



## GREATER COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### **Meet Harris Pastides**

Dr. Harris Pastides will be honored as the 28<sup>th</sup> president of the University of South Carolina at a breakfast on Sept. 3 hosted by the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. The breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. at Seawell's.

Dr. Pastides was named to succeed Dr. Andrew Sorensen after a nationwide search involving more than 80 candidates. The 54-year-old Pastides had been serving as USC's vice president for research and health science and as executive director of the South Carolina Research Foundation.

As vice president for research, Dr. Pastides has been the university's chief liaison with business and industry. He has been one of the chief architects behind the development of Innovista, the university's innovative live-work-play research district and the public-private partnerships bringing it to reality.

He also has played a key role in the establishment of Health Sciences South Carolina, a consortium of the state's research universities and leading hospital systems created to transform the health status and the economy of South Carolina.

Dr. Pastides has pledged to continue Dr. Sorensen's drive to make USC into a world-class university.

"Dr. Pastides is an excellent selection as the new president of the University of South Carolina from a community perspective," said chamber chairman Ted Speth. "First, Harris does not begin his presidency as a newcomer to our community but as an active member of it. Second, Harris has seen and been a part of many of the successes the Columbia community and USC have achieved over the last few years. No doubt exists that he will continue to foster this positive town and gown relationship and even further strengthen it in the coming years," Speth said.

Through his work on Innovista and Health Sciences South Carolina, Dr. Pastides had been a strong proponent of strengthened relationships between the university and both the city and state.

"The business community commends the leadership of the USC Board of Trustees in selecting a President who understands and is committed to the ongoing efforts of integrating the university's academic assets into the economic fiber of our community and our state. His vision for the University, professional background and leadership put him at the right place at the right time. We are fortunate to have him," said Cathy Novinger, incoming chamber chairman.

Corporate sponsorship packages for the breakfast are available; Individual tickets are \$30.

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