In 2016, Clemson adopted a new strategic plan: ClemsonForward. ClemsonForward will lay a foundation that will position Clemson for the next 50 years and will make an impact on real issues facing the people of South Carolina and our nation. Clemson Forever supports these goals through its unrelenting mission to build a solid financial base of private giving, providing stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1 / RESEARCH: Clemson will be nationally recognized as a leader in research and scholarship, consistently ranked among institutions with the highest level of research activity.

Research is just one of the four key foundations that will propel Clemson into the future. Clemson’s success and contributions in this field have earned the University the reputation of one of the nation’s most active research institutions (Carnegie Basic Classification R1 – Highest Research Activity). R1 universities engage in extensive research ultimately creating prosperity in their region, and their national and international reputations add significant value to the degrees they award.

CORE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

1. Refocus research mission and increase nationally competitive scholarship and funding in six innovation clusters.
   - Advanced Materials
   - Cyber-Infrastructure and Big Data Science
   - Energy, Transportation and Advanced Manufacturing
   - Human Resilience
   - Health Innovation
   - Sustainable Environments

2. Grow targeted research investments.
   Supporting these six innovation areas will require that Clemson both increase research investment and carefully target those investments. Your commitments to research infrastructure, library resources, major instrumentation and other tools that promote faculty and student scholarships are important for increasing research achievements, the quantity and quality of our labs, and leveraging innovation campuses and research and education centers.

3. Raise research expectations and reward research excellence.
   Benchmarking data shows that while Clemson is a very high performing research university, there is an opportunity to grow in scholarship quantity, visibility and impact. Your support and funds will allow us to increase our research productivity resulting in new expectations and better rewards for research excellence. As a part of this process, academic departments and colleges will revise evaluation, tenure and promotion practices to equal R1 peer institutions.

It is you, our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, who have the power to take the quality of our research, resources and faculty to the next level. It is you who will propel us forward. The time is now.

Let’s move ClemsonForward.