

# UPSTATE

University of South Carolina

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Bannister  
Chairman, Ways & Means Committee  
525 Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

College of Education,  
Human Performance, and Health

Dear Chairman Bannister,

We can all agree that education is the cornerstone of a healthy and thriving society. The engine that drives education is teachers—and they need our support.

So I am writing to ask that you include, as requested by Rep. Dennis Moss, funding in the House 2 budget for the Teachers Up Apprenticeship pilot program that focuses on helping young people in Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties pursue careers in education.

More than 100 Apprentices and credentialed Youth Development Specialists are currently employed in 12 school-based afterschool programs in four South Carolina school districts. More than 1,200 children have been mentored daily, and more than \$1 million in wages have been earned by Apprentices in the past year.

Apprentices work in outcome-focused youth development programs after school and during the summer, building a strong foundation of work skills, including dependability and teamwork on the job.

At the University of South Carolina Upstate, we have 14 education majors apprenticing in 18 local elementary schools. These future educators are gaining classroom experience, developing youth mentoring skills, and forming career connections with current school administrators and faculty.

Most of these Apprentices are working their way through college, and the program allows them to learn and earn on a schedule that allows time for studies and campus life.

With funding, the pilot program would deepen the partnership between USC Upstate and Teachers Up, bring more students into the apprenticeships, and create a stronger pipeline of education professionals here and throughout the country.

Your help is crucial to this endeavor. We hope we can count on your support in the budget for the Teachers Up Apprenticeship program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ugena Whitlock, Ph. D.  
Dean, College of Education, Human Performance, and Health

CC: Representative Dennis Moss  
CC: Daniel Boan, Chief of Staff/General Counsel  
CC. Katie Owen