

**RILEY INSTITUTE'S DIVERSITY LEADERS INITIATIVE SELECTS  
20<sup>TH</sup> CLASS OF FELLOWS FROM UPSTATE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—The Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative has selected its 20th Class of Fellows. The 45 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 Upstate Class 20 are:

**George Allwes**  
VP Retail  
Goodwill Industries  
Greenville, S.C.

MORE

**Shafiq Anwar**

Chief Information Officer  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Paul Butler**

Senior Vice President  
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System  
Spartanburg, S.C.

**Brenda Byrd**

Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership  
Greenville County Schools  
Greenville, S.C.

**Kelly Callahan**

Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
United Way Association of South Carolina  
Columbia, S.C.

**Anna Cass**

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Greenville Health System/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville  
Greenville, S.C.

**Troy Chisolm**

Administrator, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine  
Greenville Health System  
Greenville, S.C.

**Pam Christopher**

President & CEO  
Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce  
Anderson, S.C.

**Chrissie Cofield**

Assistant Chief  
Laurens Police Department  
Laurens, S.C.

**Neal Collins**

Member; Attorney  
SC House of Representatives; Carolina Law & Mediation, LLC  
Easley, S.C.

**Pam Davis**

Director, Bridges to a Brighter Future  
Furman University  
Greenville, S.C.

MORE

**Gary Eichelberger**

Associate Priest for Faith Development & Worship  
Christ Church Episcopal  
Greenville, S.C.

**Richard Everly**

Vice President Paint  
BMW Manufacturing LLC  
Greer, S.C.

**Jessica Fisher**

Senior Corporate Counsel  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Stephanie Griffin**

Finance Project Manager  
BMW Manufacturing LLC  
Greenville, S.C.

**Paul Grosskopf**

Vice President, R & D  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Linda Hannon**

Manager, Government and Community Relations  
Duke Energy  
Greenville, S.C.

**Scott Henderson**

Professor of Education  
Furman University  
Greenville, S.C.

**Jo Anne Hennigan**

Vice President  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Gary Hill**

SC Circuit Judge  
SC Judicial Department  
Greenville, S.C.

**Cornelius Huff**

Mayor  
City of Inman  
Inman, S.C.

MORE

**Neil Jamerson**

Assistant Vice President for Student Development  
Furman University  
Greenville, S.C.

**Rodney Johnson**

Principal/Director  
Lead Academy Public Charter School  
Greenville, S.C.

**Leonard Kupersmith**

Headmaster  
Christ Church Episcopal School  
Greenville, S.C.

**Chad Lawson**

Communications Manager  
Spartanburg Water  
Spartanburg, S.C.

**Wes Lehrer**

Spartanburg Market President  
BB&T  
Spartanburg, S.C.

**Becky Mann**

Director of Executive Communications and Public Relations  
Greenville Technical College  
Greenville, S.C.

**Derek McGowan**

Program Manager STEM, Generations & Higher Education  
Lockheed Martin  
Greer, S.C.

**Ricky McGrady**

Section Manager  
BMW Manufacturing LLC  
Greer, S.C.

**Diane McNeil**

VP Finance/CFO  
Urban League of the Upstate, Inc.  
Greenville, S.C.

**Curt McPhail**

Principal  
Greenlab Strategies  
Spartanburg, S.C.

MORE

**Jordana Megonigal**

Publisher  
Business Black Box  
Greenville, S.C.

**Kenneth Miller**

Chief of Police  
City of Greenville  
Greenville, S.C.

**Ty Miller**

Lieutenant over Administration  
Greenville County Sheriff's Office  
Greenville, S.C.

**Terri Newsom**

VP & CFO  
Greenville Health System  
Greenville, S.C.

**Kimaka Nichols-Graham**

Managing Attorney and Education Unit Head  
South Carolina Legal Services  
Greenville, S.C.

**Josh Patterson**

Principal  
Oakland Elementary School  
Spartanburg District Two  
Inman, S.C.

**Steven Prior**

Director, Supplier Diversity and Small Business Development  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Jim Shew**

Director, National Accounts  
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina  
Greenville, S.C.

**Susi Smith**

Executive Director  
Communities in Schools of Greenville  
Greenville, S.C.

**Rob Stevens**

Senior Manager  
Elliott Davis Decosimo, LLC  
Greenville, S.C.

MORE

**Chris Tolbert**

Career Manager  
Michelin North America  
Greenville, S.C.

**Johannes Trauth**

Vice President, Human Resources  
BMW Manufacturing  
Greer, S.C.

**Charles Weathers**

Founder  
The Weathers Group  
Columbia, S.C.

**Hubert Yarborough**

Vice President of Development  
Propel HR  
Greenville, S.C.

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](mailto:megan.dodgens@furman.edu).

###

8-19-15