



CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY

CU AT CLEMSON
An executive prospectus for the
Clemson University President.

Since 1889, only 15 presidents have held the privilege of leading the Clemson Experience. You could be our 16th.

Clemson University seeks a nationally recognized leader in higher education to continue to advance the academic and research missions of our institution and elevate the Clemson Experience for our Clemson community.

Clemson University is looking for the right **President** to continue raising the bar in academics, research, enrollment, student success, fundraising and building community. The right leader will champion outreach and service that exemplify our land-grant mission and make a difference to the people of South Carolina, the nation and the world.



Who We Are

One of the most productive public research universities in the nation, Clemson University enrolls 29,545 students across the state of South Carolina and has an endowment of over \$1 billion. The University operates Extension offices in every county of the state and has five Innovation Campuses and six Research and Education Center locations. Classified as an R1 — Very High Research University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education — Clemson is dedicated to teaching, research and service. Our main campus, located in Upstate South Carolina, sits on 1,400 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, along the shores of Lake Hartwell.

The Clemson Family is how we describe our goal-oriented community drawn together by one common thread: the desire to use our gifts to build others up. Clemson students, faculty and staff are instantly plugged into a network of leaders and mentors in a

variety of industries who are all willing and interested in lending a hand to their fellow Tigers. Join the Clemson Family, and you join a tradition of tremendous spirit. The heartfelt pride Clemson students, faculty, staff and alumni share is magnified every time they return to campus.

Clemson University fulfills its land-grant mission to be “a high seminary of learning” to develop “the main material resources of the State” for the people of South Carolina by attracting world-class researchers, building state-of-the-art facilities and providing scholarships for in-state students. United in the pursuit of this vision, Clemson and its strategic partners collaborate to move South Carolina’s people and industries forward.

9
academic
colleges

80+
majors

130+
graduate degree
programs

8,680
undergraduate and
graduate degrees awarded
(Dec. 2024–Aug. 2025)

A Letter From The Search Committee Chair

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE AT CLEMSON!

From the first graduating class in 1896 to today, Clemson University has led in higher education by setting records in student success, research, outreach, athletics, fundraising, industry partnerships, innovation and impact. Here, we promote a championship culture across our campuses, and our dedicated faculty, staff, students and alumni contribute to the success of each other. As we continue to elevate Clemson, we seek an ambitious, talented professional who wants to join our team to become our next President.

During the past decade, Clemson has been consistently ranked as one of the nation's top public universities. We continually enjoy top listings in several different categories from *The Princeton Review*. During the past decade, our number of admission applications has tripled, we've significantly increased the number of graduate degrees awarded and the University has launched our most ambitious capital campaign yet – **Fiercely Forward** – which will advance our commitment to student success, innovation and academic excellence.

Clemson University attracts those who want to make a difference in the lives of others. Ranked as one of the most productive

research universities in the country by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, Clemson is dedicated to teaching, service and discovery. I am excited about our Clemson Elevate strategic plan that provides the roadmap to ensure we deliver the No. 1 student experience in the nation, increase research and transform lives through measurable health outcomes and economic development. I hope you will consider joining us and helping to lead us on this journey.

Clemson University is a great place to work, and Clemson, South Carolina, is a great place to live. I invite you to review this prospectus to learn more about our University, our beautiful main campus, Innovation Campuses and the people who call this place home. Our search committee looks forward to connecting you with one of the most unique opportunities available to join our team. Thank you for your interest in the future of Clemson University.

Cheri Phyfer

Chair, Presidential Search Committee

Our Core Values

Our University values serve as our North star: guiding us in our work to serve our students and our state. Developed to honor the intent of Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of a “high seminary of learning,” these values ensure we continue to climb to greatness, while staying true to our founder’s vision.



INTEGRITY

Be honest, trustworthy, responsible and ethical.



RESPECT

Value the rights of others, their individual differences, beliefs and ideas. Actively listen and communicate. Seek to understand the challenges they face and be tolerant and forgiving.



DIVERSITY

Attract and retain students, faculty and staff with diverse backgrounds who come together as one inclusive Clemson Family.



PATRIOTISM

Honor our military heritage and our commitment to duty, service, leadership, tradition and civic responsibility.



EXCELLENCE

Exceed expectations and continuously improve. Be creative and take appropriate risks. Learn from failure. Best is the standard.



SELF-RELIANCE

Work hard, exercise self-discipline, be results-oriented and dare to do the right thing, even when it is difficult or unpopular.



Clemson® Elevate

Unveiled in 2023, **Clemson Elevate** is our strategic plan to propel Clemson's success and further strengthen our reputation. Now in year three of the 12-year implementation period, this plan will build on three key areas where the University already exhibits strength.



**Deliver the No. 1
Student Experience**



Excel in experiential learning.



Amplify academic success.



Promote the Clemson Experience.



**Double Research
by 2035**



Build an AAU-aligned faculty to address societal needs.



Create world-class research infrastructure.



Leverage Innovation Campuses and partnerships.



**Transform Lives
Statewide and Beyond**



Enhance educational and economic opportunities for South Carolinians.



Improve agriculture, natural resources and animal health.



Raise health outcomes.

The **Office of the President** ensures academic excellence at Clemson by promoting a culture of scholarship and upholding the three fundamental pillars of Clemson Elevate.

Our Next Leader

OPPORTUNITIES TO TACKLE:

Our next president will be an inspired leader with the vision and operational acumen to push our University forward. Our next president may be asked to innovate and implement strategy to answer the following questions.

- What is our institution doing to enhance the student experience and improve the value of a Clemson University degree? What does it mean to deliver the No. 1 student experience and how do we prove our return-on-investment?
- How can we attract and retain top-tier faculty? How do we ensure compensation aligns with the quality work of our teams so that we ensure that our best faculty and staff thrive at Clemson?
- What is the contemporary role of Clemson as a 21st-century land-grant institution in serving the people and economy of South Carolina?
- How do we position ourselves to continue producing scholarship at the highest level, earn an invitation to the Association of

American Universities (AAU), and establish a global reputation while simultaneously retaining our long-standing commitment to exceptional undergraduate education and Thomas Green Clemson's vision?

- Both capital and programmatic investments are necessary to advance the mission of the University. How do we best prioritize and direct those investments to ensure University success and scholarly excellence?
- How do we foster the principles and best practices of shared governance at Clemson to leverage faculty input in strategic planning, operations and governance decisions of the University?
- How do we best define the role of our Innovation Campuses and statewide Research and Education Centers (RECs) to integrate these geographically dispersed enterprises into the academic core of the University and maximize their impact on education, scholarship and economic development?



Looking For An Executive

WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN EXECUTIVE WITH:

- An exemplary record of scholarly achievement who can inspire and lead faculty, with experience in the tenure and promotion process, and a demonstrated record of collaborative and transparent leadership.
- A proven record of financial acumen and resource management. Considerable familiarity with the business aspects of higher education.
- Fundraising strength and the ability to work with donors, industry stakeholders and legislators to galvanize philanthropic support and public investments in the infrastructure and outlays of higher education.
- A leadership style that prioritizes proactive listening and transparent communication; promotes dialogue and welcomes diverse views; invites campus input and participation in appropriate leadership decisions; keeps commitments, and acts decisively; delegates authority; fosters a culture of accountability of himself or herself and others; and supports the professional development of faculty and staff.
- An understanding and appreciation of the diverse disciplines in the academic enterprise, which includes business, social sciences, humanities, education, health, science, engineering, arts, architecture, veterinary, the libraries, the graduate school and public service.
- Demonstrated experience leading an organization through periods of change and transition.
- A vision for how the University can position itself for invitation into the American Association of Universities (AAU) while retaining our ability to deliver a distinctive undergraduate and graduate education.
- An understanding, passion and vision for how our institution can continue to live out our land-grant mission.
- A commitment to shared governance.
- A welcoming and approachable personality who recognizes the value and importance of all stakeholders on our campus and takes a holistic view of faculty, staff, students, alumni and the administration.



Meet Our Clemson Students

Clemson students are driven to be their best every day. They arrive with passion and leave with purpose. Clemson students enter **degree** programs that connect their personal goals with professional opportunities. Through rigorous academics and excellent academic support, Clemson students master the concepts they need to understand and gain the skills required to successfully enter 21st-century workplaces and communities.

Internationally recognized faculty members, top-tier students and abundant opportunities for meaningful research in both **undergraduate and graduate degree programs** confirm that Clemson University is the “high seminary of learning” for which its founder hoped. For our undergraduate students, Clemson offers the unique opportunity to participate in Creative Inquiry (CI) – a combination of undergraduate research, experiential learning and cross-disciplinary interactions. Since 2005, more than 72,000 students have engaged in more than 2,500 CI projects.

