universities, businesses, and philanthropic organizations to come together in support of America's public research universities. Each sector has a role to play in preserving and strengthening these institutions, which are an essential component of the nation's intellectual infrastructure and a key driver of American education, research, culture, and the national economy.

This is the fifth and final publication from The Lincoln Project. The first, *Public Research Universities: Why They Matter*, demonstrated the vital public good that public research universities represent for the nation. Three subsequent publications examined state financing of higher education, the funding model of PRUs, and contributions that PRUs have made to American society.

We hope you will find this new publication useful and welcome your comments.

All the best,



**Robert J. Birgeneau**  
Chancellor Emeritus  
Co-chair, the Lincoln Project  
University of California, Berkeley



**Mary Sue Coleman**  
President Emerita  
Co-chair, the Lincoln Project  
University of Michigan



**Jonathan Fanton**  
President  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences