



October 1, 2023

Dear Middle School Counselor,

Experience Clemson! As a school counselor, you know the importance of getting an early start on planning for college. Clemson University Learning Institute (CULI) developed the C-CATS program to give students a competitive advantage as they prepare for college.

**C-CATS, *Clemson's Challenge for Academically Talented Students***, has been a fixture in South Carolina for nearly a decade. This program is designed for high-achieving middle and high school students. The Middle School track focuses on developing leadership and team building skills in your students, while also introducing them to Clemson University. The High School track focuses on college preparedness, scholarly challenges, and student life on campus. Both programs provide exciting weekend adventures that engage them in the academic, social, and recreational opportunities offered at Clemson. Participants must be nominated by their school counselor.

Please nominate the current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students you expect to be ranked in the top 20% of their class for our Middle School track. To nominate a student online, please go to:

[c-cats.org/nominate](https://c-cats.org/nominate)

We will extend an invitation to the parents of each student nominated via mail, asking them to consider sending their student to one of the C-CATS weekends from March to May 2024. Since these weekend sessions will be personalized and provide hands-on experiences, each session will have limited capacity. Sessions fill up quickly, so please submit your nominations online at the above link no later than **December 7, 2023**.

A brochure is included for your review and is complete with all the important details. To learn even more, please visit our website at [www.c-cats.org](http://www.c-cats.org) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cuccats](https://www.facebook.com/cuccats)

Thank you for your partnership and support of Clemson University Learning Institute and C-CATS.

Respectfully,

Ellen Ludwig  
C-CATS Middle School Program Director  
Clemson University Learning Institute