



Our vision
of education for all
that **inspires** a thriving
and just society
guides our future.





OUR VALUES:

- **People First.** USC Upstate cultivates an inclusive community that advances equity, wellness, and civility.
- **Integrity.** USC Upstate prioritizes honesty and civility.

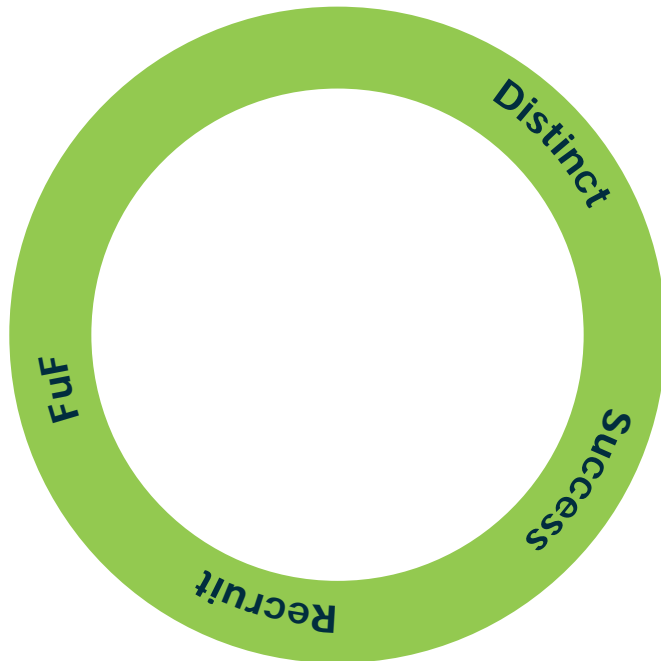
As our institution continues to grow and evolve, it is with great pride that I share the University of South Carolina Upstate's 2024 Chancellor's Report. During the past year, we have seen significant advancements across our campus. We have embraced cutting-edge technology, enhanced our facilities, expanded our academic programs, remained committed to excellence in education, and fostered an inclusive and supportive community.

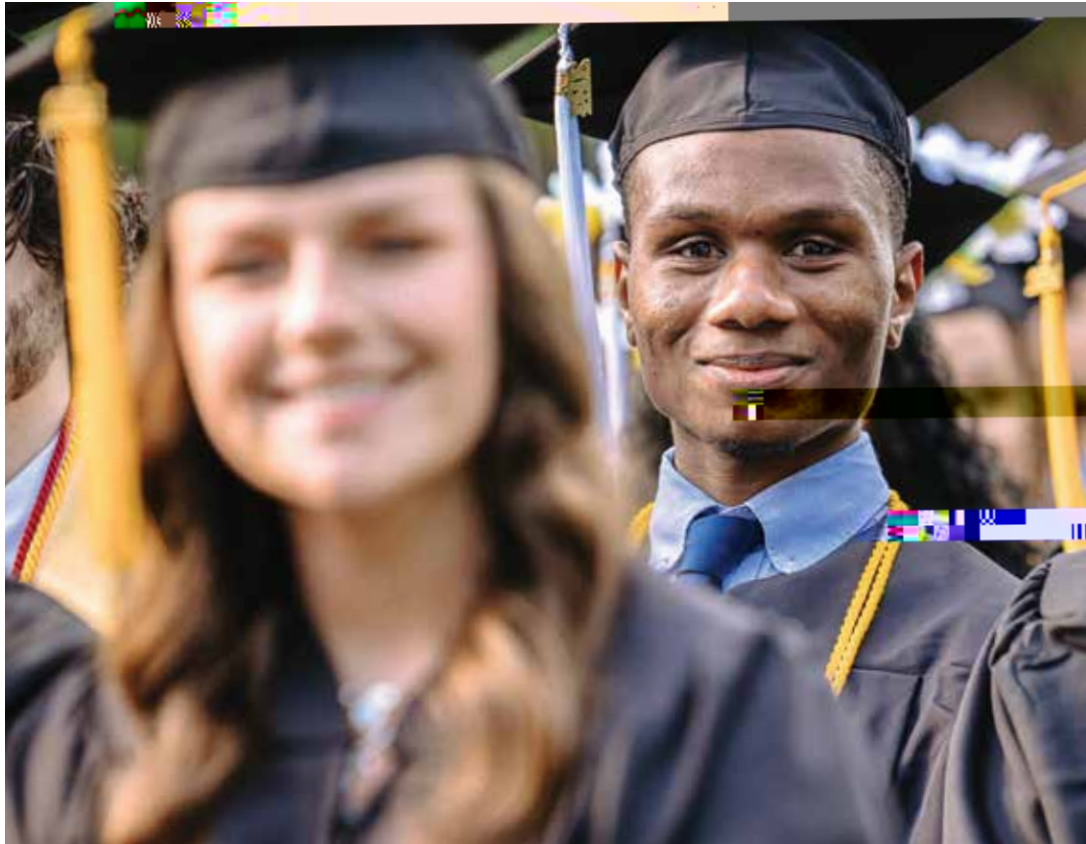
We have made strides in integrating AI and cybersecurity into our curriculum, providing our students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. The establishment of the National Security and Government Institute under the leadership of Maj. Gen. T. Glenn Davis is a testament to our commitment to preparing students for critical roles in an ever-changing world.

Our efforts to improve campus infrastructure have also borne fruit. The addition to our library and the new facilities for the Student Success Center, Center for International Education, and Athletics are just a few examples of how we are enhancing the learning environment to support collaborative and innovative education.

We also have strengthened our community connections through initiatives like Movement 2030 and the Upstate Talent Forum, aimed at fostering educational and economic growth in Spartanburg County. These partnerships underscore our role as a key contributor







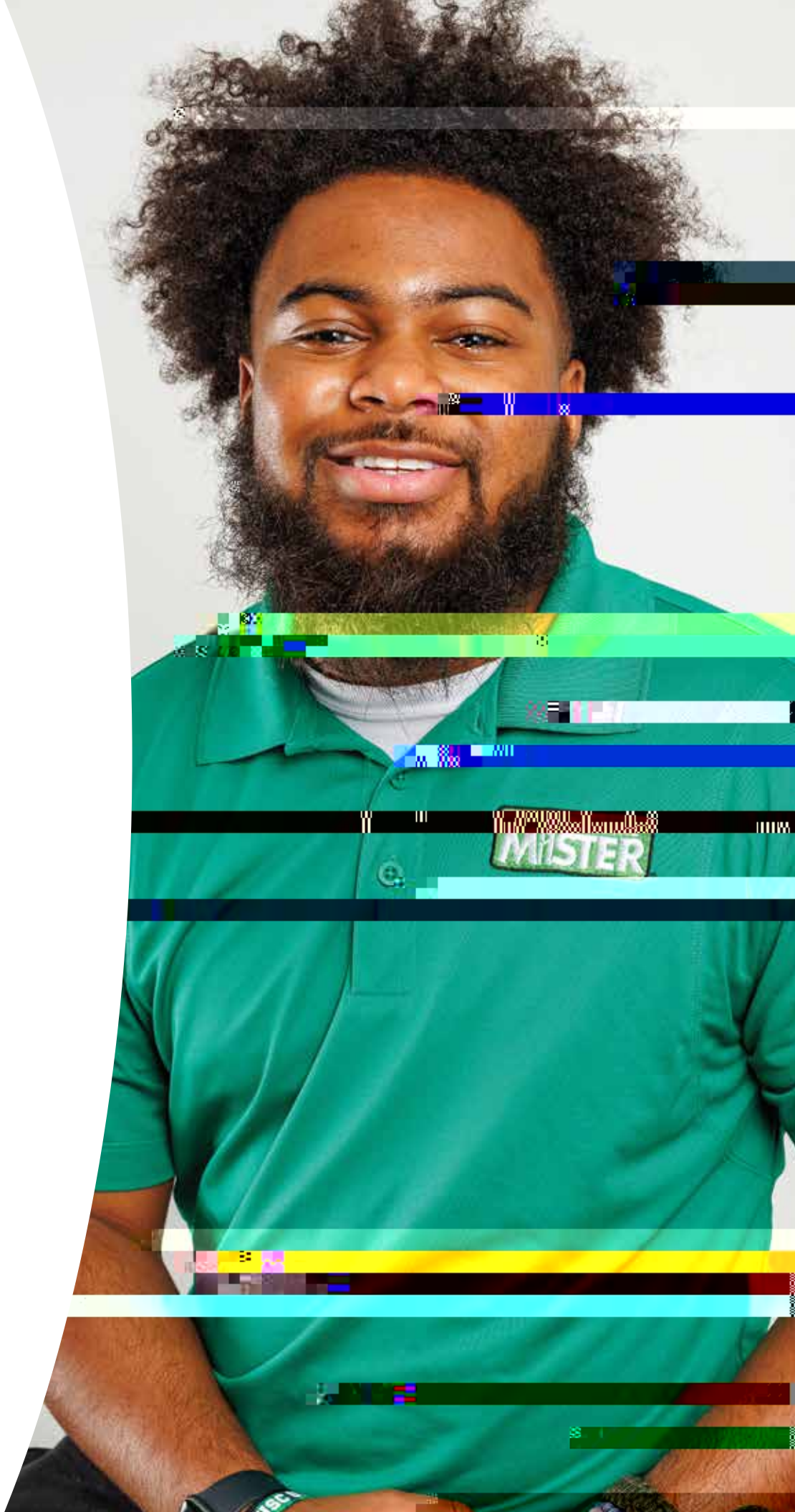
Embedded in the university's vision statement – education for all that inspires a thriving and just society – is a promise to welcome all students, no matter where they are in life, and give them the skills they need to succeed in the workplace and in life.

