

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Greenville News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

St. Francis, YWCA among recipients of diversity award

Published: Wednesday, May 9, 2007 - 2:03 am

By E. Richard Walton
STAFF WRITER
erwalton@greenvillenews.com

Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, the YWCA and Cristina Schleifer were among the people and organizations honored Tuesday night at the Upstate Diversity Leadership Awards presented in Spartanburg.

The event was sponsored by the Riley Institute at Furman University and hosted by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Greater Greenville and Anderson Area Chambers.

The event honored organizations and individuals for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity in the Upstate. As more than 500 people watched, recipients were recognized in categories including individual, business, international, nonprofit organization, college student and high school student.

Master of ceremonies Ingo Angermeier, CEO of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, said the awards bring focus to important accomplishments and have helped bring the three communities together.

Advertisement The groups and people honored included:

- Leon Wiles, vice chairman of USC Upstate, received the Calder D. Ehrmann Award, recognizing an individual for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity.

Wiles has made a commitment to diversity in higher education. He has held more than 10 positions ranging from dean of students to administrator of equal opportunity programs, all of which he has used to contribute to enhancing diversity.

- Cristina Schleifer received the International Upstate Diversity Leadership Award. Schleifer is a leader and advocate for the Hispanic community in Greenville. As a Cuban immigrant, she entered the country as a young girl unable to speak the language and lived in a homeless shelter until the family was able to become financially independent.

She is a collaborator between the Hispanic and the at-large communities, and an educator on diversity issues, as she serves on boards.

- Bon Secours St. Francis Health System was honored for being committed to diversity within the community and its own organization. It provides mobile clinics for underserved residents of the Upstate and free screenings to medically under-served women.
- YWCA of Greenville was honored for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity by a nonprofit organization. The YWCA has continued to focus on its stated mission of the elimination of racism and empowering women. It has provided women, children and families with quality programs and services.
- Darris Means was recognized for outstanding achievement in promoting diversity as a college student.

STORYCHAT 
What's your view?
[Click here to add your comment to this story.](#)

Means grew up in Spartanburg and is a graduate of Dorman High School. He did undergraduate work at Elon University and will complete his graduate work at Clemson this semester.

- Richard Berman, a senior at Greenville High School, was honored for outstanding achievement as a high school student. In addition to showing academic excellence in the classroom and graduating with advanced academic distinction, Berman plays varsity lacrosse and is involved in a variety of school activities.