



June 28, 2019

Dear community leaders,

As my tenure as interim president of USC draws to a close, I want to thank you for your support over the past year. Our university has always fostered close ties with its surrounding communities. From my first day on the job I was humbled by—and profoundly grateful for—the bonds that we have built in Los Angeles.

I am proud to say that our close work with our local partners has continued over the past year. That includes a greatly expanded reach for our acclaimed Neighborhood Academic Initiative, which is helping neighborhood students with college preparation as early as third grade, as well as increased support for our Good Neighbors Program, which has raised \$23 million to make college a reality for people in underserved communities. The renovation of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is almost complete, and it is part of an overall rejuvenation of Exposition Park that will benefit Angelenos for generations. Of course, USC continues to be a major jobs engine, and we rely deeply on our local talent pool for the more than 42,000 jobs we support in Los Angeles alone.

I have been working very closely with Dr. Carol L. Folt, who will become president of USC on July 1. It has been deeply gratifying to see Dr. Folt's administration taking shape, and she will be well prepared to usher in a wonderful new chapter for USC. Dr. Folt shares my conviction that USC draws much of its strength from its unique relationship with the neighborhoods that surround its campuses, and the people who live in them.

It has been an honor to serve this great university during a period of transition, and I know that the relationship between USC and its communities will only deepen as the years pass.

Sincerely,

Wanda M. Austin
President