

**RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN SELECTS 12<sup>TH</sup> CLASS OF LOWCOUNTRY DIVERSITY LEADERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Forty-two leaders from the Lowcountry and surrounding area have been selected to participate in the Riley Institute at Furman’s Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI) this fall.

“In a time of considerable division both nationally and locally, it is increasingly important to work together to find ways to foster a thriving economy and break down barriers that hinder progress,” said Donald Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute.

DLI class members are identified through a rigorous process including a nomination, application and interview. Individuals are selected to join the class based on their capacity to impact their organizations and communities.

Over the course of five months, participants will learn about diversity and inclusion “blind spots” and how to suspend assumptions. Participants will also work in small, cross-sector groups to respond to real issues and opportunities in their communities through service projects. The classes are 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 diverse workers, clients and constituents,” said Johnson.

In addition to the Lowcountry, DLI classes are selected annually in the Upstate and Midlands.

Each class is crafted to reflect the diverse demographics in South Carolina.

“We now have 1,824 Riley Fellows statewide. Each new class further extends the reach and impact of leaders willing to work together to make South Carolina a better place to live and work for all its residents,” said Gordon.

DLI graduates become Riley Fellows, members of a powerful, cross-sector, statewide leadership network that includes CEOs of corporations, mayors, city and county council members, legislators, school superintendents, pastors and rabbis, non-profit heads, chamber of commerce directors, and community leaders.

The full roster of Riley Fellows is available online at [riley.furman.edu](http://riley.furman.edu). These are the leaders selected for the 12<sup>th</sup> Lowcountry DLI class:

**Reece Bertholf**  
Fire Chief  
City of Beaufort  
Beaufort

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**Eileen Burkhardt**

Executive Director  
Be A Mentor  
North Charleston

**Adrian Cain**

Chief Development Officer  
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce  
North Charleston

**Nicolle Davies**

Executive Director  
Charleston County Public Library  
Charleston

**Dave Echols**

President/General Manager  
Charleston RiverDogs  
Charleston

**Franklin Foster**

Superintendent  
Colleton County School District  
Walterboro

**Sabrena Graham**

Executive Director  
Lowcountry Council of Governments  
Yemassee

**Jack Higgins**

Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer  
South Carolina Aquarium  
Charleston

**Bruce Hoffman**

Vice President: Operations Services Mill Division  
KapStone Paper and Packaging  
North Charleston

**Alice Howard**

Council Member, District Four  
Beaufort County  
Beaufort

**Mavis Huger**

Attorney  
Counts & Huger, LLC  
Charleston

**Vanity Jenkins**

Senior Managing Director, Leadership Development  
Teach for America  
North Charleston

**Fred Jones**

Founding Principal  
Colleton Consulting Group, LLC  
Walterboro

**KJ Kearney**

Community Outreach Consultant  
Charleston Sticks Together  
North Charleston

**Betsy Kinsley**

Vice President: Development and Stewardship  
Coastal Community Foundation  
Charleston

**Roger Kirby**

Broker/Appraiser  
Kirby Realty & Construction, Inc.  
Lake City

**Christian MacIver**

Vice President, Industrial Strategies  
Ingevity  
North Charleston

**Angela Mack**

Executive Director  
Gibbes Museum of Art  
Charleston

**Chris Marsh**

Executive Director  
Spring Island Trust  
Okatie

**Clay Middleton**

Director of Business Services  
City of Charleston  
Charleston

**Dominique Milton**

SC Director of Corporate Services  
CVMSDC  
Charlotte

**Eddy Moore**

Energy and Climate Program Director  
Coastal Conservation League  
Charleston

**Jennifer Myers**

Operations Manager: Charleston  
SCE&G  
North Charleston

**Bob Quinn**

Executive Director  
SCRA  
Summerville

**Victor Rawl**

Chairman, Charleston County Council  
Charleston County  
North Charleston

**Grant Reeves**

Senior Vice President  
The InterTech Group  
North Charleston

**Brandon Renaud**

Shareholder  
Elliott Davis Decosimo  
Charleston

**Robby Robbins**

Attorney  
Robert D. Robbins, Attorney at Law, LLC  
Summerville

**Marcus Robinson**

Chief Human Resource Officer  
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Columbia

**Nick Sanders**

Director of Strategic Recruitment  
Charleston School of Law  
Charleston

**Shaundra Scott**

Executive Director  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Charleston

**James Simmons**

Physician  
All Children's Pediatrics  
Port Royal

**Bill Stanfield**

CEO  
Metanoia Community Development Corporation  
North Charleston

**Melissa Stowasser**

Dean, School and Community Initiatives  
Trident Technical College  
Charleston

**Nan Sutton**

Owner  
Lulu Burgess  
Beaufort

**Sharon Clemmons Thomas**

Principal Consultant  
Clemmons Thomas Consulting, LLC  
St. Stephen

**Alan Veach**

Director, District and School Development  
New Tech Network  
Napa

**Ayesha Washington**

Attorney  
The Washington Law Firm, LLC  
Charleston

**Patrick Wooten**

Lawyer  
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough  
Charleston

**Bea Wray**

Chair, Entrepreneurship Practice  
ForbesBooks  
Charleston

**Len Young**

Executive Director  
Charleston School of Law Foundation  
Charleston

MORE

**Cathryn Zommer**  
Executive Director  
Enough Pie  
Charleston

For more information about the Riley Institute and its programs, visit [riley.furman.edu](http://riley.furman.edu).

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