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## Dinner honors Upstate diversity leaders

By Heidi Cenac  
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Local business leaders gathered Tuesday night to honor the top leaders for promoting diversity in the Upstate.

About 500 people attended the third annual Upstate Diversity Leadership Awards Dinner, which was presented by Furman University's Riley Institute and held by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Greenville and Anderson chambers of commerce.

Leon Wiles, vice chancellor of USC Upstate, was honored with the Calder D. Ehrmann Award, recognizing an individual for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity.

The school has increased the minority enrollment to more than 30 percent, increased minority faculty and staff, completed a comprehensive diversity action plan, established a multicultural affairs office and revitalized the international studies center.

Cristina Schleifer of Greenville received the International Upstate Diversity Leadership Award for her work as a collaborator between Hispanic residents and the at-large community.

Bon Secours Saint Francis Health System was honored as a business leader in diversity. The health system provides \$54 million in free medical care and services. It also employs a diversity quality plan and a culture vision reference tool that provides staff with information on differing cultures and religions.

YWCA of Greenville also was honored for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity by a nonprofit organization. The current location at 700 Augusta St. held Greenville's first desegregated dining room, and continues to work on diversity issues today through its Center for Children and Families and yW Empowerment center for women.

Darris Means of Spartanburg was recognized for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity as a college student, and Richard Berman, a senior at Greenville High School, was honored for outstanding achievement as a high school student.

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