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## Furman starts new program named for former House speaker

Associated Press

**GREENVILLE, S.C.** - Furman University has created a new legislative program named in honor of former House Speaker David Wilkins that will allow a handful of students to intern with the Legislature in Columbia.

The Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at the university made the announcement Wednesday.

The program also will offer more courses on state and local politics as well as provide a scholar as a resource to the development of legislative initiatives in South Carolina.

A forum and awards dinner will be held each year with the first banquet held Monday evening.

State Sen. John Drummond, D-Ninety Six, was given the first David Wilkins Legislative Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership. The award will be presented each year to a state legislator who embodies leadership based on integrity, compassion, vision, civility and courage.

More than 500 people attended the banquet including U.S. ambassador to Canada David Wilkins, former U.S. education secretary and South Carolina Gov. Richard W. Riley and Furman president David E. Shi.

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