

## 2014 - 2015 Emerging Public Leaders Judges Panel



### **Chris Burkett**

Dr. Chris Burkett is the Head of the Division of Education at Columbia College. Before coming to Columbia College, Dr. Burkett spent eleven years in the public school classroom teaching social studies to high school students, as well as coaching various sports. While in public education, Dr. Burkett was the recipient of the Sallie Mae First Year Teacher of the Year Award for the state of South Carolina, the *State Paper* Teacher of the Year Award, and was also honored as the Dutch Fork High School Teacher of the Year. While at Columbia College, Dr. Burkett was named Exemplary Teacher Educator of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Teacher Educators. Dr. Burkett has worked with the Riley Institute with both its Emerging Public Leaders Program and with its Teachers of Government Program. Dr. Burkett has assisted with many of the cohorts with the EPL program beginning with the first cohort in 2002.



**Marion Martin**

Marion R. Martin, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department at Furman University. In addition to leading a research program in thin polymer films, Dr. Martin teaches a course in general chemistry and a chemistry course specifically designed for non-science majors. He also serves on several university committees.

Born and raised in Columbia, SC, he went on to complete his undergraduate work at Furman University. After completing his Masters degree at Furman, he moved to Stanford University to pursue his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. He returned to teach in the Chemistry Department in January 2010.

Dr. Martin is an active member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, where he serves on the Vestry and is leading a team to create a soup kitchen at the church.

In his free time, Dr. Martin enjoys spending time with family and friends, working out at Crossfit Reaction, playing basketball, and watching just about any sport on TV.



**Bobbie Rhodes**

A practicing nurse of 35 years, Bobbie received her BSN from Duke University in 1979 and her Master's degree from Georgia State University in 1989. She currently practices as an Organization Development Consultant for Greenville Health System. Bobbie's clinical expertise is in the areas of critical care and case management. She has held a number of positions, ranging from bedside nurse to a director of nursing for a multi-hospital system department. Bobbie does public speaking on topics such as team building, communication, emotional intelligence, shared governance, and a number of health-related topics. Bobbie has served on a number of non-profit boards, and currently serves on the board for Fostering Great Ideas, a non-profit organization addressing the needs of children in foster care. Bobbie has been married 35 years and has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and a dog!



### **Jessica Sharp**

Jessica Sharp is the Program Director at the Teen Services Branch of the YMCA of Greenville. She is the Director of the YMCA Teen Achievers program—a college-readiness program that strives to help its participants achieve post-secondary education—and the State Program Director for the South Carolina YMCA Youth in Government program—an annual mock legislature and court program with more than 1500 participants, which inspires active, civic engagement for high school and middle school students from across the state.

Jessica is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she obtained a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing. Jessica is president of LeadHER Greenville, formally the Junior Board of the YWCA of Greenville, the Leadership Development Chair of the Urban League's Upstate Network and a member of the PULSE marketing committee. Additionally, she is a member of the Junior League of Greenville and the United Way's YP 20 and AALG. In May 2011, Jessica was named a Talented Tenth Top 10 Young Professionals through the Upstate Talented Tenth conference, a program through the Urban League's Upstate Network. Jessica is an active member of Newspring Church, where she volunteers with the church's teen ministry, providing leadership and support to volunteers who work with a small group of students.

In her free time, Jessica enjoys reading, blogging, watching college football and spending time with friends and family.