Spartan Distinct

U SC Upstate is focused on providing flexible educational programs – including new degrees, research opportunities, and study-abroad programs – that improve students' intellectual, creative, personal and social development and prepare them for careers.

>>> **Building the future**

Located right on the Interstate 85 corridor, USC Upstate is ideally positioned to support the global ecosystem that makes up the region's





Anna



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>>> **Thinking globally**

USC Upstate and the University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Landshut in Germany have offered a dual degree program for students in business or science since 2012. Now that program is expanding to include more majors and more options for short-term study.

It's another way to help students prepare for an increasingly global workplace. More than 575 foreign-owned businesses have a presence in the Upstate region, and in recent years USC Upstate has created new pathways to help students with cross-cultural communication. That includes a global studies minor and a global competence certificate.

The Upstate program with Landshut currently allows Upstate students to study in Germany for a semester or two.

>>> **The doctor is in**

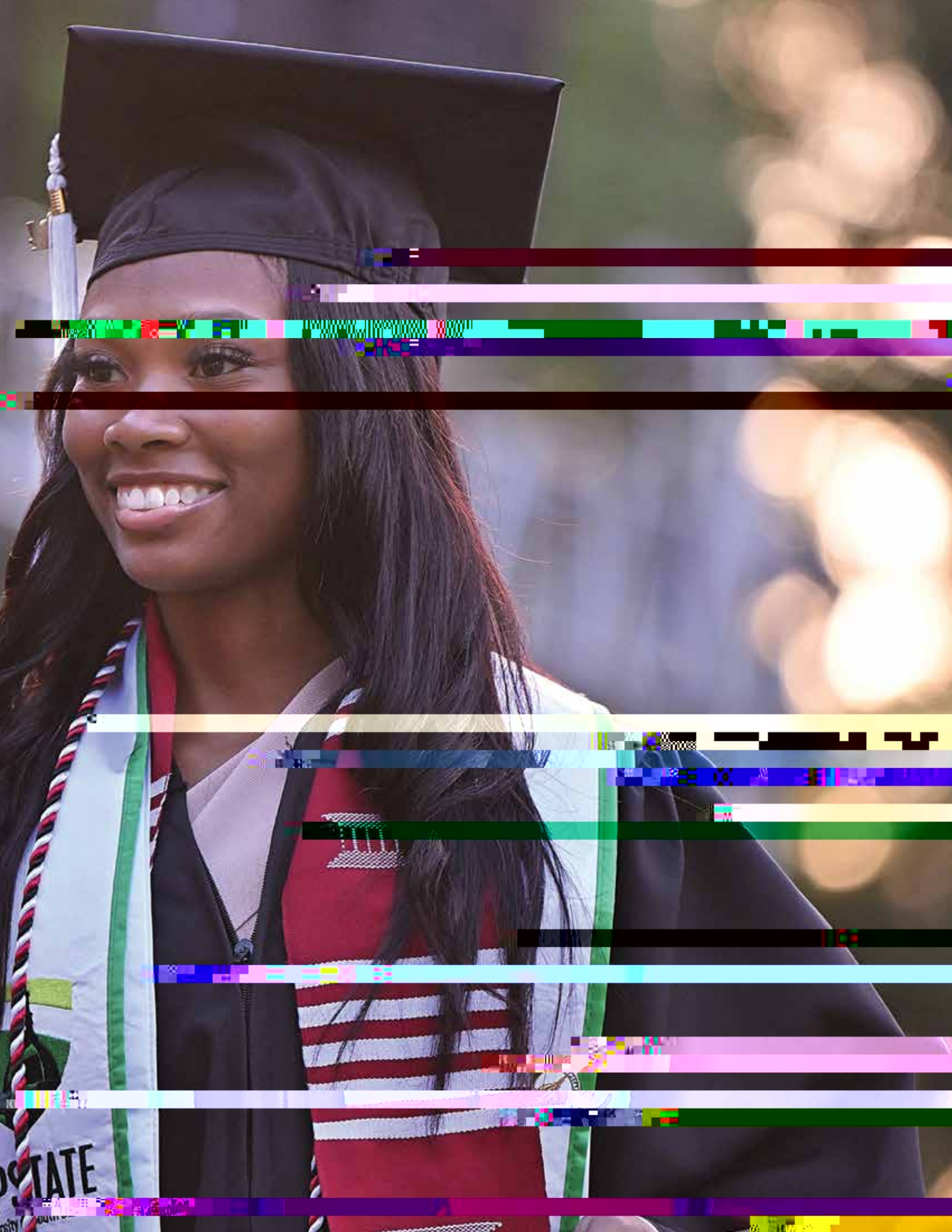
USC Upstate launched its first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, in the fall of 2024. It targets registered nurses looking to have a leadership or policy role in health care. Graduates of the program will be prepared to serve in positions that plan and implement programs that lead to better care outcomes for the community, particularly underserved populations.

The university is also exploring a Doctor of Education program, to prepare educators for leadership roles in schools or education-related institutions.

