



March 2, 2022

Dear campus community,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the **Mary Black School of Nursing** and the **School of Education, Human Performance and Health** have been elevated to college status by the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees and have received confirmation of notification from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. This change is effective Fall 2022.

This decision recognizes and celebrates the two new colleges' academic growth and impact. "College" nomenclature better represents the size, complexity, and number of degrees offered by each unit. They will now operate on a level field with peer institutions, which will increase their visibility and support national faculty recruitment and retention. The new name will align each unit in structure with the university's three existing colleges, create greater visibility in the community and alignment with the vision for growth at USC Upstate.

The **Mary Black College of Nursing** offers the Bachelor of Science in nursing, and the Master of Science and post-graduate certificate programs in nursing education, nursing leadership, and clinical nurse leader. The traditional pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in nursing is a four-year track for students who wish to begin a career in professional nursing. The College also offers an RN-BSN track for licensed registered nurses who seek to advance from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree, and a Master of Science in nursing. Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, MBCON enrolls nearly 1,000 students and plays a vital role in curbing one of the nation's highest projected nursing shortages with the second-highest number of BSN graduates in South Carolina.

The **College of Education, Human Performance and Health** includes two departments, the Department of Education and Department of Human Performance and Health, and two graduate programs in education. With more than 1,000 students, CoEHPH serves the region and state workforce with highly prepared graduates in education, health, and wellness. Accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, CoEHPH's teacher education programs target mitigating the impact of the teacher shortage for regional partners. The college also partners with area healthcare systems with undergraduate programs in child and family development, community health, and exercise and sport science. A Master of Science in exercise and sport science will be added this fall.

The excellent reputation of both new colleges has been instrumental in attracting external grants. In the past year, MBCON has received nearly \$2.7 million in federal agency and private foundation grant funding to support research, scholarships, student success initiatives, and to address the nurse faculty shortage. CoEHPH has received more than \$2.7 million, including National Science Foundation funding to address critical issues such as the use of robotics in STEM classrooms with English language learners, and to address the shortage of math and science educators.

I congratulate **Dr. Shirleatha Lee**, dean of the Mary Black College of Nursing, and **Dr. Laura Reynolds**, dean of the College of Education, Human Performance and Health, along with their faculties, staff, students, alumni, and friends, on achieving this significant new designation as we continue to *Reimagine Upstate*.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bennie L. Harris  
Chancellor

