indicating their commitment to a regional strategy for higher education entitled *Upstate Direct Connect* designed to expand access and to meet the extraordinary demands for growth in baccalaureate degree completion among the population in Upstate South Carolina.

WHEREAS, the demand for higher education in Upstate South Carolina is growing and will continue to grow exponentially through the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, the availability of a well-educated adult population may be the single most critical factor in the economic development of every region in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, Upstate South Carolina is host to a large, motivated but undereducated adult population; and

WHEREAS, these organizations have worked in partnership for educational mobility for many years; and

WHEREAS, this regional partnership will be employed to create a pool of highly-skilled and educated technicians, scientists, professionals and managers creating a competitive advantage for Upstate South Carolina in economic development and diversification; and
WHEREAS, the partners believe the regional partnership can be further expanded to meet the needs described above;

Now therefore be it resolved by the

University of South Carolina Upstate and Greenville Technical College

Section 1. The partners commit to a proactive strategy of cooperation to produce substantial, measurable increases in access to public higher education and degree production at the associate, bachelor, and graduate degree levels; better preparation of students at every level for further study; increased transfers from partner technical/community colleges to the University of South Carolina Upstate; reduced time to degree completion for both associate and bachelor degree students; and other measures of strategic importance to the region's educational and economic progress.

Section 2. The partners commit to planning, developing and aligning instructional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels to create a deep, flexible, highly-skilled workforce in response to and in anticipation of the region's economic growth opportunities.

Section 3. The partners commit to collaborate in innovative ways to promote expanded access for South Carolina students, including guaranteed admission to the University of South Carolina Upstate for Greenville Technical College Associate of Arts (AA) graduates and selected Associate of Science (AS) and Associate of Applied Science (AAS) graduates consistent with University policy; concurrent enrollment status for selected technical/community college students with University advisors assigned to those students; expanded access for AS graduates through articulated AS to BS degrees; development and expansion of joint-use facilities providing access to dozens of baccalaureate and selected graduate degrees on
technical/community college campuses; and expansion of financial aid resources to support student mobility.

Section 4. The partners commit to collaborate on joint staffing opportunities for faculty, student services and other key personnel areas.

Section 5. The partners pledge to expand the mobility model as both an effective and efficient system for producing quality graduates at all levels.

Section 6. Each partner will create a specific operating plan to guide the local strategy within the framework of this resolution. Day-to-day collaboration among partner institutions will provide a climate for planning, trust and innovation, capturing best practices and the most creative thinking from each partner. The interdependent nature of the partnership will enable deeper alignment of systems, policies and procedures, ensuring seamless (and concurrent) transition for students. Immediate data sharing will enable the partners to improve the quality of processes and student learning in a systematic manner and advance public accountability for the results to which we are pledged.

Section 7. While this resolution is not a legally binding contract, it is a pledge to stewardship, not only of the public resources entrusted to each institution, but also of our missions to the Upstate community and the students to whom we are enjoined to extend the very best in educational opportunity.
indicating their commitment to a regional strategy for higher education entitled Upstate Direct Connect® designed to expand access and to meet the extraordinary demands for growth in baccalaureate degree completion among the population in Upstate South Carolina.

Date: Oct 20, 2010

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