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January 5, 2017

USC SUMTER ADDS FIRE ANT GOLF AND SOCCER TO ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Sumter S.C. – The University of South Carolina Sumter is proud to announce the addition of women's golf and men's soccer to the four successful NJCAA Region X Division I Intercollegiate Athletics programs.

The new sports will launch in fall 2017. Current Fire Ant teams include men's and women's tennis, softball and baseball.

USC Sumter administration is enthusiastic about the new sports additions. "Offering our students the opportunity to compete in athletics is an important element of our campus community," said Palmetto College Campus Dean Dr. Michael E. Sonntag. "Our athletes continue to enhance the University of South Carolina Sumter campus by creating a more diverse population of students and by challenging themselves on the field and in the classroom."

"These two sports make sense for our athletic department. They fit our facilities, staffing and size, and are beneficial for conference alignment and scheduling needs," said USC Sumter Director of Athletics Adrienne Cataldo.

Although soccer has been offered and discontinued at USC Sumter in the past, Cataldo feels it stands the best chance of success now.

"We are excited to see soccer make a comeback," Cataldo said. "We have a strong athletics department that is ready for men's soccer. The pool of players both locally and from around the southeast is ready to play at this level and establish a strong tradition here."

Women's golf is brand new to the University of South Carolina Sumter. "Golf is a popular sport at the high-school level and the weather conditions in our area make it easy for teams to play nearly all year-round," Cataldo said.

According to Cataldo, the average student-athlete at USC Sumter carries a higher cumulative grade-point average when compared to the rest of the college population. Student-athletes are also well represented in community service projects such as the Salvation Army, Evening Optimist Club, Special Olympics, YMCA, YWCA and the City of Sumter.

Cataldo is currently recruiting part-time coaches and potential players for both soccer and golf. Interested participants should visit www.uscfireants.com for more information.