

BREAKING THE CYCLE. CHANGING LIVES. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP.



That was then. This is now.

Once, a high school education, or perhaps even less, was enough to provide for a family in rural South Carolina. An individual could learn a job skill, become quite proficient and keep that job for a lifetime.

Today, jobs in this region are either gone or altered forever. Left behind in these rural South Carolina counties are underemployment, under-education and poverty.

You can't do the same thing and expect different results.

The story is so common that you could recite it by heart. Poor counties with high dropout rates produce yet another generation of impoverished students who drop out of high school. The poverty gets deeper and the dropout rate higher.

In some of the state's poorest counties, dropout rates are as high as 62 percent and the poverty rate as high as 44 percent.

A permanent change

Emerging Scholars recognizes the need for change and to break the cycle. Initiated in 2002, Emerging Scholars has made higher education a reality for students who have not considered college to be a part of their future.

Here's how it works.

- Counselors identify freshmen in high school they believe will need extra motivation to attend college (typically "B" or "C" students from low-income families) and would be the first generation in their families to attend college.
- Throughout high school, **reading, writing and math** are emphasized along with the basics of applying to college.
- **Students attend a Summer Enrichment Experience** each summer during high school for one- to three-week residential sessions that emphasize academics as well as interaction with campus partners.
- During the academic year, students attend **workshops, exercises, meetings with staff, social events and college visits**. Students are encouraged to attend the college of their choice and visit at least 12 regional colleges and universities throughout the program.

Returns in dollars and lives.

Research shows that personal potential earning power is directly correlated to an individual's level of education. Emerging Scholars offers an ROI within one year. And the increase grows over time.

Three-year estimated cost of the Emerging Scholars program + scholarship funds:	\$10,000 per student
Increase in projected earning potential for each level of educational achievement more than two years:	\$16,000
ROI within 18 months	

But more important for these students and their families and communities is that the cycle of poverty and under-education is broken. Since Emerging Scholars began, the program has seen these results:

- 100 percent of the Emerging Scholars students have graduated from high school.
- 90 percent of these students attend college or join the military their first year out of high school.
- 79 percent of the program participants who matriculated to some form of postsecondary school after graduation went to either a research institution or a four-year college/university.

Clemson as an agent for change.

Clemson University continues to be dedicated to changing the world through education. Thomas Green Clemson founded the University as a "high seminary of learning" dedicated to improving economic opportunities and quality of life in South Carolina. While Emerging Scholars is housed at Clemson University, young people are equipped with the tools for success at whatever college or university they choose.

An invitation to invest in the future.

For many students in the state's poorest counties, the cycle of high poverty levels and even higher dropout rates continues today. The situation of the children in these areas will not improve without the intervention of a program that counters poverty and under-education before it has the opportunity to entrap a young person.

We invite you to invest in the future of these students. Your investment will help fund students through their Emerging Scholars experiences, and it will allow students who need the mentoring, encouragement and direction of this program to succeed where others in their community may fail.

This is an opportunity to have a lasting impact on a life, a family and our state. It is an investment in a program with a proven track record. And is an investment in the future of us all. Please visit clemsonemergingscholars.org to learn more.



Clemson Forever is dedicated to strengthening the University by building a solid financial base of private giving, providing exemplary stewardship of those gifts and clearly communicating to donors the impact of their gift and the gratitude of the Clemson Family. To this end, the Will to Lead for Clemson is a \$1 billion capital campaign to support students, faculty, engagement and facilities.

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