

RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN RECEIVES \$150,000 GRANT FROM THE SYLVAN/LAUREATE FOUNDATION

The Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University has received a \$150,000 Sylvan/Laureate Foundation grant to support programs and research at its Center for Education Policy and Leadership.

The center will use the money to continue its mission of reforming education policy in South Carolina, improving schools and providing more learning opportunities for students and teachers.

Believing in the power of education to change lives, the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation supports what it considers the best practices in education. Over the past three years, the Riley Institute has undertaken the most comprehensive study of public education ever conducted in South Carolina. In addition to doing research, the institute's Center for Education Policy and Leadership is home to Emerging Public Leaders, a program for rising high school seniors, and Teachers of Government, a training program targeting middle and high school teachers.

The Sylvan/Laureate grant will be used to connect the Riley Institute's research with data-proven models around the country and will help share those models with others who can put them into practice. The money also will enhance the Emerging Public Leaders and the Teachers of Government programs, providing scholarships for participants in the two programs.

In addition, the money will be used to further fund-raising and grant-writing efforts of the Center for Education Policy and Leadership.

"Through the generous support of the Sylvan/Laureate Foundation, the Riley Institute's Center for Education Policy and Leadership is able to continue building upon its research on how to develop world-class schools in South Carolina, while also enhancing our Emerging Public Leaders and Teachers of Government programs," said Don Gordon, director of the Riley Institute. "We appreciate their support for all our work in the field of public education."

The institute's ultimate goal is to continue the work of the man for whom it's named, former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, a Furman alumnus and former South Carolina governor who made education reform the keystone of his administration.