

Note to Judges

The “Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County” project is submitted for the J Mitchell Graham Awards Competition. Please disregard any reference on the application, letters of support, or project description to Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation.

Union County originally entered the project as a J Mitchell Graham submission. SCAC requested that Union County resubmit this project for regional cooperation, but after further consultation with Bill Tomes, Head Judge, we are allowing the original submission as J Mitchell Graham to stand.

Thank you,

SC Association of Counties Staff



2020 SCAC Awards Program

SCAC's Awards Toolkit (SCCounties.org/awards) allows counties to submit applications online and provides a fill-able PDF application for printing.

Without exception, all applications must be submitted online or delivered to SCAC by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26, 2020.

This application is for: The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award

Project Title: Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County

County/Countries: Union

Staff Contact: Frank Hart Job Title: County Supervisor

Email Address: fhart@countyofunion.com Phone Number: 864-429-1600

Mailing Address: 210 West Main Street Union, SC 29379

Please provide a summary of your entry (no more than 100 words) to be used in a handout for the awards competition and included in press releases/publications. You may attach the summary, if you prefer.

See attached Project Summary

Presentations may include more than one speaker; however, each speaker should be aware that the 10-minute time limit is strictly enforced. Please list the name, title, and email address of each speaker:

Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor, fhart@countyofunion.com

Katherine Pendergrass, Union County Director of Community Development, kpendergrass@countyofunion.com

Attachments

Your application should include the following attachments:

- A concise Project Description to explain the purpose and significance of the entry (up to eight pages)
- Any additional materials needed to support your application (up to five pages)
- Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award applications must include letters of support from the chief administrative officers for each participating political subdivision
- Submissions for The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase and the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award must include a letter of support from the county council chairman or the county chief administrative officer.

If mailing your attachments, please mail them to: SCAC, PO Box 8207, Columbia, SC 29202-8207

If using an express carrier, mail to: SCAC, 1919 Thurmond Mall, Columbia, SC 29201

Project Summary

Yearly census estimates show a trend of declining population across rural SC. Much of this decline in population can be attributed to quality of life challenges and lack of opportunity. These negative trends have long term community impacts which include economic development and workforce challenges as well as increasing levels of poverty. Education and technical training are key factors in improving opportunity and quality of life. Union County partnered with local industry, the Union County School District, Spartanburg Community College, and the University of SC Union to expand access to post-secondary training opportunities for residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. H.", is centered on the page below the text.




Frank Hart
Union County Supervisor
210 West Main Street
Union, SC 29379
(864) 429-1600
Fax (864) 429-1603

07/08/2020

Please accept this letter of support for Union County's Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County project application for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award. This project will be key to driving quality of life improvements for the citizens of Union County for decades to come. The level of cooperation between the educational community and local government should serve as a model for counties across the state. These types of partnerships are particularly important in rural SC where financial resources are scarce.

Thank you for your consideration of this local initiative for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award.

Best Regards,



Frank Hart



SPARTANBURG
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

HENRY C. GILES, JR.
PRESIDENT

July 8, 2020

Mr. Frank Hart
Union County Supervisor
210 West Main Street
Union, S.C. 29379

Dear Frank;

With pleasure, I support Union County's nomination to the South Carolina Association of Counties 2020 Awards Program for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award. The College has partnered with Union County for over 12 years. During this time the College has received the full support of Union County as we partnered together to improve the opportunities available to Union Citizens to have good jobs and a prosperous place to live, work and play.

To address the community's needs with limited funding requires partners that are both progressive and creative. I found you, Frank, and County Council to be both. The County is making strives to return Union to the prosperous county that it once was. With the progress that is being made, I expect both to be even better in the future.

I encourage the selection committee to recognize the many creative things Union County is doing, especially in the area of Higher Education and Workforce Development by selecting Union County for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperative Award.

