Remarks from Coastal Carolina University President David A. DeCenzo
Atheneum Hall Grand Opening
April 30, 2015

Good evening, and let me extend my welcome to this wonderful and special facility.

Today is another exciting dedication on our ever-growing campus. As I was putting my remarks together, my mind wondered off to a time when Atheneum Hall was first built. This building was the heart of Coastal Carolina University and stood for all that was good about us. So many of the activities that took place here set in motion many of the phenomenal accomplishments that we so richly enjoy today. I still have to wonder what our original founders would say if they could see what Coastal Carolina University has become today—and the bright future that it holds. Maybe William Jennings Bryan had their conviction in mind when he said, “Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.” We owe a debt of gratitude to those who made the choice 60 years ago to establish our destiny.

While you will hear shortly from Mr. Wyatt Henderson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, I want to expressly thank our Board of Trustees for making this day a reality. As we conducted and evaluated our Master Plan back in 2007, the Board was crystal clear—Atheneum Hall will become home to our Alumni Association.

Dedicating a facility to the alumni of our great University is more than a simple act of resource allocation. It is a sign of what Coastal Carolina University has become. For a university of any size and stature, one of the hallmarks that signifies tradition is the founding of an alumni hall. This building will serve the more than 25,000 Coastal alumni that exist today—locally and throughout the world—with about another 1,200 being added in eight days. To our alumni present today, you now have a place of your own on our campus.

I leave you with the words of Henry Ford who said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” Thank all of you who continue to work together with us as we take our University, Coastal Carolina University, to new heights every day.

Now, please join me in welcoming to the podium Coastal alumnus and chairman of our Board of Trustees, Wyatt Henderson.