



photos courtesy of Furman University

Recognizing Diversity Leadership

In 2004, a team of Upstate leaders participating in the Riley Institute at Furman's Diversity Leadership Academy recognized a gap in regional diversity efforts. Many diversity initiatives were underway, but no one was publicly celebrating the accomplishments. The team named themselves "Inclusion Infusion" and began planning the first annual Upstate Diversity Dinner. May 8, 2007, marked the third annual dinner, which was held in Spartanburg this year after being held in Anderson last year, and in Greenville in 2005.

To honor the many Upstate individuals and organizations involved in innovative and successful diversity-related initiatives, the Riley Institute at Furman, the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce partnered with Inclusion Infusion to annually honor six recipients of Upstate Diversity Leadership Award.

This year's recipients were:

LEON WILES

USC Upstate winner of the Calder D. Ehrmann Outstanding Individual Award

Wiles' achievements at USC Upstate include increasing the minority enrollment more than 30 percent, increasing minority faculty and staff, working to complete the university's comprehensive diversity action plan, establishing a multicultural affairs office, and revitalizing the international studies center

RICHARD BERMAN

Greenville High winner of the Outstanding High School Student Award

Berman has been involved with the Outward Bound Unity in Diversity Program, which he helped introduce to Greenville High School. He also created a senior project called "Books for Africa" in which he single-handedly collected over 1,000 books for an underserved school in South Africa.

DARRIS MEANS

Clemson University winner of the Outstanding College Student Award

Means is especially interested in empowering young people from economically challenging socioeconomic backgrounds, those with disabilities, and those of racial and ethnic heritage to believe – and these are Means' words – "they can achieve anything that they put their minds to in life."

YWCA OF GREENVILLE

Winner of the Non-Profit Organization Award

It has worked toward achieving its mission of eliminating racism and empowering women by providing women, children and families throughout Greenville with quality programs and services. The YWCA's current location was home to Greenville's first desegregated dining room

BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM

Winner of the Outstanding Business Award

By providing mobile clinics for underserved residents of the Upstate and free screenings to medically underserved women, annually providing \$54 million in free medical care and services and employing a unique reference tool that provides staff with information on differing cultures and religions, Bon Secours St. Francis actively promotes its commitment to diversity.

CRISTINA SCHLEIFER

Winner of the Outstanding Contribution to International Diversity Award

Schleifer contributes on a daily basis to the understanding and improvement of diversity issues in the community. She does so by being a collaborator between the Hispanic and at-large communities, by being an educator on diversity issues, by serving on boards and bringing the voice of the minority into the open. ■



Juan Johnson presents Leon Wiles with the Calder D. Ehrmann Outstanding Individual Award

