



January 8, 2024

Dear campus community,

Happy New Year, and welcome back to USC Upstate! I hope your break was restful and enjoyable and that you are ready to take on 2024 with great energy, enthusiasm, and effort.

The year 2023 was full of successes and challenges, all taking place against a global backdrop of great conflict, war, and loss. Amid these trying times, our USC Upstate community showed remarkable resilience, empathy, compassion, and unity.

And now, with the new year, we can continue to show this strength while setting new goals, recommitting to previous goals, and always striving to Reach Greater Heights. In the coming months, we will unveil a new strategic plan to guide us to a greatness that we could only imagine.

We will remain steadfast in our mission to provide education for all that inspires a thriving and just society. This education will include online and face-to-face interaction and include respect for differences in experiences, cultural backgrounds, and gender and identity perspectives. And we will remain engaged with the world with civility, hope, and humanity.

As I think about all of this, a famous quote comes to mind: "Be firm in your destination and flexible on how you get there." We are transparent about where we are going and our destination; however, today's environment requires us to be open to different paths and strategies to achieve it. As educators, students, and leaders, we are reminded that the journey to success is not always straightforward, and it is essential to be adaptable and open to new ideas and approaches.

That's what you are going to do this year. You will remain true to who you are, what you want, and what the world needs, and you will allow yourself to try new strategies, take new paths, and even make mistakes—all in service of your bright future, the futures of everyone at USC Upstate.

So again, I wish you a Happy New Year. Together, we will Reach Greater Heights in 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennie L. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Bennie L. Harris  
Chancellor