

The Riley Institute at Furman presents

# The Sixth Annual Wilkins Leadership Awards Dinner

Honoring award recipients Senator Robert W. Hayes  
and Minor Mickel Shaw

Governor Nikki R. Haley, keynote speaker

Hosted by  
Ambassador David H. Wilkins  
Secretary Richard W. Riley  
Furman President Rodney A. Smolla

Tuesday, January 25, 2011  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
Columbia, South Carolina



## Wilkins Legislative & Civic Leadership Awards Dinner

<i>America the Beautiful</i>	Spring Valley High School Gospel Ensemble
Welcome	Richard W. Riley <i>Former U.S. Secretary of Education and Governor of South Carolina</i>
Opening Remarks	Rodney A. Smolla <i>President, Furman University</i>
National Anthem	Bell Tower Boys, Furman University
Invocation	Fred W. Andrea III <i>Pastor, First Baptist Aiken</i>
<b>Dinner</b>	
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	David H. Wilkins <i>Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada and Speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives</i>
Keynote Address	Nikki R. Haley <i>Governor, South Carolina</i>
About the Awards	Rod Smolla
Awards Presentation	Paula Harper Bethea <i>Executive Director, S.C. Education Lottery</i> David Wilkins Richard Riley
Closing	Rod Smolla
<i>God Bless America</i>	Spring Valley High School Gospel Ensemble

## Robert W. Hayes, Jr.



Senator Robert W. “Wes” Hayes, Jr., current chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, has served in the South Carolina General Assembly for 26 years. He began his service in the House of Representatives in 1985 and was elected to the Senate in 1991, where he continues to serve.

Currently he is a member of the Banking and Insurance; Education; Finance; Medical Affairs; and General Senate committees. He chairs subcommittees in both the Finance and Education Committees, and, in this capacity, he has been an advocate for equitable funding for public schools and increasing the availability of early childhood education.

Senator Hayes has received numerous awards, including the 2006 South Carolina Public Servant of the Year given by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce; the 1990 Outstanding Young American Award given by the South Carolina Jaycees; and in 1996, the Compleat Lawyer Award given by the USC Law School Alumni Association. He serves on the boards of South Carolina Bank and Trust, Guardian Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, Westminster Towers, York County Red Cross, and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He is past chair of the York County Red Cross, the York District of the Boy Scouts, and the Rock Hill United Way Campaign. He is the president of the Palmetto Council of the Boy Scouts and chair of the State Government United Way Campaign.

Hayes is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was president of his class and a battalion commander. Following graduation, he served five years on active duty in the U.S. Army as a part of the 82d Airborne Division, earning the Master Parachutist Award and the Ranger Tab. He is a graduate of the USC School of Law, where he was president of the Student Bar and member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif. As a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard for 25 years, he earned the rank of colonel and the Legion of Merit Award.

Hayes is owner of the law firm Robert W. Hayes, Jr. LLP and resides in Rock Hill with his wife Sarah Mellon Hayes. They have three children, Robert Wesley III, James Creighton, and Margaret Mellon.

## Minor Mickel Shaw



Minor Mickel Shaw is president of Micco Corporation. She currently serves as chairman of The Daniel-Mickel Foundation, and she is a trustee of the Duke Endowment, the Hollingsworth Funds, and the Belle Baruch Foundation. She is on the boards of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Piedmont Natural Gas and Columbia Nations Funds. She formerly served as director of Interstate/Johnson Lane. Shaw is vice-chair of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission and was instrumental in bringing Southwest Airlines to South Carolina. She is also on the boards of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts Foundation and The Palmetto Institute.

She has served as chairman of the United Way of South Carolina, the Wofford College Board of Trustees, the South Carolina Foundation for Independent Colleges, the South Carolina ETV Endowment, the Community Foundation of Greenville, the Urban League of the Upstate and the YMCA of Greenville. Shaw was instrumental in founding Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville and the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities year-round school. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she has served on the General Alumni Association Board, the UNC Board of Visitors, the National Campaign Steering Committee, and she is a former chairman of the Arts & Sciences Foundation.

