

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: A Message From the Interim Chancellor
Date: Monday, March 02, 2020 5:13:08 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



Dear Campus Community,

I have had the honor to meet with many of you over these last few weeks. Thank you for helping to make our transition in leadership as smooth as possible.

Communication will be key over these next months and I am committed to keeping you informed about campus projects and initiatives. My first priority is to leverage the momentum we've gained by working so well together. We will continue to build awareness and reputation among our many constituencies by adhering to the plan that has allowed us to progress this far.

Among our planning priorities are:

Strategic Plan

The Up Together Strategic Plan was created to provide a framework through which we will take USC Upstate to all new levels of excellence. We will continue to implement the plan through our Scorecard process, measuring progress as we go, to ensure we remain on track to meet the university's overarching objectives. The way we communicate and assess progress will not change.

Master Plan

Unveiled last week, the Master Plan marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for USC Upstate. As we explained recently, the plan will require continued collaboration among university, community and government leaders, and I am committed to being USC Upstate's advocate in that dialogue. Together, we have developed a vision for the future and we will continue to seek your valuable feedback as we move forward.

Coronavirus

Our senior team is working closely with education and health officials to ensure that our campus community has the most current information about coronavirus and the circumstances that might warrant a university response. We have posted resources, including links to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), on our [Health Services](#) web page, and will update information as we receive it. Currently, there are no confirmed cases in South Carolina. We will keep you apprised through university channels of any information that may impact our faculty, staff and students.

Chancellor Search Committee

Led by Dr. Pam Steinke, vice provost and associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, the committee tasked with managing a national search for a new chancellor will meet for the first time this week. As the search progresses, we will notify you of opportunities to participate in this process.

Edmunds Lecture Series

General Colin Powell will be on campus on Thursday, March 19, as our guest for the annual Dr. John B. Edmunds, Jr. Distinguished Lecture Series. The event will be held in the GB Hodge Center at 7:00 p.m. I encourage faculty and staff to attend this event. Students, please visit Hodge 107 to claim a complimentary ticket.

Big South Basketball

USC Upstate will host High Point tomorrow evening, March 3, in the GB Hodge Center in the first round of the Big South Men's Basketball Championship. I invite you all to join me in cheering on the Spartans! Information about ticket costs for this special event is available on the [Tournament Central](#) web page. A number of complimentary tickets are available for students, who are invited to [register here](#).

Thank you for all you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derham Cole, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Derham Cole, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

University of South Carolina Upstate

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Up is where we live.