

COMMENCEMENT STUDENT AND FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS

Dana Woodward

Associate Director for Academic Affairs Communications

March 28, 2025



PURPOSE



Gamecock Ticket Office <athletictickets@

To: Sasso, Joe



Con

Important Information



Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement exercises are held for degree candidates in both Fall and Spring each year. The president of the University of South Carolina, presides over commencement. To honor their commitment, each degree candidate is recognized by name and congratulated by the dean of the graduate's college or school.

Commencement Ceremony Eligibility

Students approved for degree candidacy are eligible to participate in their academic unit's commencement ceremony. Prior to approval, you will need to complete the online [graduation application](#).

Get Your Tickets

Students participating in the Baccalaureate, Masters and Professional Commencement Ceremonies will receive up to five tickets for their guests

Upcoming Commencement Ceremonies

MAY 8-10

Spring 2025 commencement ceremonies are scheduled Thursday, May 8, 2025 through Saturday, May 10, 2025.

Spring 2024

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rena on Friday, May 5, 2023, which will begin promptly at 3:00

Commencement Ceremony is but days away! Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Please plan to arrive and enter the Colonial Life Area through

PURPOSE

With the consolidation of commencement event planning into two primary offices, there's an opportunity to streamline what and how we communicate about fall and spring commencement activities primarily -- but not exclusively -- to students.



PEOPLE INVOLVED

- Sponsors
 - Donna Arnett
 - Jeff Stensland
- Project team
 - Katie Bosse
 - Jesse Brezeale
 - Joe Sasso
 - Shonta Sellers
 - Deonne Yeager
- Project focus
 - Students who participate in the ceremonies at Colonial Life Arena
 - Parents and families of these students



PROJECT PATH



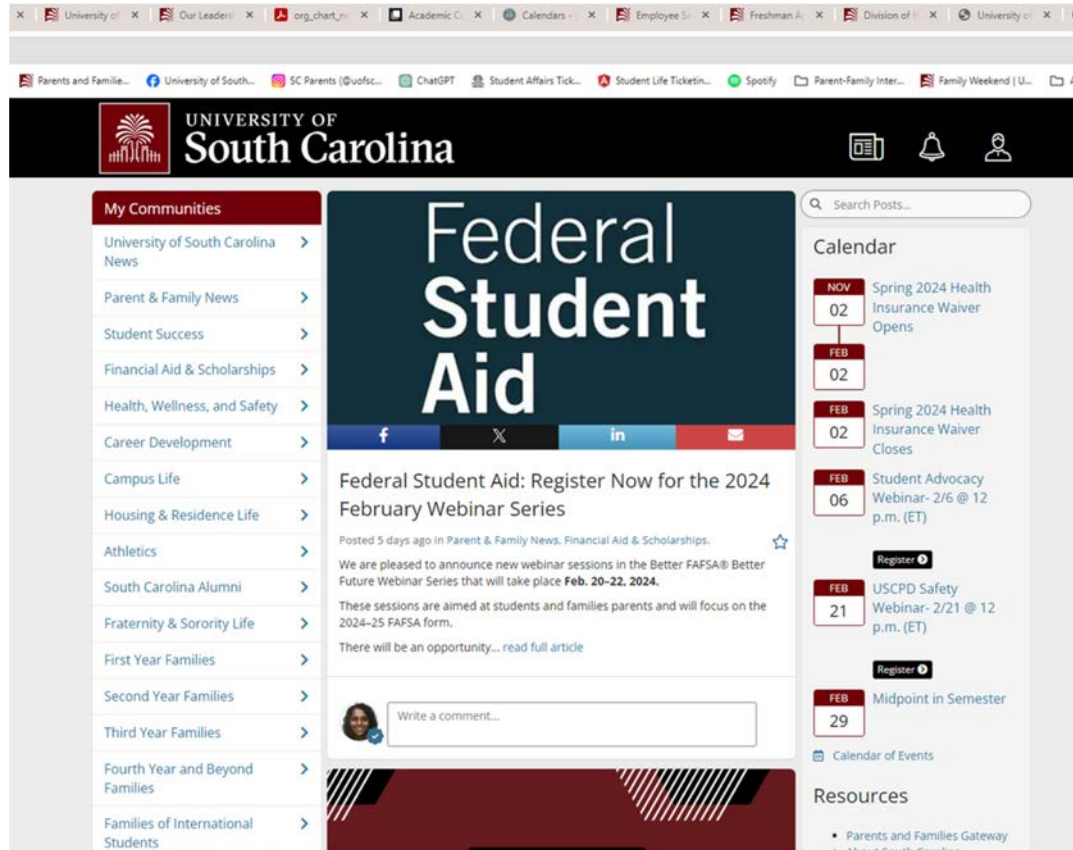
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PAIN POINTS

- Forward-thinking students (and parents) are demanding commencement information earlier and earlier.
- Student who aren't paying attention create difficulties with last-minute registrations, ticket needs, etc.
- Questions go to a variety of locations and people.



