# Dr. Michael Mikota

## President, Spartanburg Community College

Dr. Michael Mikota became the seventh president of Spartanburg Community College (SCC) on July 13, 2020, ushering in a new era of growth, innovation, and opportunity. Since assuming the role, he has led transformational initiatives that have redefined the College’s impact across South Carolina and beyond.

Under his leadership, SCC has experienced unprecedented growth and national recognition. The College now serves over 10,000 students annually and has been showcased as the fastest-growing public higher education institution in South Carolina (among institutions with over 1,000 students) in more than two decades. SCC has also earned numerous accolades, including:

- Best Community College in South Carolina (BestColleges)

- Best College (Spartanburg Herald-Journal)

- Best Place to Work and Best Continuing Education Program (The Post and Courier Spartanburg)

Dr. Mikota has spurred significant growth in institutional revenue, tripling the annual allocation from $62 million in FY 2020 to $184 million in FY 2025, enabling strategic reinvestments in student success, academic programs, and infrastructure. He has also worked to optimize operations and performance outcomes to decrease per student cost of attendance by 10%, or approximately $2000 per student, resulting in greater efficiency and effectiveness. Through SCC’s “Live to Chase” initiative, full tuition scholarships are offered to qualifying students—contributing to a 62% increase in enrollment since 2020. His advocacy and fundraising efforts have expanded access and opportunity for thousands, and a signature achievement of his branding vision is the launch of SCC’s first-ever mascot, Chaser—a dynamic symbol of the College’s revitalized motto: “Dream It. Chase It. Live It.”

A native of Gaffney, South Carolina, Dr. Mikota brings a lifelong commitment to education, economic development, and public service. His diverse leadership experience includes serving as president of Central Carolina Technical College, executive director of the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments, and senior analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., where he helped shape national financial recovery strategies following the 2008 economic crisis.

Dr. Mikota holds a B.A. in English (cum laude) from Wofford College, an MBA from Gardner-Webb University, and a Ph.D. in Policy Studies from Clemson University. His leadership extends statewide through roles such as:

- Member, South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors

- Member, South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Board

- Member, South Carolina Workforce Development Board

- Member, South Carolina Coordinating Council for Workforce Development

- Member, South Carolina Labor Force Participation Task Force

- Chair, South Carolina Technical College System Council of Presidents

- Honorary Commander, Shaw Air Force Base

- Member, Shaw-Sumter Community Council

A collaborative and future-focused leader, Dr. Mikota is driven by a belief in the power of accessible and applicable education to transform lives and strengthen communities. He lives in Spartanburg with his wife, Camila, and their three children—Cecilia, Penelope, and Henry.