FROM 2021-2025:

- 17 Goldwater Scholars
- 2 Truman Scholars
- 1 Rhodes Scholar
- 3 Churchill Scholars
- 22 Fulbright Scholars

From 2021–2025, 33 Clemson students received NSF Graduate Research Fellowships.

65% of graduates completed participation in one experiential education opportunity (co-op, internship, student teaching, nursing practicum, etc.).



#6 Top 20 Best Alumni Networks (Public Schools),
The Princeton Review, 2025



Colleges Students Rave About *The College Finder, Fifth Edition*



One of the Best Colleges for Future Leaders,
Time magazine, 2026



No. 2 national ranking as Military Friendly® School

64,805 first-year applications received (2024-2025)
24,060 undergraduates
5,485 graduate students



A Culture of Engagement

Distinct experiences across our campuses provide our students with opportunities grounded in engagement, purpose and achievement. From the first-year experience through graduation, Clemson emphasizes meaningful involvement – empowering students to apply knowledge, build strong connections and develop the confidence and skills needed to lead. We create a culture that fuels student successes and prepares graduates to make an immediate and lasting impact in their professions and communities.

600+ clubs and organizations

65% of graduates completed participation in one experiential education opportunity (co-op, internship, student teaching, nursing practicum, etc.).

“It was surreal to contribute to something that’s such a big part of Clemson tradition, and it gave me a firsthand look at how classroom lessons come to life in the field.”