Sincerely,

Henry C. Giles
President



The School District of Union County

Office of the Superintendent

P.O. Box 907

Union, SC 29379

(864)429-1740 Phone, (864)429-1745 Fax

July 8, 2020

On behalf of Union County School District, I am submitting this letter of support and commitment for Union County's *Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County* project application for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award.

The educational development and success of our students will be significantly improved through opportunities provided by this project. As a small rural district with high poverty in a county with significant unemployment and low educational attainment, we will benefit if granted this award.

Union County created the Union County Community Scholarship which allows every student who graduates high school or earns a GED to attend the University of South Carolina, Union Campus or attend Spartanburg Community College, Union Campus, tuition free. Union County Schools have partnered with Spartanburg Community College to offer technical training to our students so they may be able to enter the workforce upon graduation. This type of opportunity is important in our rural area where financial resources are scarce. This partnership helps to improve student performance and the local workforce which is key to attracting industry to our community.

Union County School District greatly appreciates your consideration of this project for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joey L. Haney
Superintendent



July 8, 2020

Re: Union County's project - Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of South Carolina Union is one of the Union County's many partners, and together we make a dedicated effort to ensure that Union County can be successful. Because Union is a small county with limited resources, these partnerships and collaborative efforts are crucial to the success of the organizations serving Union, and ultimately play a vital role in the success of Union's residents.

The Union County Community Scholarship Program has allowed many more Union County students to attend an institution of higher learning. Many of these students would not have been able to afford college or would choose an institution outside of Union County to pursue a college education. Thanks to this program, more and more of Union County's young people are choosing to stay home to get their college education which means Union County has a better educated and job ready workforce that can attract new businesses and industries. USC Union has experienced tremendous growth in the number of students served over the past few years and much of that growth is directly related to this scholarship. We have been able to add facilities and expand and add programs such as nursing to enable our students to remain in Union County for all four years. This Scholarship program has added many opportunities to Union County's young people, providing them a reason to live and work in our County.

The University wholeheartedly supports the efforts of Union County in its Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County project and appreciate your consideration of this local initiative for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Catalano".

John Catalano
Campus Dean

Applicant: Union County

Award Category: Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award

Project: Expanding Higher Ed and Workforce Training Opportunities in Union County

Benefit/Importance of Project

Union County, like much of rural SC, has struggled to retain the youth of our county. Yearly census estimates show a trend of declining population across rural America in general. Much of this decline in population can be attributed to quality of life challenges and lack of opportunity. These negative trends have long term community impacts which include economic development and workforce challenges as well as increasing levels of poverty. Improving access to higher education and training is a key indicator and driver of quality of life. In addition, SC Department of Education Data indicated that 40% of Union County High School graduates were not pursuing post-secondary educational opportunities. Union County partnered with local industry, Spartanburg Community College, the University of SC Union, and the Union County School District to improve higher education and training access for local residents.

Project Description/Benefit & Importance

This multiyear project focused on improving access to higher education by removing economic barriers and enhancing local educational opportunities. The project consisted of the Union County Community Scholarship Program, creation of the Spartanburg Community College Union Campus, and establishing a nursing school at the University of SC Union, and Operation Workforce Training.

Union County Community Scholarship Program(2016)

The Union County Community Scholarship Program is a partnership between the Union County School District, Spartanburg Community College, University of SC Union, and Union County. Under the program, Union County Council annually appropriates funds which allow Union County students who earn a diploma or GED to attend the Spartanburg Community College Union Campus or the University of SC Union tuition free. This program was intended to remove economic barriers to local graduates and increase the number of residents obtaining post-secondary training.

Spartanburg Community College Union Campus(2016)

Union County partnered with the Timken Foundation, the Union County legislative delegation, and Spartanburg Community College to establish the Spartanburg Community College Union Campus. Under the partnership, Union County supplied the facility for the operation with the state of SC and the Timken Foundation providing

funding for a mechatronics program. The program currently provides welding, healthcare, and mechatronics training opportunities for local residents. In addition, the Union County School District partnered with Spartanburg Community College to transfer the adult education program from the school district to the college. This transfer allows adult education students to take dual enrollment classes to further their education.

