In tough economic times, USC Sumter has re-evaluated the way we do business. The initial task was daunting, but the results in 2012-13 have been surprisingly positive, with overwhelming changes occurring at the campus.

Below is a list of some of the changes you might notice if you come for a visit:

- Students feel they have a voice and are being heard by faculty, staff and administration.
- The advisement process is going well and continually improving.
- Faculty and staff have secured more grant money than in the past to help sustain and improve campus programs.
- Faculty, staff and students have pitched in personal time and resources to help improve the look of the campus.
- A new year-long integrated marketing plan is now in place.
- There are now improved relationships with the Sumter community and USC System as a whole.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

- Glass panels in the Anderson Library roof were replaced.
- The original boiler was replaced in the WBE Administration Building.
- Drainage improvements were made to the Miller Road parking lot.
- Directional signs on campus have been updated and improved.
- Three new 47 inch digital signs have been added for improved internal communications and touch screen technology was added in the WBE Administration Building lobby.
- The infamous USC Sumter water fountain is operational again.
- New campus lighting was installed, creating lower utility costs.
- The Nettles Building roof was repaired.
WORTH NOTING

1. The Best of the Best
For the eleventh consecutive year, readers of The Item newspaper have named USC Sumter the “Best Institution of Higher Education.” USC Sumter has received this award each year since the contest began.

2. Recognized by the Military
The University of South Carolina Sumter was named a 2012 “Military Friendly School” by the nationally-distributed magazine G.I. Jobs. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.

3. Fire Ants Softball Team Achieves Academic Excellence
The Fire Ants Softball team shined both on and off the field. The ladies were named to the 2012 and 2013 NJCAA All-Academic Team of the Year. The minimum grade point average requirement for consideration is a team GPA of 3.00. The Fire Ants team GPA was a 3.02.

4. Dr. van Bulck named 2012 Governor’s Professor of the Year
Dr. Hendrikus E. van Bulck was selected as the 2012 Governor’s Professor of the Year. He has more than 28 years of experience in private practice, and has served on the faculties of USC Sumter, Clemson University and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, where he also served as chairman of the Business and Economics Program. USC Sumter has had three Governor’s Professor of the Year recipients in the past 19 years.

5. Dancing with the Sumter Stars
The USC Sumter Alumni Association held its most successful scholarship fundraiser to date in April 2012 and 2013 with the Dancing with the Sumter Stars event. Modeled after the television show, Dancing with the Sumter Stars paired local Sumter “stars” with professional dancers for an evening of fun and entertainment. “Stars” has raised more than $40,000 for the Alumni Association and USC Sumter scholarships.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

• Since 1981, USC Sumter students have earned 1,690 baccalaureate degrees through programs offered by USC Sumter in cooperation with other USC campuses and institutions. The average lifetime earnings for the holder of a bachelor’s degree are $500,000 more than for a high school graduate.

• At USC Sumter, 55% of students attend full-time and 45% attend part-time.

• Active-duty military and veterans comprise 10% of the student population.

• Minority students make up 29% of the student population and include African American, Asian, American Indian and Hispanic Students.

• Minority student enrollment has increased 19% since 1990. Minority graduation rate averages 29%. The state average is 27%.

• Students come from the following counties: Sumter, 70%; Clarendon, 7%; Kershaw, 3%; Richland, 7%; Lee, 3%; Williamsburg, 1%; and other, 10%.

• Average ACT and SAT scores for freshmen are 19 and 956, respectively.

• Declared areas of concentration for USC Sumter students are: Arts and Letters, 4%; Business, 16%; Education, 11%; Interdisciplinary Studies and Other 2%; Science and Mathematics, 11% and Undecided, 46%.


BY THE NUMBERS

• USC Sumter has served 59,929 students since 1966.

• The student population is 54% female and 46% male.

• Average student age is 21.