



## **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION CELEBRATING AMERICA 250 AND THE 225<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDING**

On March 19, 2026, the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the below resolution in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the 225th anniversary of the founding of the University of South Carolina:

**WHEREAS**, 2026 is a year of momentous significance for our Nation, the United States of America, and for our State's flagship university, the University of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 250th anniversary of our Nation's Declaration of Independence and the beginning of its successful struggle against tyranny and oppression; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of South Carolina was one of the original thirteen colonies that established the United States of America and our State proved essential for achieving victory during the Revolutionary War; and

**WHEREAS**, Our Nation has since that victory established itself as a beacon of freedom, and a model of self-governance for other nations around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, because our nation's founders recognized the necessary connection between education and a people's capacity to be self-governing, such that, as Thomas Jefferson wrote, "if a nation expects to be ignorant and free... it expects what never was and never will be," therefore the State of South Carolina established, 225 years ago, South Carolina College in Columbia to provide intellectual, moral, and civic formation for her citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, that mission has been taken up anew by our State and University leaders, in keeping with the University founders' recognition that "proper education of youth contributes greatly to the prosperity of society, and ought always to be an object of legislative attention;"

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

1. The Board of Trustees acknowledges and celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence;

2. The Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude to our National, State, and University leaders who work to preserve the principles expressed in our Nation's Declaration of Independence, and who cultivate in our youth those virtues necessary for a free and self-governing people;
3. The Board of Trustees encourages our State and University to publicly acknowledge and celebrate our Nation's founding, and the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University's founding; and
4. The Board of Trustees most solemnly declares its commitment to fostering and encouraging at the University of South Carolina an education in those principles of civic responsibility and comity that will enable our City, our State, and our Nation to progress in its commitment to liberty, equality, and justice for all.

**THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED IN A DULY CALLED MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2026.**



Thad H. Westbrook, Chair  
Board of Trustees



Stacey Bradley, Interim Secretary  
Board of Trustees