Operation Workforce Training(2018)

Union County partnered with local industry, the Union County School District, and Spartanburg Community College to establish the Union County Operation Workforce Training program. Under the annual program, Union County high school seniors and recent graduates who have no plans for pursuing college are allowed to receive free training related to quality control, OSHA practices, and fork-lift certification. At the end of a 65 hour training program, students receive OSHA, forklift operator, and Manufacturing Skills Standards Council quality certifications and interview with local industry for positions. Union County provided the funding to pilot the program and staff coordinate the program each year. Spartanburg Community College has provided grants to fund the program after the pilot program was successful. In addition, Lockhart Power, a local utility company, provides a \$500 cash stipend to students who complete the program.

University of SC Union Nursing Program(2019)

Union County, the University of SC Union, USC Aiken, and the legislative delegation partnered to establish a nursing program in Union County. The local hospital and healthcare providers have struggled to recruit and retain healthcare professionals in Union County. This project served a dual purpose of providing additional educational opportunities for local residents and improving access to primary healthcare by training local residents who are more likely to live and work in their home community. Under the program Union County provided the facility for the nursing school and provided additional tax millage to support the University and this program.

Project Effort/Difficulty

Executing these types of multiagency/multidiscipline projects are very challenging. Bringing all stakeholders together to establish common vision and direction was key to the success of the project. Union County leveraged public-private and public-public partnerships. Often, public-public partnerships are particularly challenging as agencies who have historically operated in silos attempt to work toward common goals. In addition, governing bodies often struggle understanding the need to work in another area of government and how all of our public agencies are interconnected and interdependent in terms of achieving success. Our entire community coalesced around the vision of improving opportunity for our residents to obtain the skills needed to improve their quality of life.

Project Originality/Innovation

Local county government, particularly in rural South Carolina, typically does not have the time or resources to become intimately involved in this type of education initiative. The state of SC has provided a high degree of separation between education and local government. In rural areas where quality of life issues are key to sustainability and growth, local governments cannot afford to not partner and work with education and private industry to drive quality of life improvements. These rural communities cannot address quality of life barriers to growth without combining resources to address these types of issues.

Key Project Results/Indicators to Date

1. Enrollment at our post-secondary training institutions has increased:
University of SC Union-has doubled enrollment to 1153 students since introduction of scholarship and nursing programs
Spartanburg Community College Union Campus- enrollment of 70 students for Spring 2020
2. Operation Workforce Training has graduated 35 students to date with local industry hiring the majority of graduates

Union County's Vision

"Union County recognizes that our young people are our greatest resource. The reality today is that without training beyond high school, it is almost impossible for a young person to earn a wage which allows them to live independently and raise a family. Almost four out of every 10 graduating high school students in our county do not further their education. We believe this is an issue which must be addressed. The Community Scholarship Program is an investment by Union County Council in our young people. We believe this program will be key to developing a workforce in Union County which will drive growth and economic development in our community for years to come."

– Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor



Union County Council, 2017 from left to right: Joan Little, Ralph A. Tucker, David Sinclair, Frank Hart, Ben C. Ivey, Tommy Lee Hill, Sr., Kacie Petrie

Thank you, Community Partners!



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
UNION

A Palmetto College Campus

SPARTANBURG
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UNION COUNTY CAMPUS



For more information on the **Union County Community Scholarship Program**, contact:

Isaac McKissick, SCC Union County Campus
(864) 466-1060 | mckissicki@sccc.sc.edu

Bobby Holcombe, USC Union
(864) 424-8024 | reholcom@mailbox.sc.edu

Frank Hart, Union County
(864) 429-1600 | fhart@countyofunion.com

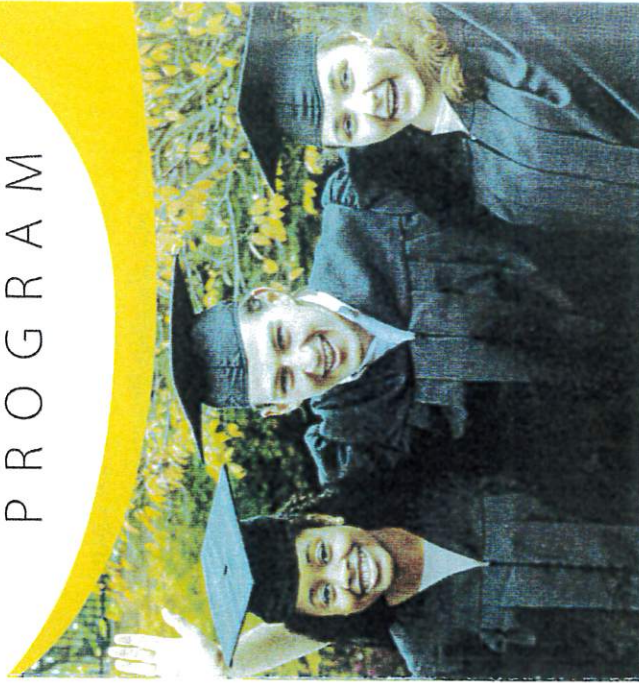


COMMUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

4-2017



COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Community partners working together to offer assistance for students seeking higher education in Union County.

The future of Union County's growth lies in the quality and readiness of a skilled workforce.

Union County and its partners; the Union County School District, the University of South Carolina at Union and Spartanburg Community College have agreed to provide local access to post high school education and training programs.

Successful completion of these programs allows our residents to compete for today's jobs and tomorrow's careers while supporting the sustainment and continued growth of our businesses with an exceptional local workforce.

This partnership sponsors the **Union County Community Scholarship Program** to assist county residents as they prepare for life-changing opportunities to support their families while growing Union County.

For additional information, please contact Isaac McKissick at (865) 466-1060 or email mckissick@sccsc.edu

Scholarship Eligibility and Guidelines

Entrance Guidelines for High School Graduates

- Students must be a current resident of Union County;
- Students must have graduated from Union County High School, Union County Adult Ed, Union Christian Day School, or an approved Union County Home School Program in the previous three academic years or be early graduates in the spring or summer terms;
- Students must enroll within 3 calendar years of high school graduation or completion of GED;
- Students must complete a FAFSA on time and use all federal grants, state awards and other scholarship funds first;
- Awarded scholarships pay tuition and fees, and do not include payment for books and lab fees;
- Students attending USC Union must meet all qualifications for the Life Scholarship to participate;
- Students attending SCC Union County Campus must meet all qualifications for the LTAP or Life Scholarship to participate;
- Students must meet the same criteria for making satisfactory academic progress that recipients of federal financial aid programs must meet;
- Students must enroll in classes offered at the SCC Union County Campus or USC Union to be considered for this scholarship.

Scholarship Continuation Guidelines

- Students attending USC Union must take 30 semester hours and maintain a 3.0 grade point average to qualify for the scholarship their second year.
- Students attending SCC Union County Campus must maintain a 2.5 grade point average or better to qualify for the scholarship their second year.
- Students must maintain persistent semester-to-semester enrollment.
- Scholarship program awards will apply towards up to 15 semester hours at SCC Union County Campus or up to 18 hours at USC Union each semester (after approval for any federal, state or other scholarship grants which the student is eligible) and up to five consecutive semesters, or a maximum of 60 credit hours at USC Union and 73 credit hours at SCC Union County Campus.

Advantages & Impact of the Scholarship

- Removes the barrier of affordability; parents and students will not have to worry who will pay for college tuition;
- Prepares students for college credit-bearing coursework;
- Encourages positive academic habits;
- Provides students opportunities for mentoring, tutoring and networking with community and college leaders;
- Enables students to increase their income through postsecondary credentials and training; and
- Will increase Union County's college attendance rate and lead to a work-ready community.



COMMUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM



Union County Community Scholarship



Union County leaders partnered to create the Union County Community Scholarship Program to address barriers to postsecondary education and critical shortages in Union County's workforce.

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Eligibility and Guidelines for High School Graduates include (but not limited to):

- Students must be a current resident of Union County
- Students must have graduated from Union County High School, Union County Adult Ed, Union Christian Day School, or an approved Union County Home School
- Students must enroll within 3 calendar years of high school graduation or completion of GED
- Students must complete a FAFSA on time and use all federal grants, state awards and other scholarship funds first
- Students attending SCC Union County Campus must meet all qualifications for the LTAP or Life Scholarship to participate
- Students must meet the same criteria for making satisfactory academic progress that recipients of federal financial aid programs must meet
- Students attending SCC Union County Campus must maintain a 2.5 grade point average or better to qualify for the scholarship their second year.
- Students must maintain persistent semester-to-semester enrollment.
- Scholarship program awards will apply towards up to 15 semester hours at SCC Union County Campus (after approval for any federal, state or other scholarship grants which the student is eligible) and up to five consecutive semesters, or a maximum of 73 credit hours at SCC Union County Campus.

For more information contact:

Isaac McKissick – SCC Union County Campus
864-466-1060 or mckissicki@sccsc.edu

Frank Hart – Union County
864-429-1600 or fhart@countyofunion.com

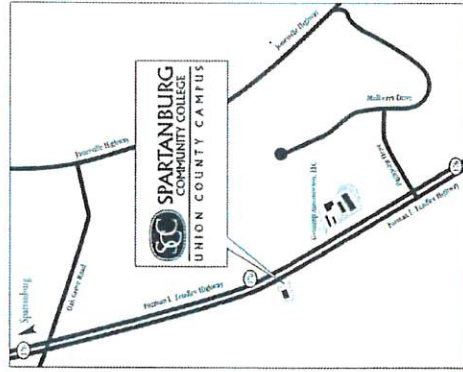
SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNION COUNTY CAMPUS

Isaac McKissick – Campus Director
864-466-1065 | mckissicki@sccsc.edu
Melissa Youngblood – Administrative Specialist
864-466-1060 | youngbloodm@sccsc.edu

Union County Adult Education

Shannon DeVries – Director of Adult Education
864-466-0348 | devriess@sccsc.edu
Sharon Stevens – Administrative Specialist
864-466-0349 | stevenss@sccsc.edu

Visit the SCC Union County Campus to see all that is available to students, businesses and industry. Contact us at (864) 466-1060 and visit online at www.sccsc.edu/union.



1401 Furman L. Fendley Highway
On Highway 176 | Union, SC 29305
Local: (864) 466-1060 | Toll-Free: (800) 922-3679



Spartanburg Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin/ethnic origin or disability in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices.



SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNION COUNTY CAMPUS



Strengthening your community by offering: Adult Education • Dual Credit • College Courses

Union County Adult Education

SCC Union County Campus is responsible for **Union County Adult Education**. Union County Adult Education offers several opportunities for individuals to increase their self-sufficiency.

Union County Adult Education offers classes to students of all levels and who have all different goals. Individuals seeking to earn their high school credential may enroll in our program to complete their GED or diploma. Individuals seeking self-improvement may enroll in our program to enhance their reading and math skills. Those interested in a career readiness credential may enroll in our program to complete a WIN Certificate, which some local employers require.

Union County Adult Education offers morning, afternoon, evening, and online classes to accommodate students' schedules. All classes are free of charge to students.

The first step to enroll is to attend an orientation. Orientation dates are on SCC Union County Campus' website www.sccsc.edu/union

Dual Enrollment in Adult Education

Students who perform satisfactorily in their adult education classes and who show interest in a SCC certification or degree may have the opportunity to dual-enroll. Students who dual-enroll take college courses towards a degree or certificate while completing their high school credential.

