



March 31, 2023

Dear CSU Family,

Much to our surprise, God has called Vickey and me to a new assignment that will be announced later today. It grieves us to go, but my term as CSU's third president will end on June 30, 2023. We will miss you more than you could possibly know.

As we navigate life's ups and downs, Scripture reveals that "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (Ecc 3:1). During the journey we learn slowly but surely to trust our sovereign God more and more, even when His ways in our circumstances make no sense to us at all. The more we say yes to God, especially when that yes takes us beyond our comfort zone, the more we realize that the center of His will is exactly where we need to be.

Vickey and I thought we had learned this lesson for the last time when God called us to be your wingmen five years ago. We have lived here a year longer than at any other address in nearly 34 years of marriage, and we wanted CSU to be our forever home. In God's providence, however, He had other plans, which now give us the opportunity to say yes to Him one more time.

Without exception, Vickey and I love absolutely everything about CSU. Accepting God's call to a new assignment has been one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make, but we committed decades ago to move wherever the Lord sent us. As difficult as it will be to leave the greatest trustees, senior leaders, faculty, staff, students, and supporters on the planet, we know that God has issued a new set of orders, and we have no choice but to follow His lead.

Serving as president of Charleston Southern University has been the honor of a lifetime. We have achieved a great deal together, but there is plenty of unfinished business left to accomplish. Thankfully, it is abundantly clear that God's hand is on His university like never before.

Our persistent prayer for CSU mirrors that of the apostle Paul: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:3-6).

In other words, the best is yet to come!

For the good of others and the glory of God,

Dondi E. Costin, Ph.D.
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President