OPPORTUNITIES



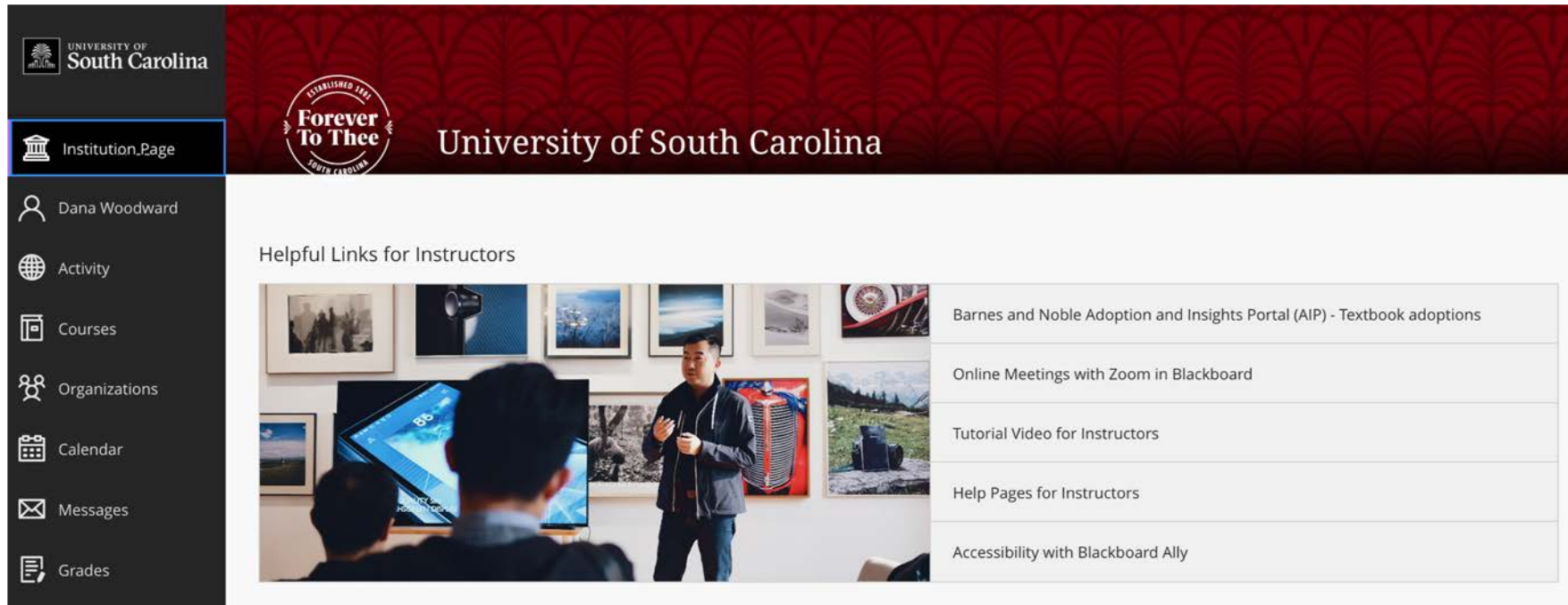
Better leverage Parents and Family Programs communications channels



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OPPORTUNITIES

Blackboard announcements



The screenshot displays the Blackboard interface for the University of South Carolina. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with the university logo at the top. The menu items are: Institution Page (highlighted), Dana Woodward, Activity, Courses, Organizations, Calendar, Messages, and Grades. The main content area has a red header banner with the 'Forever To Thee' seal and the university name. Below the banner, the section 'Helpful Links for Instructors' features a photo of a man presenting and a list of links:

Helpful Links for Instructors
Barnes and Noble Adoption and Insights Portal (AIP) - Textbook adoptions
Online Meetings with Zoom in Blackboard
Tutorial Video for Instructors
Help Pages for Instructors
Accessibility with Blackboard Ally

NEXT STEPS

- Facilitate continued communication
- Create informational materials for points of contact
- Compile metrics to determine success



REFLECTIONS

- Together is better than alone.
- Just because something is working doesn't mean it can't be better.



THANK YOU!



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