Jill Fuson is Director of the Riley Institute’s Center for Critical Issues (CCI), one of the Institute’s three centers of work. As director of the CCI, she helps set strategic direction and is responsible for all of the Institute’s policy events at Furman and throughout the state and oversees all student leadership activities. Before coming to the Institute, she taught in public high schools in Florida and South Carolina and also formerly owned and operated Carolina Family Adventures. A graduate of Furman University, she received her Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University in 2012.

A recipient of numerous scholarly and teaching awards, Scott Henderson has been a member of Furman’s Education Department since 1998. Scott teaches undergraduate and graduate education courses, and also serves as the Director of Furman’s Community of Scholars program. Scott was an American and world history teacher in the Chesapeake City, Virginia schools and an instructor of English and Western culture at Yamagata Women’s Junior College in Yamagata, Japan before coming to Furman. Scott received a B.A. from Florida State University, an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Shaniece Criss is an Assistant Professor of Health Science at Furman University and an experienced researcher and evaluator. She utilizes community-engaged qualitative research to effectively implement public health interventions that address health communication and health equity. Dr. Criss partners with Furman’s Institute for the Advancement of Community Health (IACH) as an academic lead on projects with Greenville Health System (GHS) and LiveWell Greenville. She is also a Fellow of the Riley Institute’s Diversity Leaders Initiative (Class XXIII) and a Shi Center for Sustainability Faculty Affiliate at Furman.

As a Greenville native, Dr. Criss is committed to community involvement in the health, business, and political sectors. She is an elected official on the Travelers Rest City Council. She also serves on the SC Health Company Board of Directors and SC YMCA Youth in Government & Teen Achievers Board. In the past, she has served on the Greenville County Human Relations Commission and Travelers Rest Municipal Election Commission.

As a public health practitioner, Dr. Criss served as producer and host for a national television show for the Ministry of Health in Guyana, South America during her Peace Corps service. She also held positions at ICF International, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Cable News Network (CNN). Dr. Criss earned her Doctor of Science (ScD) degree from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She was a Presidential Public Service Fellow, selected as a Political Campaign Trainee, and earned her Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She obtained her Master of Public Health from Emory University, and a Bachelor of Arts in communication with a focus in urban leadership from Oglethorpe University.