

**RILEY INSTITUTE AT FURMAN SELECTS 24TH CLASS
OF UPSTATE DIVERSITY LEADERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Forty-three leaders from the Upstate 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 Upstate, DLI classes are selected annually in the Midlands and Lowcountry. 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.

MORE

The full roster of Riley Fellows is available online at riley.furman.edu. The fellows selected for the 24th Upstate DLI class:

Melanie Armstrong

Director, Emerging Public Leaders
The Riley Institute at Furman University
Greenville

Matt Bitner

Vice Chair, Emergency Medicine
Greenville Health System
Greenville

Alecia Brewster

GoodGuides Program Manager
Goodwill Industries of the Upstate/Midlands
Greenville

Kevin Brown

Director of Information Technology
Spartanburg Water
Spartanburg

Amy Canosa

Manager of Clinical Pastoral Education Program
Greenville Health System
Greenville

Ken Cummings

Vice President/Senior Commercial Relationship Manager
SunTrust Bank
Greenville

Jim Dant

Senior Minister
First Baptist Church
Greenville

Marcus Davenport

Major
Greenville County Sheriff's Office
Greenville

Anthony Dicks

Senior Pastor
Mt. Zion Church
Greenville

MORE

Yvonne Duckett

Executive Director
Greenville County Human Relations Commission
Greenville

Tom Evelyn

Vice President, University Communications
Furman University
Greenville

Jennifer Faner

Director of Homeowner and Community Engagement
Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County
Greenville

Karen Fradua

Director, Community Health Improvement
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Spartanburg

Tracie Frese

Executive Director
Upstate International
Greenville

Ed Good

President
Hampton Development Co., Inc.
Greenville

Constance Gray

Consultant
Winston-Salem, NC

Walt Gregory

Department Manager Paint/Quality and Technical Planning
BMW Manufacturing, LLC
Greer

Rodrigo Gutierrez

VP Logistics and Customer Service
Michelin North America
Greenville

Rich Hagins

CEO/President
US&S, Inc.
Greenville

MORE

Katrice Hardy

Executive Editor for the Greenville News and USAT Regional Southeast Editor
Gannett
Greenville

CoCo Harris

Writer, Publisher, Photographer
Telling Our Stories Press
Greenville

Ricaye Harris

Talent Acquisition Specialist
Milliken & Company
Spartanburg

Kathy Keiser

Section Manager Compensation/Organization Management
BMW Manufacturing, LLC
Greer

Nancy Kennedy

Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Furman University
Greenville

Jeri Kleckley

Director of Volunteer Engagement
United Way of Greenville County
Greenville

Derek Lewis

Executive Director
Greenville First Steps
Greenville

William McMillian

Director: Commercial Business, SE Zone
Michelin North America
Matthews, NC

Amy Mundt

OE Development Leader
Michelin North America
Greenville

Stacey Owens

Investigations Captain
Greenville Police Department
Greenville

Scott Porter

Vice President: Equity and Inclusivity
Greenville Health System
Greenville

Altheia Richardson

Executive Director
Clemson University Gantt Multicultural Center
Clemson

Bill Roach

Superintendent
Union County Schools
Union

Rick Roberts

President
KMC Benefits Inc.
Greer

Ann Robinson

Market President
HomeTrust Bank
Greenville

Burke Royster

Superintendent
Greenville County Schools
Greenville

Carol Samofal

Empowerment Leader, North America
Michelin North America
Greenville

Gary Scheide

Industrial Director MAT/SF
Michelin North America
Greenville

Kirsten Small

Member
Nexsen Pruet, LLC
Greenville

Lee Tennent

Chief Information Officer
Greenville Technical College
Greenville

Vanessa Thompson

Director: Behavioral Health Services
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Spartanburg

Rob Torres

Vice President, Corporate Responsibility Officer
Bon Secours St. Francis Healthcare System
Greenville

Jeff Walker

Shareholder
Elliott Davis
Greenville

Lud Weaver

Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Greenville

For more information about the Riley Institute and its programs, visit riley.furman.edu.

###

8-23-17