- Charlie Rohaley



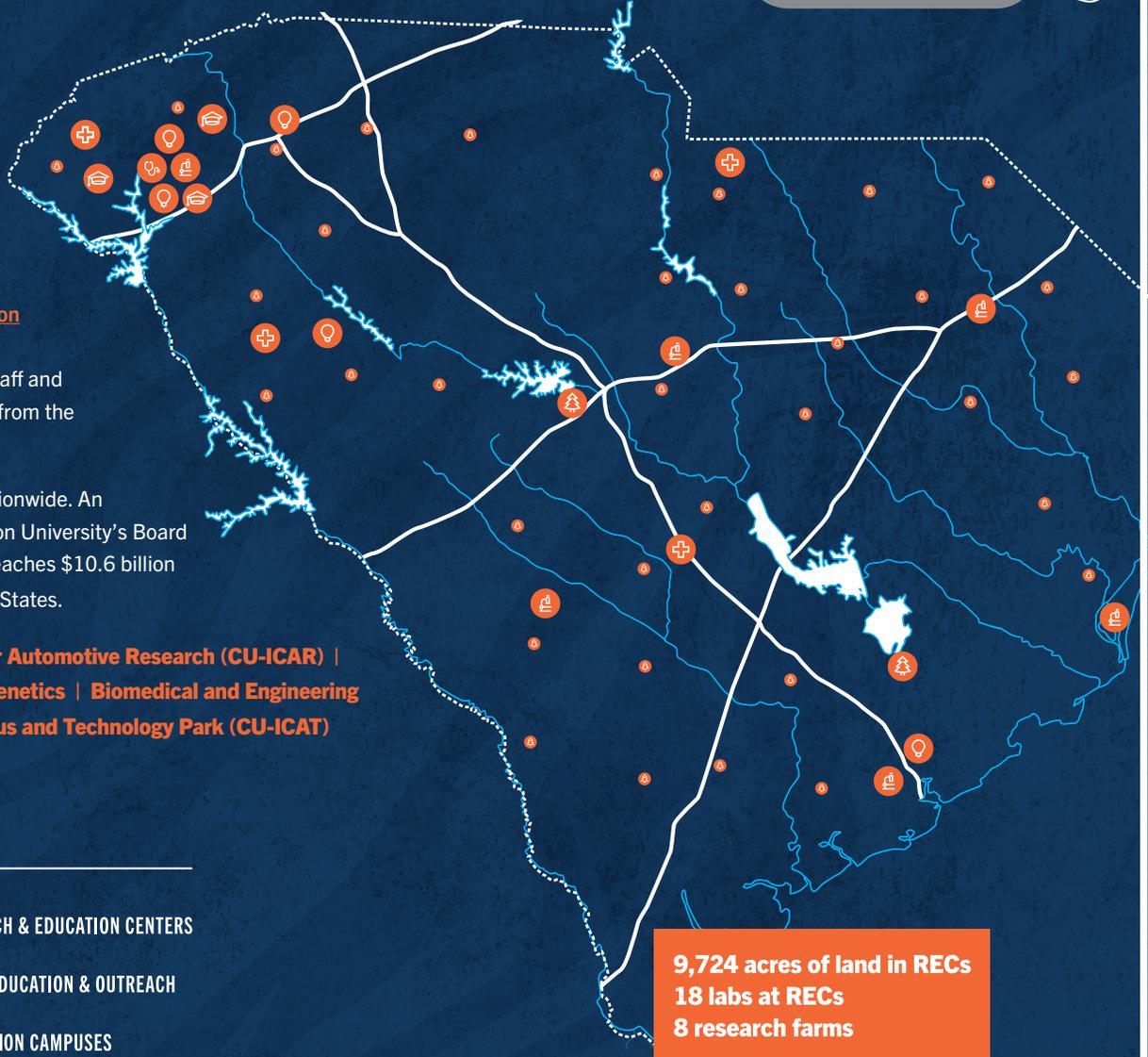


Our Land-Grant Mission

Clemson is South Carolina's University. Core to our mission as a land-grant institution, [Clemson's impact](#) can be found in every corner of the state. With [Extension](#) offices in all 46 counties, six [Research and Education Centers](#), and five [Innovation Campuses](#), our faculty, staff and students are conducting research and impacting lives from the Lowcountry to the Upstate.

We're not just impacting our state and our reach is nationwide. An independent economic study, presented to the Clemson University's Board of Trustees, found Clemson's total economic impact reaches \$10.6 billion nationwide, supporting 54,000 jobs across the United States.

INNOVATION CAMPUSES: International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) | Restoration Institute (CURI) | Center for Human Genetics | Biomedical and Engineering Innovation Campus (CUBEInC) | Innovation Campus and Technology Park (CU-ICAT)



 RURAL HEALTH

 VETERINARY MEDICINE

 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

 RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTERS

 RURAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH

 INNOVATION CAMPUSES

**9,724 acres of land in RECs
18 labs at RECs
8 research farms**

Something In These Hills

Clemson University is a great place to work – and Clemson is a great place to live. Conveniently located in the northwest corner of South Carolina in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, we're just a short 40-minute drive from downtown Greenville and two hours from both Atlanta and Charlotte. Looking for something a bit warmer on the coast? The beautiful beaches of Charleston are just four hours away.

CLEMSON

The city of **Clemson** is more than just a college town. It boasts a hometown feel with a growing and dynamic outlook on life. Surrounded by lakes with great fishing, swimming and boating, Clemson is an outdoor lover's paradise.

- Median property value: \$397,200
- Population: 18,000
- Average commute: 17.5 miles
- Countries represented at Clemson Elementary: 20+



GREENVILLE

Named No. 4 in *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Places to Live" in 2024, **Greenville** has transformed from a small southern town to a bustling innovation center. Industry investments abound in the Greenville-area, with companies like GE, Michelin and BMW calling the region home. From Broadway plays at the Peace Center to leisurely strolls on the acclaimed Swamp Rabbit Trail, Greenville has something for everyone.

- Population of Greenville County: 558,036
- Top 40 Most Charming Small-Town Downtowns – HGTV
- No. 1 Friendliest City in the US – Conde Nast

Grounded In Our Mission

CLEMSON ALUMNUS JOE SHERMAN '34 ONCE SAID:

“There is something in these hills that brings together and binds together and holds together men and women of all persuasions ... something that cuts across every difference, spans every gap, penetrates every wall — something that makes a man or a woman stand taller, feel better and say with a high pride to all within earshot, ‘I went to Clemson.’”

That quintessential something is forged in our spectacular setting, our legacy as a land-grant institution and our commitment to our faculty, students, staff and community.

That commitment means something because at Clemson, we're more than coworkers — we're family. The Clemson Family is how we describe our goal-oriented community, drawn together by a common thread: the desire to use our gifts to build others up.

Our nearly 7,000 full-time faculty and staff work tirelessly to advance our University's mission and to ensure our students thrive. Our next president will be “their president:” someone who is as comfortable presenting to the Faculty Senate as they are meeting one-on-one with a sophomore engineering student. Our people are the lifeblood of our campuses and our state, and we're looking for an individual ready to embrace and champion our Clemson Family as an advocate for all.

Our culture represents the immutable character of our institution. It is our determination that leads us to navigate what others may call unsurmountable challenges, all while managing potential risks and staying true to our ethics. It is our “ALL IN” spirit that drives us to success.

We believe there are no universities more prepared for growth in quality, in research and in impact. The next Clemson president will have a solid foundation on which to build the academic enterprise and propel Clemson to prominence.

