

# NEWS

University of South Carolina Lancaster  
Lancaster, SC 29720



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
LANCASTER

*A Regional Palmetto College*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **USCL Personal Finance Bootcamp Receives National Recognition Award**

**Lancaster, SC** -- In April 2022, the University of South Carolina Lancaster and the Arras Foundation sponsored a three-day Personal Finance Bootcamp for middle, high school, and college students and their parents or legal guardians. Bootcamp hours were from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and included dinner for all attendees. The initial plan estimated 35 attendees and much to the planners' surprise, 240 people registered for the Bootcamp and they averaged 150 attendees each of the three evenings. The USCL personal finance professors, Albert Blackmon, Stan Emanuel, Phillip Parker, Michael Sherrill, and Brandon Newton, led the sessions.

The Bootcamp's goal was to equip the attendees with fundamental financial concepts and principles while building self-awareness, confidence, and substantial growth relative to the world of personal finance. A host of topics was covered to include but not limited to budgets, financial planning, taxes, insurance, credit reports/scores, emergency funds, home and automobile purchases, retirement, and security investments. During the sessions, participants were afforded many opportunities to assess their retention of materials covered via strategic questions with individually scored answers. Random raffles were also conducted throughout the three days which allowed the winning ticket holder to choose from 32 door prizes contributed by community event sponsors -- Founders Federal Credit Union, Nutramax Laboratories, Comporium, Sharonview Federal Credit Union, Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, Gregory Family YMCA, Tacos Olé food truck, and USC Lancaster.

On October 25, the National Association of Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) awarded its Distinguished Program Award (non-credit) to Albert Blackmon. Dean Walt Collins and Albert Blackmon graciously accepted the award and proudly represented and thanked Lancaster County for allowing us to be of service to our community.

Dr. Walter Collins, USC Lancaster Campus Dean, stated, "We are indeed considering making this an annual Personal Finance Bootcamp during the month of April which is financial literacy month." The feedback indicated a desire for this and other topics as well. Dean Collins further stated, "I'm proud of our 'Bootcamp Sergeants' aka Business Professors, and all the staff who help make the program a huge success for our community. We are grateful for the partnership with the Arras Foundation and their Horizon Educational Grant and the many business sponsors that assisted in making this FREE Bootcamp accessible to community members. Special thanks to Professor Albert Blackmon who was the brains behind this entire event."

Business Professor Albert Blackmon stated, "This concept was a result of direct feedback from Personal Finance (FINA 369) students. Both traditional and non-traditional students would comment they learned so much from the class and they wished they had learned this in middle or high school. My mission was to complement our campus's Town & Gown initiative and create an educational platform open to the community. I leveraged my marketing and sales experiences and created a complete plan to execute a Bootcamp for Personal Finance, hence the concept was launched."

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Pictured from left to right, Albert Blackmon, MBA and Dean Walt Collins, PhD



Pictured from left to right, Dean Walt Collins, PhD, Professor Albert Blackmon, MBA, and Chancellor Susan Elkins, Ed.D



84<sup>th</sup> ACHE Awards Ceremony program and 85<sup>th</sup> Annual ACHE Conference announcement.

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

#### LEADERSHIP AWARD

**Niki Elliott**

Director of the Center for Neurodiversity, Learning, and Wellness  
University of Laverne Lafetra College of Education

#### MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

**Julie Shankle**

Executive Director of Continuing Education  
University of Central Florida

### MARKETING & PUBLICATION AWARDS

#### CRYSTAL MARKETING AWARD

**Palmetto College Commercial Campaign (2020 to Present)**  
University of South Carolina Palmetto College

### PROGRAM AWARDS



#### DISTINGUISHED PROGRAM AWARD - CREDIT

**Give Yourself Some Credit: Motlow-MTSU PLA Partnership**  
Middle Tennessee State University (University College)  
& Motlow State Community College

#### DISTINGUISHED PROGRAM AWARD - NON-CREDIT

**Personal Finance Bootcamp**  
University of South Carolina Lancaster—Palmetto College

#### CREATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AWARD

**CNLW Technology Workshops**  
Lafetra College of Education's Center for Neurodiversity, Learning,  
and Wellness (CNLW) at The University of Laverne

#### OLDER ADULT MODEL PROGRAM AWARD

**Neurodiversity and Inclusivity Certificate**  
Lafetra College of Education's Center for Neurodiversity, Learning,  
and Wellness (CNLW) at The University of Laverne

#### OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AWARD

**Project Hope**  
University of Laverne, Lafetra College of Education

84<sup>th</sup> ACHE Award Ceremony program list of honorees.



*84th*

**ACHE**

**Annual Conference 2022**

*Equity ✦ Access ✦ Belonging*

**AWARDS  
CEREMONY**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

OCTOBER 25, 2022