

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
April 6, 2010
USCB

Good morning, on behalf of Beaufort County Council; thank you for the gracious invitation to be a part of this historic moment.

I wish to congratulate our leaders of higher education - the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, the Trustees of the College of Beaufort, President Harris Pastides, Chancellor Jane Upshaw, distinguished faculty, students, guests and fellow citizens of Beaufort County and this region.

He presented the chancellor's medallion – officially recognizing the status of USCB as an independently accredited baccalaureate university – is a significant milestone in the evolution of higher education in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. It is the consequences of a successful partnership between the university's visionary leaders and the people of this region.

Economic development experts say the primary consideration of business when deciding to relocate is the quality of a community's opportunities for higher education. Beaufort County Council believes strongly that post secondary education furthers employment, improves cultural opportunities, provides greater diversity and enriches the lives of our citizens. Therefore, in December of 2001, County Council enacted the New River Tax Increment Finance District Ordinance to establish a funding mechanism for higher education in southern Beaufort County. Every community in America wants clean industry with good wages. Beaufort County is no exception. To attract new industry you need an educated workforce. Your county council is very proud of its investment in this vital resource. The important 4-year status of USCB – along with the opening of the University's South Campus in 2004 – has helped position Beaufort County as one of the finest places in the state and the nation to live and work. USCB is providing businesses with a better education population, higher workforce standards, and greater resources. The enhanced higher educational facilities and opportunities will go a long way in helping us continue to strengthen our local economy and improve our quality of life. Today's ceremony reflects this significant passage and underscores the value of our university in enhancing our community.

There is not greater symbol of progress and no greater asset to any community than an institution of higher learning. Universities are about people and our people are our greatest resource. Let's all continue to work together to support USCB. The benefits are many and our citizens, especially our children, deserve the opportunities that will result. Thank you.