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- Cocky's Reading Express is the University of South Carolina's literacy outreach program. We travel the state. We promote literacy. We visit children in grades pre-K through second at Title 1 elementary schools. A Title 1 school is the majority of the children are on free or reduced lunch.

- We have been to all 46 counties of this state. And this is our 11th year to date. We have distributed over 108,000 books.

- Good afternoon, boys and girls.

- Good afternoon.

- We are funded 100% by grants and gifts.

- We're always looking for new ways that we can have an impact on the community. We are moving our dollars to where we think South Carolina really needs it. I can tell you, when we go into the given areas and we read to these kids, it's not so much when we read, but it's the combination of reading and then that big six-foot, seven-foot mascot walks in the back of the room. The excitement on the kids' faces, that is an investment right before your eyes. To see their excitement and to know that these kids are going to go home, they're going to read that book somebody gave to them. They're going to talk about Cocky. And that excitement from seeing him transfers over into them fulfilling that promise to be a reader. And we get it at the right grades. Down in elementary is where you need to be, and that's where it needs to start. And so we invest in this because those are our future engineers hopefully, our future accountants, lawyers, linemen, electricians. And so that's why the partnership works so well. And just seeing the excitement on those kids' faces.

- Our goal is to get children excited about reading, to give them access to good books, to show them that reading is fun, and to put books in their hands and let them see that the book can come alive, and just to let them realize that in order to become successful and achieve, you have to be able to read.

- One of the things that really strikes me, everybody looks at Cocky when he comes walking in. And he does a great job. And he is the calling card. But it's also about these students that volunteer to go make a difference. And that's why I'm real proud of the program. I'm proud of the University of South

Carolina. I'm proud of Cocky. But I'm most proud of the students at the University of South Carolina who have agreed to be a part of this program. And that's where it really breeds their success. And when they get up there and they read those books, and they put just as much emotion into orating those books to those students as Cocky does in all of his shenanigans in making that book come alive, it is truly an unbeatable combination. And South Carolina Electric and Gas Company is just humbled by their sacrifice and volunteerism and so excited to be a part of this program. And it will be a program we'll continue to support.

[MUSIC  
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- Because it's all good. The end.

[APPLAUSE]