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February 1, 2019

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee  
c/o Stamp Development  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-350

Dear Committee,

As a proud alumnus of the Graduate School at the College of Charleston and as an individual whose life was immeasurably changed by my experience there, I'm writing to express my support of the College of Charleston's application for a FOREVER stamp in 2020, commemorating the institutions 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It's not possible for a letter to convey the gratitude I have towards the College of Charleston, the value of my education, and the amazement I felt (and still feel) walking around this picturesque and storied campus. Even as a graduate student, I was incredibly involved on campus. I joined numerous campus organizations and even formed one of my own, supported my fellow student's research, served as a Graduate Assistant in Student Life, and met more friends than I ever expected. Professors gave their full attention to every lecture and the small classes contributed to a level of learning I didn't know was possible.

It was always awe-inspiring to consider the generations that came before me at the College. 250 years of existence is a feat only a handful of institutions can celebrate. Countless voices of our nation and of our global community have been shaped by this school. Some of the founders of the College of Charleston are the founding fathers of our nation and signatories of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Perhaps even more impressive is how many of my friends, family, and even complete strangers admire the College of Charleston, despite most never attending. Many reminisce over the historic campus situated in downtown Charleston. In 2018, readers of Travel + Leisure Magazine listed Charleston as the top U.S. city for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year. Charleston was voted the #1 city in the world in 2017. (It was only the #2 city in the world in 2018). People always mention The College of Charleston when recounting their last Charleston visit.

This 250<sup>th</sup> commemorative stamp would be celebrated by so many for so many different reasons. The College of Charleston can certainly carry its own weight...but of course you'd need at least a second College of Charleston commemorative stamp if you were trying to mail more than 1 ounce.

-Martin Paul Erbele, MPA  
College of Charleston, Graduate School '13