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NAACP banquet gives honors
City manager, Riley Institute commended

Published: Saturday, November 11, 2006 - 6:00 am

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Greenville's NAACP said Friday it is giving kudos for civil rights work in 2006 to Greenville City Manager Jim Bourey and the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at Furman University.

The awards were given at the NAACP's 24th annual Freedom Fund Banquet at the Palmetto Exposition Center. Several hundred guests attended the major fund-raiser for the group.

Minister Paul L. Guy, president of the Greenville branch of the NAACP, said Bourey played an enormous humanitarian role when 240 Katrina evacuees came to the Upstate during the devastating hurricane a year ago.

"What has so impressed us was his compassion," he said. "He saw the need of the people and stepped to the plate to do it."


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The Riley Institute is stepping up to the plate to do something about changing the mindset of how Upstaters think of race and culture, Guy said.

The Riley Institute is helping to orient CEOs and top managers about the need to embrace diversity in the workplace and other areas.

When Wachovia Bank gave \$500,000 to the institute this year, a bank spokesman said diversity is critical if the bank is to make inroads in the future. Guy said the Riley Institute runs "a leadership academy that would change people's minds."

"Hats off to them for bringing people together," Guy said.

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