

**RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES
WINNERS OF SERVICE PROJECT COMPETITION**

Students participated in “Emerging Public Leaders” program sponsored by institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—The Richard W. Riley Institute at Furman University has announced winners of its service project competition for high school seniors participating in the institute’s Emerging Public Leaders program.

Emerging Public Leaders is an innovative program designed to provide public leadership skills and knowledge to high school seniors. Participants are required to spend a week at Furman during the summer, where they attend lectures and group sessions with government leaders and Furman political science faculty, then plan and implement a service project during their senior year. Addressing a need in the student’s community, participants present completed projects the following spring. Winners are awarded cash prizes to continue projects or donate to a related organization or foundation.

This years’ winners are:

1st place (\$1,250), Kenan Sakarcn, Spring Valley High School, Columbia
Sakarcn started “Got Warmth?” a service project to collect quality used and new sleeping bags to protect the homeless from exposure in his community. Sakarcn worked with a diverse spectrum of community members to collect 234 sleeping bags that he personally distributed to Columbia’s homeless.

2nd place (\$1,000), Emily Cinquemani, St. Joseph’s High School, Greenville
Cinquemani created “Readers Rock!” a service project to motivate elementary school students to value and enjoy reading by increasing the availability of reading materials to underprivileged children. She worked with publishing companies to secure book donations, and then distributed them to need-based organizations in her area.

MORE

3rd place (\$750), Hannah Keefer, Pinewood Preparatory School, Summerville

Keefer created an International Club at her school. The club's purpose is to support and plan activities for international students from around the world that attend her school as part of a study-away program.

Honorable Mention (\$100), Stephanny Jimenez, Greenville High School

Jimenez started a student-led composting system at her school to decrease the amount of environmental waste there. She installed a small composting system on school grounds for yard debris collected by student volunteers.

Other EPL program participants are:

Amit Bilgi, Southside High School, Greenville

Sarah Katherine DeVenny, Lancaster High School, Lancaster

Max Kayton, St. James High School, Myrtle Beach

Benjamin Ramsey, Riverside High School, Greer

Sanjana Rao, Jesuit High School, Portland, Ore.

Trenton Smith, North Myrtle Beach High School, Myrtle Beach

Ryan Stevens, Belton-Honea Path High School, Belton

Joni Ware, Broome High School, Spartanburg

For more information, contact the Riley Institute (864) 294-3546 or visit

<http://riley.furman.edu/riley/programs/emerging-public-leaders>.

#####

05-02-11