While talking with individuals about this role, you may hear the phrase, “Keep Clemson Clemson.” That doesn't mean we don't embrace change and new ideas. It means we tackle them together, as a team. At Clemson, we can have open and frank conversations. We can disagree. But we do so respectfully and with one common goal: to find a path forward.

Our next president must be approachable, transparent and driven leader, who thrives in environments of growth, change and innovation. This person will embody our University values of integrity, respect, diversity, patriotism, excellence and self-reliance.

Clemson is well-positioned for incredible growth, recognition and success. We are seeking a special leader who appreciates the tie that binds student experience and research discovery to real-world community outcomes is the tie that makes our work matter. That connection makes everything we do that much more significant. To the people of our state. To our nation. To our world.

OUR NEXT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WILL BE THE INDIVIDUAL WITH EXTRAORDINARY VISION, THOUGHTFUL STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE.

We're All In

As a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Clemson University boasts **21** NCAA athletic teams. From football and basketball to golf and volleyball, our collegiate community comes together to cheer “Go Tigers!”

Committed to excellence on the field and in the classroom, Clemson is routinely recognized for its 96 percent Graduation Success Rate (GSR) – the second highest amongst public institutions.

Our student-athletes are supported in the classroom and on the field through IPTAY, one of the most successful collegiate athletics fundraising organizations in the country. Founded in 1934, IPTAY stood as an acronym for “I pay ten a year,” encouraging Clemson alumni to pledge just \$10 a year in support of the athletic department. Today IPTAY donors provide millions of dollars in scholarships each year for Clemson student-athletes.

#24 Best Athletic Facilities – Princeton Review 2026

No. 5 Best College Athletics in America – Niche’s 2026 Best College Rankings



Building Our Future

At Clemson, we're committed to building programs, opportunities and spaces where our students can thrive. Over the past several years, we have made significant infrastructure investments to enhance our living and learning spaces on campus.



Advanced Materials Innovation Complex (AMIC)

– Slated to open in Spring 2026, the AMIC will be the nation's premier cross-disciplinary advanced materials innovation, education

and research enterprise that will create the next-generation workforce of engineers and scientists in advanced manufacturing, energy and health innovation.



Harvey S. Peeler Jr. College of Veterinary Medicine

– True to its land-grant mission, Clemson is opening the first College of Veterinary Medicine

in South Carolina. The six-building complex will provide students with spaces for collaboration, hands-on learning and personal growth.



Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business

– Opened in 2020 and situated at the front-door of Clemson's main campus, the Wilbur O.

and Ann Powers College of Business' think tank environment brings students, faculty and industry together in a collaborative, inspiring space, equipped to evolve with the needs of students.

Andy Quattlebaum Outdoor Recreation Facility (Andy's) – Home to Clemson's Outdoor Recreation and Education (CORE) program, Andy's is a national model for recreation and leisure space that emphasizes wellness, relaxation and experiences that promote physical, mental and emotional health.

Bryan Mall High Rise Renovations – A staple of the campus community, Clemson students have called the three high-rises on Bryan Mall home since the 1970s. Renovations will improve accessibility, energy efficiency and the resident experience for years to come.

Moving Fiercely Forward

Fiercely Forward is more than a campaign. It's a call to action.

With a goal of **\$1.889 billion**, Clemson has embarked on its most ambitious capital campaign to date, Fiercely Forward: A Campaign for Clemson. This capital campaign positions Clemson to remain steadfast in its commitment to student success, innovation and academic excellence.

LAUNCHING LIVES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Igniting purpose in the next generation of leaders, creators, healers, and changemakers through Clemson's unmatched university experience.

UNLOCKING HUMAN POTENTIAL

Transforming lives in deeply personal ways through cutting-edge research at Clemson.

IGNITING CHANGE THROUGH INGENUITY

Uplifting communities statewide and beyond through educational, economic, agricultural and health outreach.



\$1.889 BILLION

Inquiries And Applications

Nominations and inquiries concerning the position may be directed to the search consultant at the address below.

Application materials must include a current CV and letter of interest and should be submitted to the search firm contact listed below by **April 1** for full consideration.

Clemson President Search; Funk Associates

2911 Turtle Creek Boulevard, Suite 300
Dallas, TX 75219

Email: krisha.creal@funkassociates.com

Fax: 214-523-9067

clemson.edu/careers

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Clemson University is an EEO/AA employer. Employment decisions are made without regard to characteristics protected by applicable law including disability and protected veteran status.

