



October 11, 2013

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 12267
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Clemson University, I thank you for this opportunity to present the university's budget priorities for your consideration and, we hope, support. The initiatives outlined below will ensure that Clemson continues to deliver a high quality academic experience, drive innovation that generates economic growth, and provide outreach to communities throughout the state.

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As you know, Clemson has achieved its highest national ranking ever at #21 among national public universities. This marks the sixth consecutive top-25 ranking. Among the nation's public land-grant universities, we rank in the top 10.

In addition to these rankings for academic quality, Clemson is consistently recognized nationally for both value and return on investment for tuition paid. In three recent publications, Clemson ranked:

- 7th among national universities, both public and private, in payback ratio, according to *SmartMoney Magazine* – a calculation based on graduates' lifetime earning potential and the cost of tuition;
- 34th among *Kiplinger* magazine's "100 Best Values in Public Colleges" — the highest ranking of any school in the state;
- 29th among the nation's top 50 public universities for return on investment —the only South Carolina institution to make the list, on *The College Database*, an online directory of college and university information.

Clemson also ranks 4th nationally on the *U.S. News & World Report*'s list of the top 10 schools with the highest percentage of students who hold internships or co-op positions, improving their marketability after graduation. Two-thirds of Clemson's graduating seniors held an internship or co-op position before graduation.

Clearly, the state of Clemson is very strong. The 2012-13 year included many important Clemson milestones – the 50th anniversary of desegregation, a

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re-accreditation self-study and development of a quality enhancement plan, and the announcement of a \$1 billion capital campaign goal, just to name a few.

We set another record for undergraduate applications, and once again we enrolled a very bright class of freshmen on campus and in the Bridge to Clemson program. The average math and science SAT score is about 1245, and more than half of the freshman class will have graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class. And we have maintained the in-state/out-of-state ratio established by the board nearly 30 years ago.

Since last year, we have opened a new life sciences facility to replace a 76-year-old building that could no longer support 21st century research. We announced a groundbreaking collaboration with Greenville Hospital System to improve and increase health research opportunities and funding for both institutions. We broke ground on an expansion of the Greenwood Genetics Center to support the development of new diagnostic tools and therapies for chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardio-vascular disease. And in just a few weeks, we will dedicate facilities in North Charleston that will position South Carolina to be a global leader in energy research and testing.

Our priority for the coming year is to continue to implement the 2020 Road Map, Clemson's 10-year strategic plan. That means recruiting outstanding students, giving them a top-tier education, and providing experiences that will make them more successful and ensure that they graduate on time. It means recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and staff. And it means providing competitive facilities, technology and infrastructure to support great teaching, research and economic development.

As you know I have recently announced plans to retire as president and return to the faculty. There may never be a perfect time for a presidential transition, but certainly a very good time is when a university is in high demand, able to attract great faculty, staff and students, enjoys strong support from alumni and friends, is financially healthy, and has a sound strategic plan focused on meeting the workforce needs of the 21st century and serving the needs of the state and nation. I know that the next president can count on your continued support for higher education and for Clemson.

Please find below the responses to your specific requests associated with the fiscal year 2014-15 Appropriations process.

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Budget Plan

Clemson University is requesting \$5.5 million in recurring dollars. These state recurring funds will be invested in the following innovative programs:

- **Advanced Manufacturing Innovation** - \$3 million
- **Student Career Opportunity Program** - \$1 million
- **Focus on Student Success** - \$1.5 million

Clemson University is requesting capital funding for investment in:

- **Business & Behavioral Sciences Building** - \$25 million
- **Main Campus Electrical Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvements** - \$15 million

Provisos

Clemson University is not requesting any proviso changes at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to share Clemson's budget priorities. We look forward to working with you and the General Assembly for the benefit of South Carolina's young people and the state's continued economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James F. Barker", followed by a horizontal line.

James F. Barker, FAIA
President