Contact: Shannon DeVries, Director of Adult Education (864) 466-0348 | devriess@sccsc.edu

Dual Credit for High School

The **Early College Program** is a dual credit program at SCC that lets high school students earn both high school and college credit at the same time.

With the **Early College Program** you can...

- Find out what college is like before graduating from high school...
- Get a head start on college classes...
- Get college experience while still in high school...
- Save money on college tuition by graduating quicker.

Talk with your parents or guardian, and meet with a high school guidance counselor to see if Early College is right for you.

Contact: See your high school counselor for eligibility and details, then call SCC Admissions at (864) 592-4800.

How Can I Pay for College?

What is Financial Aid? Financial Aid is money in the form of loans, grants, scholarships and employment that is available to help pay the cost of attending college. Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of need. To determine whether or not you are eligible for a federal financial aid program, S.C. Need Based Grant, or Lottery Tuition Assistance, you and your family must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Contact: SCC Financial Aid Office | (864) 592-4810 | financialaid@sccsc.edu



GED & Diploma Classes

Morning, afternoon and evening classes are available.

Please call (864) 466-0349 for schedule.

All classes are free of charge.



SCC Programs of Study

Day and evening courses available to fit your schedule.

MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRIAL

■ Welding

CERTIFICATE: 42 academic weeks; 32 credits

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 74 academic weeks; 5 terms; 62 credits

■ Mechatronics

CERTIFICATE: 32 academic weeks; 2 terms day or evening; 31 credits

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 74 academic weeks; 5 terms; 72 credits

Contact:

Karyn Stephens | (864) 592-4724 | stephensk@sccsc.edu

HEALTH SCIENCES

■ Nursing

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 74 academic weeks; 5 consecutive terms, day or late afternoons; 68 credits

■ Medical Laboratory Technician

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 90 academic weeks; 6 consecutive terms; 76 credits

■ Respiratory Care

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 100 academic weeks; 7 terms; 81 credits

■ Radiologic Technology

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 100 academic weeks; 7 consecutive terms; 87 credits

Contact:

Carol Crowe | (864) 592-4638 | crowec@sccsc.edu

COMPUTER & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

■ Computer Support Specialist

CERTIFICATE: 42 academic weeks; 3 terms day, 3 terms evening; 34 credits

■ Computer Technology, Programming/Database,

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 84 academic weeks; 6 terms day or evening; 70 credits

■ Computer Technology, Networking/Cybersecurity

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 84 academic weeks; 6 terms day or evening; 70 credits

■ Electronics Engineering Technology

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 74 academic weeks; 5 terms; 68 credits

■ Pre-Engineering/University Transfer

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: 64 academic weeks; 4 terms day or online, 6 terms evening; 60-66 credits

Contact:

Marcia Schenck | (864) 592-4839 | schenckm@sccsc.edu



USCUNION.SC.EDU

309 East Academy Street
Union, SC 29379

Admissions Office
(864) 424-8056

Financial Aid Office
(864) 424-8024

USC Union Laurens Location
(864) 681-1456

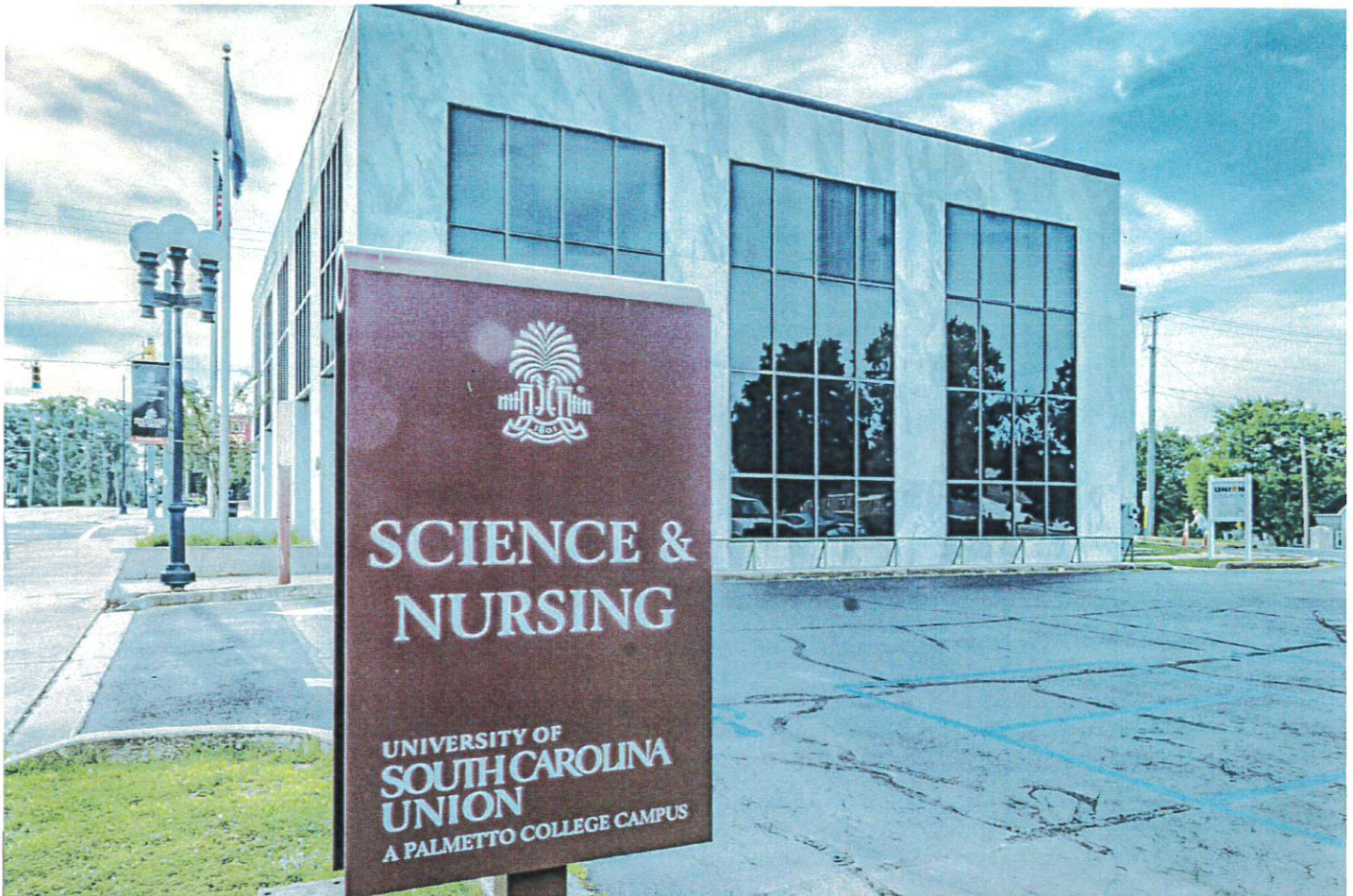
AIM HIGH

EXCELLENT VALUE

MANY
OPPORTUNITIES

USC Union delivers the USC Aiken Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree to allow students to study all four years in Union and Laurens, including coursework and clinicals. Students will learn using unique state of the art virtual reality.

Bantam Athletics program has expanded to include men's soccer, men's baseball, and women's softball. These teams compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association. Women's volleyball, rifle team, bass fishing team, and Esport gaming will compete in the club level.



USC UNION DEGREE PROGRAMS: *Associate in Arts • Associate in Science*

ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREES: *BACHELOR OF SCIENCE: Business Administration, Management • Business Administration, Accounting • Criminal Justice • Hospitality Management • Human Service • Nursing (RN-BSN) • Public Health BACHELOR OF ARTS: Elementary Education • Health Informatics • Special Education • Organizational Leadership • Liberal Studies • Informational Management and Systems*