RILEY INSTITUTE’S DIVERSITY LEADERS INITIATIVE SELECTS
10TH CLASS OF FELLOWS FROM LOWCOUNTRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GREENVILLE, S.C.—The Riley Institute’s Diversity Leaders Initiative has selected its 10th
Class of Fellows from the Lowcountry and surrounding areas. The 44 incoming class members
will join more than 1,500 Riley Fellows from across the state to participate in DLI.

“DLI and the Riley Fellows have matured into a potent force to help move South
Carolina forward,” says Dr. Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute. “The variety
of unique experiences and perspectives that this class brings to the table is so important to the
meaningful dialogue and work of DLI,” Gordon says. He says that although the class is varied in
background and experience, “They have a common ability to affect change through leadership
positions in their organizations and community.”

Class members meet over the course of five months in a format driven by timely, relevant
case studies and other experiential learning tools designed to maximize interactions and
productive relationships among participants. DLI is expertly facilitated by Juan Johnson, an
independent consultant and former Coca-Cola vice president. “DLI is unique among South
Carolina’s leadership programs. In addition to the opportunity to develop new relationships and
take part in positive action in their communities, participants gain deep knowledge of how to
effectively manage and lead increasingly diverse workers, clients and constituents,” says
Johnson.

As part of the program, leaders also work in cross-sector groups to respond to real issues
and opportunities in their communities through capstone service projects.

Participants, who reflect South Carolina’s demographics and represent the corporate,
nonprofit, education, faith-based and government sectors, are chosen by nomination and
application. “The frames of reference and skills that DLI graduates share provide a remarkable
platform for working together to help South Carolina compete in the 21st century,” Gordon says.

The Riley Fellows for Lowcountry Class 10 are:

Rita Berry
President/CEO
Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce
Summerville

MORE
Michael Bobby  
Chief Finance, Operating and Capital Programs Office  
Charleston County School District  
North Charleston

Cindy Bohn Coats  
Chair  
Charleston County School District Board of Trustees  
North Charleston

Adair Boroughs  
Law Clerk  
U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina  
Charleston

Bryan Boroughs  
General Counsel and Director of Legislative Affairs  
Institute for Child Success  
Charleston

André Boyd  
Superintendent  
Florence County School District Four  
Timmonsville

Ann Carmichael  
Regional Campus Dean  
University of South Carolina Salkehatchie  
Allendale

Bobby Collins  
Senior Vice President  
PURE Insurance  
Charleston

Lydia Cotton  
Hispanic Liaison  
North Charleston

Kristin Cuilla  
Director, District and School Development  
New Tech Network  
Clayton

Kelly Cusanelli  
Senior Deputy Director - Human Resources  
SCRA  
Summerville

MORE
Hamilton Davis  
Energy Program Director  
SC Coastal Conservation League  
Charleston

Julia-Ellen Davis  
Trustee  
South Carolina First Steps  
Charleston

Eddie Driggers  
Chief of Police  
City of North Charleston  
North Charleston

Mark Edington  
Chief Operating Officer  
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce  
North Charleston

Brandon Gaffney  
Chief Operating Officer  
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.  
Ridgeland

Kenyatta Gardner  
Attorney  
Nexsen Pruet, LLC  
Charleston

Courtney Howard  
Director, Center for Partnerships to Improve Education  
College of Charleston  
Charleston

Paul Kohlheim  
Board, Vice Chair  
Tri-County Cradle to Career  
Sullivan’s Island

Amanda Lawrence  
Vice President, Community Impact  
Trident United Way  
North Charleston

Spencer Lynch  
Managing Director, Investments  
Lynch Cracraft Wealth Management of Raymond James  
Charleston

MORE
Melissa Maddox-Evans  General Counsel  Housing Authority of City of Charleston  Charleston

Madeleine McGee  President  SC Association of Nonprofit Organizations  Columbia

Barbara Melvin  Senior Vice President, External Affairs  South Carolina Ports Authority  Charleston

Cynthia Morton  Attorney  Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice LLP  Charleston

Jennifer Murray  Senior Vice President, Retail Area Manager  South State Bank  Charleston

Russell Ott  Representative; Businessman  South Carolina House of Representatives  St. Matthews

Luke Rankin  State Senator; Attorney  South Carolina Senate  Conway

Andrea Schenck  Co-founder and Managing Principal  Pacifica Human Communications, LLC  Charleston

Arnold Singleton  Vice President, Administration  Santee Cooper  Moncks Corner

Martin Skelly  President  SIB Fixed Cost Reduction  Charleston

MORE
Jeannine Smalls
Pastor
Grace Chapel AME Church
Beaufort

Debra Sonkin
Principal
Search Advisory Group
Johns Island

Mike Stebbins
Director of Operations, SCRA Applied R & D
SCRA
Summerville

Melanie Stith
Vice President, Human Resources
Roper St. Francis Healthcare
Charleston

Richard Stokes
CEO
Clarendon Health System
Manning

Matt Story
Attorney
Clawson & Staubes, LLC
Charleston

Mindy Sturm
Executive Director
City of Charleston, MOCYF
Charleston

Catherine Templeton
President
Brawley Templeton, LLC
Mt. Pleasant

Mary Thornley
President
Trident Technical College
Charleston

Eric Watson
Major
Charleston County Sheriff’s Office
North Charleston

MORE
Stewart Weinberg
President
Jewish Community Center of Charleston Board of Directors
Charleston

Steve Woodward
COO
SAFEmap International
Mt. Pleasant

Bill Young
Mayor
City of Walterboro
Walterboro

Learn more about the Riley Institute at Furman’s Diversity Leaders Initiative. Or contact Megan Dodgens, Manager of Diversity Leadership Programs at (864) 294-3253, or megan.dodgens@furman.edu.

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