



May 8, 2009

## Nine in Upstate earn diversity awards

### *Staff reports*

Nine Upstate leaders and organizations received awards Tuesday for their efforts to promote diversity in this region.

The honors were presented by the Riley Institute at Furman University, as part of the fifth annual Upstate Diversity Leadership Awards dinner.

The event was hosted by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Greenville Chamber and Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Awardees were recognized in the categories high school student, college student, nonprofit organization, business, international and individual.

The Outstanding High School Student Award, presented by Bi-Lo LLC, went to **Taylor Fitch**, a senior at Belton-Honea Path High School.

Fitch is a Children's Miracle Network ambassador and Easter Seals spokesperson, who has chartered a program called Seeing Others Soar (SOS).

SOS pairs young people with disabilities with a big-brother or big-sister figure who serves in a mentoring relationship with his or her SOS buddy.

Honorable mention in this category was awarded to **Raven Magwood** of Greenville Technical Charter High School.

**Danielle Tait**, a senior at Furman, received the Outstanding College Student Award from Michelin North America.

Tait serves as president of the Furman University International Students Association, in which she interacts with students from all over the world. She supports and helps individuals in the Furman community learn from the diversity existing within it.

**Bridges to a Brighter Future** received the Outstanding Non-Profit Organization Award, presented by BMW Manufacturing Co. LLC.

Bridges to a Brighter Future aids in particular those Greenville County high school students whose potential outdistances their circumstances.

**Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center** was honored with the Outstanding Business Award, presented by the Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg chambers of commerce.

The hospital was cited for, among other things, its 2007 plan to further its diversity progress and programs in the plan to achieve its goals such as the internal MLK Jr. Diversity Leadership Awards, diversity topics in new employee orientation, the Minority Health Summit, and major initiatives to increase hospital supplier diversity.

The **Alliance for Collaboration with the Hispanic Community** received the Outstanding Contribution to International Diversity Award from Wachovia.

The alliance promotes understanding and cultivates collaborative relations between the greater Greenville and Latino communities by facilitating communication between constituencies.

The group advocates particularly for those that have left their countries, families and friends behind to pursue better opportunities for their children, just like generations before them.

Honorable mention in that category was awarded to **the International Ambassadors Program at Clemson University**. It focuses on creating a more open and engaging campus for international students.

**S.T. Peden** was honored with the Calder D. Ehrmann Outstanding Individual Award, sponsored by Juan Johnson Consulting and Facilitation, which recognizes an individual for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity.

Peden helped form Minority Economic Development Institute Inc. which serves as a statewide resource to help increase the economic assets of minority individuals and minority-owned businesses.

Peden is president and CEO of the organization.

**Ron Carpenter**, senior pastor of Redemption World Outreach, and **Altheia Richardson**, assistant vice president of student affairs and executive director of the Gantt Intercultural Center at Clemson University, received honorable mention in the Calder D. Ehrmann Outstanding Individual Award.

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