Shaw has been recognized as Volunteer of the Year for the YMCA of Greenville, Citizen of the Year of the Greenville Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, and a Woman of Distinction of the Greenville area Girl Scouts Council. *The Greenville News* named her to its "Top 25 Most Influential" list, and she has won statewide and local awards including South Carolina's Order of the Palmetto, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award and Athena Award, and the Urban League's Whitney Young Humanitarian Award.

She and her husband Hal reside in Greenville, and they have three children and six grandchildren.

### Nikki R. Haley



Nikki Randhawa Haley was elected the 116th Governor of South Carolina in November of 2010. Haley was first elected to represent the 87th District in Lexington County in 2004, when, as a virtual unknown in the Republican primary, she defeated the state’s longest serving state senator. In 2008, Representative Haley was sent back to the statehouse with 83 percent of the vote—the highest percentage earned that year by any lawmaker facing a contested South Carolina election. She won the

Republican Party nomination for governor in June of 2010.

Her time in Columbia has been marked by conservative leadership, commitment to the taxpayers’ bottom line, and the fight for accountability and transparency. For her efforts to cut taxes and slow the growth of government spending, Haley was named “Friend of the Taxpayer” (2009) by the S.C. Association of Taxpayers and a “Taxpayer Hero” (2005) by Governor Mark Sanford. She has lifetime “A” ratings from the South Carolina Club for Growth, the Palmetto Family Council, and the National Rifle Association.

Haley has also received the Palmetto Leadership Award from the S.C. Policy Council for her expertise on policy matters and the Strom Thurmond Excellence in Public Service and Government Award from the S.C. Federation of Republican Women for the outstanding constituent service she provides to her district.

Born the daughter of Indian immigrants in Bamberg, South Carolina, Haley’s first job, at the age of 13, was keeping the books for her family’s clothing store. She graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. degree in accounting and, following her graduation, worked as accounting supervisor for the North Carolina-based corporation FCR and five of its subsidiaries. Haley then went back to the family business where she helped oversee its growth into a multi-million dollar operation.

Haley and her husband Michael, a federal technician with the South Carolina National Guard and an officer in the Army National Guard, attend Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church in Lexington. They have two children, Rena, 12, and Nalin, 9.

### Richard W. Riley



**R**ichard W. Riley, for whom the Riley Institute at Furman is named, is the former U. S. Secretary of Education (1993–2001) and former Governor of South Carolina (1979–1987). Secretary Riley currently is a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and its affiliate, EducationCounsel, with offices in South and North Carolina, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Huntington (WV), Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. He works on complex business, governance, financial, legal, education, government process and advocacy matters for local, state, national and international clients.

With the full support of the firm, Riley remains an ambassador for improving education in the United States and abroad. He chairs the Board of Trustees at Furman and serves as Advisory Board chair of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership. Riley has been named distinguished professor at the University of South Carolina, and the College of Education at Winthrop University bears his name, as does the College of Education and Leadership at Walden University. He also is a distinguished senior fellow at NAFSA (formerly National Association of Foreign Student Advisors) Association of International Educators in Washington, D.C. In addition, Riley serves in an advisory and collaborative capacity with several other entities across the nation and overseas that promote progressive education improvement.

Riley earned his bachelor's degree, cum laude, in political science from Furman in 1954 and received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1959.

He is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards, as well as honorary degrees from universities and colleges in the United States and abroad. In 2009, *Time* magazine named Riley one of the Top 10 Best Cabinet Members in our nation's history. Early in 2010, he was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame. Later that year, he received Leadership South Carolina's inaugural Dick and Tunky Riley Legacy of Leadership Award.

Riley and his late wife, Ann "Tunky" Yarborough Riley, have four children and 14 grandchildren.

### David H. Wilkins



David H. Wilkins is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and chairs the Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the United States–Canadian border and offers experience on a wide range of strategic bilateral issues.

