

RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN'S DLI SELECTS 9TH CLASS OF LOWCOUNTRY FELLOWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—The Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative has selected its 9th Class of Lowcountry Fellows.

Forty-one leaders from the Lowcountry, five from Columbia and one from Greenville have been selected to participate in the Riley Institute at Furman's Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI). They will join more than 1,300 Riley Fellows from across the state.

Says Don Gordon, Executive Director of the Riley Institute, "Now in its 10th year, DLI and the Riley Fellows have matured into a potent force to help move the state forward. The members of this class, with their extremely varied professional and community interests, will be a strong addition to the body of Fellows."

Class members meet over the course of five months in a format driven by timely, relevant case studies and other experiential learning tools designed to maximize interactions and productive relationships among program participants.

DLI is facilitated by Juan Johnson, an independent consultant and former Coca-Cola Vice President. He says, "DLI is unique among South Carolina's leadership programs. In addition to the opportunity to develop new relationships and take part in positive action in their communities, participants gain deep knowledge of how to effectively manage and lead increasingly diverse workers, clients and constituents."

As part of the program, leaders also work in cross-sector groups to respond to real issues and opportunities in their communities through capstone service projects.

Chosen by nomination and application, participants reflect South Carolina's demographics and represent corporate, nonprofit, education, faith-based and government sectors. "The frames of reference and skills that DLI graduates share provide a remarkable platform for working together to help South Carolina compete in the 21st century," says Gordon.

MORE

The Riley Fellows for Lowcountry Class 9 are:

Sean Alford

Assistant Superintendent
Dorchester School District Two
Summerville

Sean Bennett

State Senator; President and CEO
SC Senate; Asset Integration Consultants, Inc.
Summerville

Christine Carter-Kent

Physician, Pediatric Gastroenterology
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston

Gilda Cobb-Hunter

Member; CEO
SC House of Representatives; CASA Family Systems
Orangeburg

Sam Cook

Director, Sustainable Forestry Program
Heirs' Property Preservation
Charleston

G.P. Diminich

Attorney/Partner
Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP
Charleston

Vernita Dore

State Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Columbia

Amy Downing

Program Officer
Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation
Pawleys Island

Shawn Drury

Field Director
Conservation Voters of South Carolina
Columbia

MORE

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Amy Edmunds

Executive Director; Lecturer
Young Stroke; Coastal Carolina University
Conway

Rich Fletcher

Manager, Economic Development & Local Government
SCANA Corporation
Charleston

Ray Funnye

Director of Public Services
Georgetown County
Georgetown

John Gardner

Human Resources Manager
Charleston Housing Authority
Charleston

Suzanne Hardie

Past Chair of the Board; Community Leader
Darkness to Light
Charleston

Rachel Hutchisson

Director, Corporate Citizenship & Philanthropy
Blackbaud, Inc.
Charleston

Glenn Jeffries

Chief, Corporate Communications
US Army Corps of Engineers
Charleston

Barbara Kelley Duncan

CEO
Carolina Youth Development Center
North Charleston

Victor Kliossis

Shareholder
Elliott Davis
Charleston

Catherine LaFond

Elder Law, Estate Planning and Real Estate Attorney

Catherine E. LaFond, P.A.
Charleston

MORE

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Timothy Macon
Project Manager
South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)
North Charleston

Gerald Malloy
State Senator; Attorney
SC Senate; Malloy Law Firm
Hartsville

Jacki Martin
Associate Director
Riley Institute at Furman
Greenville

Jessica Martin
AVP/Relationship Manager
Wells Fargo Bank
Charleston

Kevin Mills
President and CEO
South Carolina Aquarium
Charleston

Kate Nevin
Managing Director; Founder
TSWII; Enough Pie
Charleston

Brian Piedfort
Director, Business Planning and Development
South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)
North Charleston

Sharman Poplava
Executive Director
TEACH Foundation
Hartsville

John Read
CEO
Tri-County Cardle to Career Collaborative
Charleston

Michael Renault
Regional Vice President

TD Bank
Charleston

MORE
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Ted Riley
Attorney
Riley Pope & Laney, LLC
Columbia

Jorge Roig
Assistant Professor of Law
Charleston School of Law
Charleston

Ravi Sanyal
Attorney
Sanyal Law Firm, LLC
Charleston

Marylou Stinson
Innovation Specialist
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
Columbia

Susan Taylor
Community Leader
Charleston

Alec Taylor
CEO (ret.)
FGX International
Charleston

John Tecklenburg
Commercial Realtor
Clement, Crawford, & Thornhill
Charleston

Peggy Torrey
Director of Education and Workforce Programs
New Carolina
Columbia

Brian Tucker
Director of Economic Development
Georgetown County
Georgetown

Wright Turbeville
Family Court Judge (ret.)
Manning

MORE

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Peggy Urbanic

Attorney/Member
Clawson and Staubes, LLC
Charleston

Alice Walton

Chief Administrative and Human Resource Officer
Beaufort County School District
Beaufort

Scott Watson

Director of Cultural Affairs
City of Charleston
Charleston

Ricci Welch

Partner
Land Parker Welch
Manning

Charles Williams

Professional Artist and Art Instructor
Charleston/Georgetown

Adam Witty

Founder & CEO
Advantage Media Group
Charleston

Erica Wright

Charleston Young Professionals Director
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce
North Charleston

Matt Yaun

Chief Administrative Officer
Cox Industries, Inc.
Orangeburg

For more information about the Riley Institute at Furman's Diversity Leaders Initiative, visit this [link](#). Or contact Megan Dodgens, Manager of Diversity Leadership Programs at (864) 294-3253, or megan.dodgens@furman.edu.

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8-14-14