

Able South Carolina
720 Gracern Rd., Suite 106
Columbia, SC 29210
800-681-6805
803-779-5114 Fax
803-779-0949 TTY
www.able-sc.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director – ktissot@able-sc.org
803-779-5121 Ext. 224

Mayor Benjamin Honors Able South Carolina with Proclamation for 25th Anniversary
City of Columbia honors nonprofit for continued dedication to serving the disability community

Columbia, S.C. (March 6, 2019) – On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, City of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin honored Able South Carolina (Able SC) — a nonprofit focused on empowering individuals with disabilities to live active, self-determined lives and promoting community inclusion — for its services and support as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary. Mayor Benjamin proclaimed the day as “Able South Carolina Day” at the nonprofit’s Columbia headquarters at 720 Gracern Road.

Established by advocates with disabilities for people with disabilities, Able SC first opened its doors on February 4, 1994 in Columbia. The organization was South Carolina’s first federally recognized Center for Independent Living in South Carolina, and continues to make strides and create systematic change for individuals with disabilities across the state 25 years later.



Today in 2019, tens of thousands of South Carolinians with disabilities live independently through one-on-one sessions, group instruction, and peer mentoring with the Able SC team. Thousands of parents and prospective parents with disabilities rely on the efforts of the nonprofit to protect their rights. The nonprofit has even led the charge in removing employment barriers for individuals with disabilities in our state via its “Hire Me SC” campaign (<http://www.hiremesc.org>).

“Ensuring our city is inclusive in all respects is one of our top priorities, and we are grateful for the work Able SC has done over the past 25 years to help this vision become a reality,” said Mayor Benjamin. “The City of Columbia congratulates Able SC for this milestone anniversary, and we look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration in the years to come.”

Able SC knows it couldn't offer any of its services without support from the City of Columbia. "We are fortunate to be in the capital city and be supported by the great citizens here," says Kimberly Tissot, executive director of Able SC. "It's easy to make a city more accessible for people with disabilities when we have such amazing support. We're excited about the coming years and empowering the city to be a model for accessibility."

While Able SC has accomplished more than it could have ever imagined, there are so many more changes to be made in the years to come. The team is excited to continue its work in pushing the disability rights movement forward in South Carolina and preparing future generations of disability advocates — youth with disabilities — to take the lead!

ABOUT ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA

Able SC is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that empowers individuals with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Able SC is an organization lead by individuals with disabilities that challenges stereotypes, protects disability rights, and champions social reform. To learn more about Able SC's programs and services, please visit www.able-sc.org.

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