



Dr. Susan A. Elkins
Chancellor

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2025

Catledge named new campus dean of USC Lancaster

Lancaster, S.C. – Courtney Catledge has been named campus dean of the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

Her appointment was announced on Monday, May 5, by USC Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins, who cited Catledge's administrative leadership, her track record for training nursing graduates who ably live and work in the USC Lancaster region, and her connection to internal and external stakeholders which will benefit the campus' continued growth, development and community engagement.

"As USC Lancaster continues to move forward beyond its recent 65th anniversary of service to students, families, the local workforce and overall region, Dr. Catledge is the ideal leader to continue the campus' upward trajectory," Elkins said. "Her leadership in creating greater numbers of healthcare professionals who serve the local community and her leadership as interim dean with strong ties to the campus and business community have been assets in continuing to bring an affordable, accessible, flexible and achievable higher education to the Lancaster region and beyond."

Prior to beginning her service as interim campus dean in January 2024, Catledge served as director of the USC Lancaster Bachelor of Science in Nursing Collaborative Program. During her time in both roles, USC Lancaster has seen continued growth and development for several years. The institution has achieved multiple semesters of historic enrollment growth since 2017, including this past Fall 2024 semester. USC Lancaster has been ranked as the No. 1 two-year campus in South Carolina by Niche.com for eight consecutive years (2018-2023), and the No. 2 two-year campus in the nation for three straight years (2019-2021). More recently, Catledge worked to secure \$2.8 million in rural innovation grants from the Center for Rural and Public

Health to fund a pathway program to enhance rural healthcare workforce in South Carolina. The program creates a pipeline for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to eventually earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BSN).

“Being able to serve as the dean of the University of South Carolina Lancaster is really an opportunity to be a driving force for change, but to also continue to support the great things that we do here at USCL and across the Palmetto College campuses,” said Catledge. “I’ve lived in Lancaster my entire adult life. I’ve raised my children here. I’m very passionate about making a difference in our community. Our university is very important to our community, and our students impact our community daily. I consider it a privilege and an opportunity to be able to serve alongside our wonderful staff and faculty and to continue to help to see our students grow into productive citizens who make a difference in our region and beyond.”

Following a national search, Catledge was recommended as one of three top finalists by a 13-member search committee representing a cross-section of stakeholders from USC Lancaster faculty, staff, students, alumni, community leaders from the USCL service area and Palmetto College representatives. The committee was led by Michael Sonntag, previous campus dean of USC Sumter.

Catledge earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in community and public health and Master of Public Health (MPH) in public health administration, all from the University of South Carolina, and a B.S. in Nursing (BSN) from Clemson University.

Raised in Franklin, Tenn., Catledge settled in Lancaster, S.C., to build a home, family, career and community after completing her BSN. Her nursing experiences are varied and range from acute care to community and public health, and as a family nurse practitioner working in both urgent care and retail medicine. Catledge’s scholarly research focuses on community and public health, including asthma, Hepatitis B and risk reduction to diseases impacting rural communities. As a faculty member and campus administrator, she has worked to prepare nurses to serve rural communities in South Carolina.

She has been married to Lancaster native Chad Catledge for 27 years. They have two adult children, Katie and Marley, and two younger children, Eden Jane and Clayton.

Catledge’s service as campus dean of USC Lancaster, an administrative appointment without tenure or academic rank, will officially begin on May 12, 2025.

The University of South Carolina Lancaster serves students from a campus in Lancaster, S.C., and a location in Indian Land, S.C. In addition, USCL also offers online and hybrid courses, as well as dual credit/early college courses for high school students. The institution celebrated its 65th anniversary of service to its students and communities in 2024. The campus has also grown with the renovations and/or additions of major academic areas such as the high-fidelity nursing simulation laboratory, the Indian Land, S.C., location and Stevens Theatre, as well as multiple upgrades and renovations touching almost every area and building of the campus.

Academic programming and initiatives have expanded, including the Native American Studies Center (museum and archival space) located on Main Street in downtown Lancaster and the collaboration to facilitate a highly successful BSN nursing program partnership between USC Lancaster and USC Columbia.

The University of South Carolina Palmetto College includes four two-year regional Palmetto College campuses – USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union – and Palmetto College Columbia, and more than 40 online and on-campus bachelor's degree completion programs in partnership with USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia and USC Upstate.

###