From 2002–2009, Wilkins served as the United States Ambassador to Canada.

During his tenure, Ambassador Wilkins helped to resolve some of the most high-profile issues between Canada and the United States, including the decades-old softwood lumber dispute. He is known on both sides of the border as an honest broker who worked for solutions on the toughest issues—energy, national security, the environment, trade and travel—impacting millions of citizens in both countries.

Most recently, Governor Nikki Haley tapped Ambassador Wilkins to chair her transition team as she formed her new administration.

Wilkins was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1980 and served there for 25 years. He quickly rose through the ranks in the House, serving six years as chair of the House Judiciary Committee and two years as speaker pro tem before being elected speaker, a position he held for 11 years.

Wilkins served as state chairman of the 2004 Bush–Cheney campaign and as co-chair of the campaign in 2000. He was appointed by the president to the United States Military Academy Board of Visitors in 2002, where he served for three years. He currently is chair of the Clemson University Board of Trustees and serves on the boards of Porter Airlines and the Greenville Area Development Corporation.

A native of Greenville, Ambassador Wilkins received his A.B. degree from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves.

Wilkins resides in Greenville with his wife Susan. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren.



## David H. Wilkins Awards

The David H. Wilkins Legislative and Civic Awards bear the name of one of South Carolina's true statesmen and leaders. During his 25 year tenure in the South Carolina House of Representatives, 11 of which he served as speaker, David Wilkins left an indelible mark on the state's political landscape. His widely acclaimed leadership and commitment to public service have become a benchmark of excellence for state legislators around the country.

**The Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership** is presented to a member of the South Carolina House or Senate who best exemplifies the highest principles of leadership, integrity, compassion, vision, and courage. Recipients have demonstrated the ability to collaborate with fellow legislators, regardless of party affiliation, to effect positive change in South Carolina. Winners are chosen by a bipartisan/nonpartisan panel of distinguished scholars, former legislators, and leaders from the public and private sectors.

### Past Legislative Award Winners

- 2009 Dan Cooper, South Carolina Representative
- 2008 Gilda Cobb-Hunter, South Carolina Representative
- 2007 Hugh Leatherman, South Carolina Senator
- 2006 Bobby Harrell, Speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives
- 2005 John Drummond, South Carolina Senator and President Pro-Tem Emeritus

**The Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership**, given for the first time this year, is presented to a community leader who has demonstrated a long-standing and exemplary commitment to working to improve the quality of life of South Carolinians. The recipient of this award is a civic leader whose selfless involvement in community is marked by vision, skill, and integrity, and whose efforts to improve the quality of life in the state has required a remarkable investment of personal time, energy, and responsibility.

Winners are chosen by a confidential committee of community, non-profit, business, and governmental leaders representing all geographical areas of South Carolina.

### The Wilkins Fellowships in South Carolina Legislative Affairs

Every other year, 12 to 15 Furman students have the opportunity to work side-by-side with legislators and interest groups in Columbia, gaining a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the legislative process. In this immersion experience, Wilkins Fellows meet and work with South Carolina elected officials, listen to presentations made by lobbyists, legislative staff, and agency personnel, and attend receptions. The program is led by Glen Halva-Neubauer, a state politics specialist and professor of political science at Furman University.

### The Riley Institute

The Riley Institute<sup>®</sup> at Furman is a non-partisan organization affiliated with the Department of Political Science at Furman University. Named for former Governor of South Carolina and United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley, the institute engages students in politics, public policy and public leadership through collaborative research, study abroad opportunities and internships.

Since its inauguration in 1999, the Riley Institute also has developed community leadership programs, symposia and conferences designed to promote discussion and analysis of public policy issues. Through its promotion of engaged learning, leadership development and conferences featuring internationally recognized speakers, the Riley Institute has established itself as an innovator in policy and public leadership education.

## Wilkins Program Sponsors\*

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**The Riley Institute®**

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