

## Emerging Public Leaders

Congratulations to the winners of Furman's [Emerging Public Leaders](#) service project competition!

**1st place** (\$1,250), Kenan Sakarcian, Spring Valley High School, Columbia. "Got Warmth?" collected 234 quality used and new sleeping bags to protect the homeless from exposure in his community, and Kenan personally distributed the sleeping bags.

**2nd place** (\$1,000), Emily Cinquemani, St. Joseph's High School, Greenville. "Readers Rock!" motivates underprivileged elementary students to value and enjoy reading through book donations from publishing companies, which Emily distributed to need-based organizations.

**3rd place** (\$750), Hannah Keefer, Pinewood Preparatory School, Summerville. The International Club's purpose is to support and plan activities for international students that attend Hannah's school as part of a study-away program.

**Honorable Mention** (\$100), Stephanny Jimenez, Greenville High School. A student-led composting system decreases the amount of environmental waste at Stephanny's school, where students collect and compost yard debris.

[Click here](#) to read more about this year's class!

For more information on EPL contact Dr. Brooke Culclasure (brooke.culclasure@furman.edu) or Alexis Sprogis (864-294-3546)



## Making an Impact: New Carolina

Following the implementation of statewide reform under the Education and Economic Development Act, now known as Personal Pathways to Success, the number of students dropping out of schools decreased by nearly 1,000 in 2009. "It's a very powerful statement that the EEDA is working, and the proof is that 1,000 fewer students dropped out of high school last year," said Jim Reynolds, Co-Champion of New Carolina's Education and Workforce Task Force. [Read more.](#)

## WhatWorksSC<sup>sm</sup>

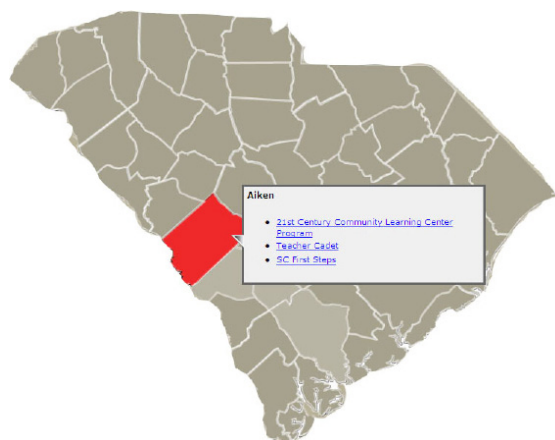
What's one of South Carolinians' top strategies for achieving educational competitiveness in our state? **Making education more individualized for students** was identified as essential to school improvement in the Riley Institute's groundbreaking study on public education. The corresponding section of WhatWorksSC<sup>sm</sup>, which ties key strategies identified in that Riley Institute study to some of the best initiatives in South Carolina, is now available at [www.rileyinstitute.org/education](http://www.rileyinstitute.org/education).

Read "[Making Education More Individualized for Students](#)," co-authored by Dr. Valerie Harrison, Deputy Superintendent in the South Carolina State Department of Education and Dr. Paul Thomas of Furman University. See also a case study on [Project Lead the Way \(PLTW\)](#) and an evolving [clearinghouse](#) of other promising initiatives in the state.

[WhatWorksSC<sup>sm</sup>](#) also includes in-depth looks into community learning centers, early childhood education, dropout prevention, effective teaching, and school leadership.

[Nominate](#) an outstanding initiative for inclusion in the WhatWorksSC<sup>sm</sup> clearinghouse.

## Explore WhatWorksSC<sup>sm</sup> by county or by program!



“What should our education policy makers do to ensure that students of all backgrounds have the same opportunity to succeed? And, what can we do to ensure that our commitment to ‘education equity’ is more than rhetorical flourish?”

**Richard W. Riley**  
in his article "Turning the Page on the Equity Debate in Education: How to Give All Children a Real Opportunity" (*American Educator*, Spring 2011), co-authored with Arthur L. Coleman.  
[Read the article](#)



*Working at the intersection of education research and practice in South Carolina*