

**From:** [Office of the Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** A Message From the Chancellor  
**Date:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:26:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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June 4, 2020

To our Students, Faculty and Staff,

In my life, I have sworn at least six different times to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the State of South Carolina. Those documents provide that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied equal protection under the law.

Over the past several weeks and months, I have thought a great deal about what it must feel like for a person of color to walk or run through a neighborhood with a sense of unease or to pass a marked police car and feel his stomach lurch in dreadful anticipation of what may come next. I may never know, but I will keep listening to the voices of people of color for whom these feelings and experiences are all too real.

The Preamble to the Constitution embodies a noble aspiration of forming a more perfect Union. The tragic incidents of violence we continue to see across our nation starkly illustrate how much work we must do to achieve that goal. At USC Upstate, we share the belief that a world-class education is a key to creating a better, more just, world for all—not just an education steeped in academic rigor but one that is grounded in our core values of wellness, equity and civility.

Communities in the Upstate, including Spartanburg and Greenville, continue to host peaceful demonstrations and protests that aim to lift up the voices of all marginalized groups and seek justice for the numerous citizens of color subjected to police violence and systemic racism. Should you participate, please be mindful of your own health and that of others by observing safe health practices, given our continuing efforts to minimize the harm of COVID-19 in our community.

I could not be more proud to serve as your chancellor. As Spartans, we must continue to live and affirm our core values. In doing so, we will create the more perfect Union we all seek.

Sincerely,

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**

800 University Way | Spartanburg, SC 29303

***Up* is where we live.**