>>> **More pathways in criminal justice**

A new master's program is offering additional leadership opportunities for those working in criminal justice-related fields or social services. Students in the program learn how to apply social science theories and methods to criminal justice administration, evidence-based policing, public policy reform, and victim advocacy. Graduates are prepared to pursue leadership or policy roles in a wide array of fields and organizations.





Spartan Recruit

As universities nationwide grapple with the “enrollment cliff” – a decline in the number of college-age students beginning in 2025 – USC Upstate is developing creative ways to attract, enroll and retain a diverse and highly qualified student body.

>>> International recruitment

New partnerships abroad are adding to the diversity of USC Upstate's student body. For fall 2023, international student enrollment grew 25% over the previous academic year, with more students from India choosing to pursue a degree at Upstate. Additional efforts are being explored in China, East Asia and Eastern Europe.

>>> Reverse transfer opens up opportunities

A new partnership with Greenville Technical College is providing students with a track toward a bachelor's degree while helping them earn an associate degree along the way. Students who transfer to USC Upstate after two years at a technical or community college can receive an associate degree using credits earned at Upstate.

Earning an associate degree first can help students feel a sense of accomplishment and encourage them to finish a bachelor's. It also provides students with a degree to fall back on should life circumstances require them to leave school before completing a bachelor's. Graduates with an associate degree can earn approximately \$4,600 to \$7,200 more per year in salary than those with no degree at all.

