



## Clemson Honors Employee Degree Recipients at Inaugural Luncheon

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February 4, 2019

CLEMSON, South Carolina – On January 30, 2019, nearly 200 people gathered for an inaugural luncheon to honor faculty and staff for their academic achievements gained while working at Clemson University. "I am proud to report that collectively you all have achieved 74 bachelor's degrees, 125 master's degrees and 49 doctorate degrees during your employment as faculty and staff members," said Provost Bob Jones. "I recognize the dedication, commitment and sacrifice that comes with achieving such an accomplishment, and I am very proud of you for furthering your education and developing yourself professionally." College deans and vice presidents were there to mark the occasion, and President Jim Clements, who was in New York to ring the NYSE closing bell, joined the festivities by video. Participants enjoyed an impromptu visit from the Tiger.

"This was a celebration of and for those who decided to live what they preach," said Chuck Knepfle, associate vice president for enrollment management. "Ultimately all Clemson University employees are here to further higher education in the state of South Carolina, and this group made the sacrifice required to further themselves. Regardless of what program they chose, each of the attendees (and Clemson itself) is better for their experience. Being recognized by the upper administration is the ultimate thank you and honor."

One of the many guests being recognized during the luncheon was Sherry Davis-Livingston, a senior extension agent from Clemson's Georgetown facility who had driven five hours to be part of the festivities. "I sincerely appreciate all those responsible for having the vision to plan such a great luncheon," said Sherry. "My journey involved giving up two years' worth of weekends and time spent with my son and husband, but it's rewarding to have earned a dual Master of Arts in Human Resources Development and Management and Leadership. Thank you, Clemson University, for thinking of me and all the other 186 employees recognized for this achievement."

"We are so appreciative of our hardworking faculty and staff and were thrilled to honor their efforts today," said Emily Watrous, chief human resources officer. "The luncheon celebration was such a success that it will become part of each spring's calendar of events."