

Office of the Chancellor



*Reach greater heights.*

Dear campus community,

I am excited to announce that USC Upstate is one of six colleges and universities nationwide selected as a winner in the first-ever Postsecondary Success Recognition Program (PSRP). This new initiative, launched in April by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, celebrates higher education institutions that are enrolling underserved student populations, facilitating successful student transfers and completions, and equipping graduates for careers that lead to economic mobility. Our university underwent a vigorous vetting process to achieve this honor, beginning with a review of data that measures institution performance on key indicators related to equitable access, success, and post-college outcomes. That was followed by interviews with myself, Dr. Pam Steinke, Dr. Kim Purdy, Dr. Tierney Bates, and Ms. Melissa Williams-Smith. The six PSRP winners include three community colleges and three bachelor's degree-granting institutions, making this achievement even more impressive for us.

I would like to especially thank our faculty and staff in supporting student success under the guidance of Dr. Purdy. All of you have worked hard to help our students reach their full potential and pursue opportunities that they may not have considered possible, in the process improving their lives and the lives of their families. This honor for our campus demonstrates how higher education continues to equip and empower students to make meaningful contributions in our local community, state, and world.

You can read more about the honor [here](#). Thank you for all you do to help our students reach greater heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie L. Harris".

Dr. Bennie L. Harris