

## **Furman** group plans MLK trip

### **D.C. memorial focus of ‘Dream Builders’**

**By E. Richard Walton**

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Nika White and Brad Majors, two members of “Dream Builders” at **Furman** University’s Riley Institute, are encouraging Upstate residents to attend the historic unveiling of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in the nation’s capital on Aug. 28 and organizing efforts to make that happen.

The date also is the 48th anniversary of King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, said White, a management supervisor at Erwin- Penland.

White said she hopes a large group of Upstate residents will join an estimated 250,000 people who are expected at the ceremony next to the Lincoln Memorial. Details as to how groups will travel are being formulated. “Dream Builders” is a group of community and corporate leaders affiliated with the Riley Institute.

They want residents of Greenville County to take leadership roles in the event. White, who is also a member of the MLK Dream Weekend panel, which has organized MLK activities in metro Greenville for seven years, said that would be especially meaningful given the fact that the county was one of the last counties in the nation to adopt a holiday honoring King.

Radio Station WJAMZ-FM and WYFF-TV 4 will help promote the event, organizers said.

A company with outdoor billboards has agreed to help publicize the dedication, White said and about 1,500 flyers will be distributed, said Jean Greer, another “Dream Builders” member.

Pastor Curtis Johnson, the event’s co-chair, said his group was “very, very proud to collaborate” with the “Dream Builders.”

In 11 years, more than 800 managers from companies such as BMW, Michelin and the Greenville Hospital System have taken the diversity seminar, said Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute.