Clemson’s Public Service Commitment
FY2019-20 Budget Request

As a land-grant university, Clemson is part of a national system created by the U.S. Congress to improve the quality of life for citizens in every state through teaching, research and Extension. The university’s statewide Public Service Activities (PSA) network conducts research, Extension and regulatory programs that improve and protect economic prosperity and well-being for all South Carolina citizens. Clemson PSA programs develop and deliver impartial science-based information in five areas that align with the national land-grant university system and touch the life of every South Carolinian. Those areas are: agribusiness productivity and profitability; economic and community development; environmental conservation; food safety and nutrition; and youth development and families.

Recurring Requests

1. Comprehensive Statewide Extension Programs -- $2.015 million: Clemson Cooperative Extension provides unbiased, research-based information through a system of public outreach programs in youth development; agribusiness; food, nutrition and health; and agronomy, livestock, horticulture and natural resources. Clemson Cooperative Extension is seeking funding to improve its educational programming for youth, ensure that all counties have agent support for critical agriculture and natural resource programs, and develop and implement new programming initiatives for emerging crops. Specifically, funding will provide crop-specific personnel and support for the expanding statewide industrial hemp pilot program to ensure producers can partner with universities to meet statutory requirements, support personnel focused on advancing organic crop and livestock production and organic processing techniques and develop a focused agricultural equipment safety certificate program called CU-SAFE.

2. Critical Agricultural and Natural Resources Research -- $1.54 million: Scientists at Clemson’s six Research and Education Centers (RECs) are driven to keep South Carolina farmers competitive on a national and global scale through research critical to maintaining economically viable and competitive crop production. Maintaining this core expertise requires research support, including a cohort of crop research technicians, to serve as a continuous base for successful applications for research grants and contracts with the USDA, state commodity boards, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and many other key groups. The requested funds will be used to hire scientific personnel required to support research in areas essential to the continued competitiveness of South Carolina farmers. These areas include: agricultural systems modeling; agricultural technology transfer; saline agriculture; silvopasture; enhanced crops; and industrial hemp.

3. Livestock Poultry Health and Regulatory Program Support -- $1.1 million: Clemson PSA’s Livestock Poultry Health (LPH) unit protects animal health through the control of endemic, foreign and emerging diseases in livestock and poultry and protects the health of S.C. consumers through a comprehensive inspection service that ensures meat and poultry products are safe and accurately labeled. LPH currently relies on variable and unpredictable revenue streams for basic operational expenses. The requested funding will ensure core operations remain strong as LPH continues protecting South Carolina’s animal industry from diseases that could devastate its economic viability. Clemson PSA’s Regulatory Services Division is comprised of departments that work together to protect the state’s agricultural, landscape and nursery industries from the spread of plant disease and ensure the safe and lawful application of pesticides. A majority of Regulatory Services funding is generated by program fees and federal grants. The requested recurring funding would allow Regulatory Services to continue serving South Carolina citizens at a manageable cost and expand programs that protect and enhance the state’s agribusiness industry.

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Nonrecurring Requests

1. Facility Renovation for Water Research -- $4 million: Clemson University’s South Carolina Water Resources Center (SCWRC) is a multi-disciplinary, cross-college research organization focusing its efforts on watershed study and management; water policy; remote water sensing, image analysis and technological innovation; water resources and population growth; and emerging water problems. Through its work, the SCWRC provides state agencies with information they need to make unbiased, research-based decisions about South Carolina water resources policy. Last year, Clemson PSA requested $7 million in one-time state funding and was allocated $3 million. Clemson PSA is requesting $4 million in funding to complete renovation of a near-campus building where a team of water resources experts will conduct analytical water-related research and provide research-based natural resources management outreach, instruction and demonstration.

2. T. Ed Garrison Arena Education/Conference Center -- $3.2 million: The T. Ed Garrison Arena, near the Clemson campus, hosts an array of high-profile livestock and equine events that draw approximately 100,000 visitors annually from throughout the Southeast and increase the national reputation of South Carolina’s cattle, equine and related agricultural industries. $1 million in state funds allocated in FY17 were used to make facility improvements that increased event adaptability and created new revenue streams. Last year, Clemson PSA requested $10 million in state funds and was allocated $6.8 million. An additional $3.2 million would complete the request and allow Clemson to build the conference center, add a covered arena and make improvements to the existing facility.

3. Research and Education Center Graduate School Housing -- $4 million: Clemson PSA’s six Research and Education Centers (RECs) are home to teams of scientists performing transformative research that helps build the South Carolina agribusiness economy, conserve the state’s environment and natural resources, and improve the nutritional quality and safety of the food supply. In order to fulfill its research mission, Clemson PSA must add talented and accomplished graduate students, but housing for these graduate students is insufficient. The requested funding will allow Clemson PSA to add new housing for students and visiting scientists and renovate and expand existing housing that is currently available at each of the RECs across South Carolina.

Clemson Public Service Activities (PSA) include:

**Experiment Station**
Develops relevant, research-based knowledge for agriculture, forestry and natural resources to enhance economic development.

**Cooperative Extension Service**
Transfers science-based information on agriculture, forestry and natural resources to commercial producers and land managers, and individuals. Programs include 4-H youth development; agribusiness; agricultural education; agronomy; food systems and safety; horticulture; livestock and forages; natural resources; and rural health and nutrition.

**Livestock-Poultry Health and State Veterinarian**
Serves as South Carolina’s animal health authority, administers the state meat and poultry inspection program, and operates the state veterinary diagnostic center for livestock and companion animals.

**Regulatory Services**
Regulates the safe and legal use of pesticides, the quality of fertilizer and lime, the certification of seed purity and germination, the prevention and control of plant pests, and the certification of greenhouse and nursery plants as pest-free.