Bachelor's degree attainment in the Upstate region is currently below 30%, and the university is among the educational institutions working to improve that situation through initiatives that support degree completion.

>>> Promise Scholarship expands to more students

More students have the opportunity for an affordable education with the expansion of the Upstate Promise Scholarship. In its second year, the program offers students from Spartanburg, Greenville, Cherokee, and Union counties a chance to earn degrees debt-free. High school graduates must receive a South Carolina LIFE scholarship to qualify. After all scholarships and grants are applied, the remaining tuition is covered by the Promise Scholarship. Currently, USC Upstate has 210 Promise Scholars and is growing annually with cohorts of 100.

>>> A new resource for veterans

USC Upstate is proud to be a gold award-winning Military Friendly school. To help veterans connect with more resources for themselves and their families, USC Upstate, in partnership with the state Department of Veterans' Affairs, has added a cutting-edge software platform to campus. The SC Veteran Coalition powered by Combined Arms features several innovative tools, including an easy to use referral system to quickly and efficiently help veterans locate services they require, including career opportunities. The service is free for all veterans.



Victoria Sands '24

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Spartan Success

USC Upstate's commitment to students' academic success begins with faculty and staff who mentor and support students throughout their time on campus. New career, advising, and wellness programs have been added to improve students' sense of belonging and increase retention and academic performance.

>>> Bridge program boosts college readiness

A five-week summer program is helping new students and rising sophomores improve their math and English skills before starting classes in the fall. The effort aims to address the continuing academic fallout from the pandemic, when many students experienced learning loss in core subject areas.

For entering first-year students who earned less than a B in high school math, the bridge program offers a refresher course to prepare them for their general education math class. Students also learn study skills and receive information about campus resources that support student success.

Rising second-year students who failed to earn their general education credit for either English or math will receive course refreshers as well. They also receive lessons on effective study habits and support services on campus.

>>> Nursing exam pass rates jump to 97%

Nursing graduates of the Mary Black College of Nursing achieved a 97% pass rate on the 2023 National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The rate is a nearly 15% increase from 2022.

Faculty made a concerted effort to improve pass rates by updating curriculum, reviewing benchmarks for assessment testing, and analyzing where learning gaps were occurring. The improved performance on the NCLEX, which is required to receive a nursing license, means more skilled nurses will be entering the workforce to help fill a critical nursing shortage in South Carolina.

>>> More paid research opportunities for students

A \$50,000 award from Power:Ed has enabled USC Upstate to offer more paid summer research internships to











Spartan Future

The workplace of the future is already undergoing rapid transformation brought on by generative AI. From programming to data analysis to communication, AI stands to affect most if not all areas of academia. USC Upstate is preparing students to be nimble and flexible to adapt to these and other changes as they come.

>>> Focus on cybersecurity

Last year retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. T. Glenn Davis joined USC Upstate as inaugural executive director of the newly established National Security and Government Institute. Davis plans to develop partnerships with key industries, particularly in the field of cybersecurity, and expose students to national and world leaders to create an environment that fosters the growth of informed and effective leaders.

In addition to his long and distinguished military service, Davis also served as chief operating officer of United Dynamics, Aerospace & Defense, and as director of Pratt & Whitney's F-22, F-35 and C-17 sustainment operations in Oklahoma City.

>>> Making room for new needs

For the first time since 2009, USC Upstate has received funds for a new construction project on campus. An addition to the Library will add 22,000 square feet to the existing building and bring renovations to the second floor.

The addition will add tutoring rooms for the Student Success Center that can also be used as group study spaces; create conference areas and multipurpose rooms for the Center for International Education; provide a study hall for Athletics; and add classroom space, among other features. The design by Moseley Architects seeks to encourage collaborative learning in an inspiring space.

>>> Bringing AI to campus

Faculty continue to explore new strategies for incorporating generative AI in their classrooms as more students become familiar with the technology. This fall USC Upstate will host a conference on the power and implications of the AI revolution. The event, which is open to the community, will look at the impact of AI on industry, careers, academic research and teaching.



Malik Tate '23

