

# The Thirteenth Annual Wilkins Leadership Awards Dinner

Honoring the leadership of  
The Honorable Wm. Weston Newton  
and Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden Jr. (USMC-Ret.)

Hosts

Ambassador David Wilkins

Secretary Dick Riley

Furman President Elizabeth Davis, Ph.D.

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center



*The Riley Institute*<sup>™</sup>  
FURMAN UNIVERSITY

# Program

## Wilkins Legislative and Civic Leadership Awards Dinner

“The Star-Spangled Banner”	Bell Tower Boys <i>Furman University</i>
Welcome	Elizabeth Davis <i>President, Furman University</i>
Invocation	Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray <i>Anderson District Superintendent, The United Methodist Church</i>
Dinner	
About the Awards	Paula Harper Bethea <i>Chair, Wilkins Steering Committee</i>
Video: <i>Reflections on Leadership: A conversation with David Wilkins and Dick Riley</i>	
Presentation of Legislative Leadership Award	David H. Wilkins <i>Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada and Speaker, South Carolina House of Representatives</i>
Presentation of Civic Leadership Award	Minor Mickel Shaw <i>President of Micco, LLC and inaugural winner of the Wilkins Civic Leadership Award</i>
Closing	Elizabeth Davis
“Irish Blessing”	Bell Tower Boys

*Our great thanks to SCETV for their generous support, including production of tonight's video features and live feed. SCETV's unstinting and ongoing support of this program is invaluable.*

# Award for Excellence in Legislative Leadership

## 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.

### Past Legislative Award Winners

2016	Representative Rita Allison
2015	Senator Clementa Pinckney (posthumous award)
2014	Speaker Jay Lucas
2013	Senator Paul Campbell
2012	Representative James Harrison
2011	Representative James Smith
2010	Senator Wes Hayes
2009	Representative Dan Cooper
2008	Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter
2007	Senator Hugh Leatherman
2006	Speaker Bobby Harrell
2005	Senator John Drummond



## Representative Weston Newton

Believing that transparency and trust are the cornerstone of a representative democracy, the Honorable Weston Newton has dedicated his time to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create accessible and accountable government.

Newton was first elected to the S.C. House of Representatives in 2013. He currently serves as chairman of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, a group that ensures the state's agencies carry out the law in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly. In his capacity as chairman, Newton leads the effort to ensure taxpayer dollars are delivering efficient, effective government.

During his time in the House, Newton has also helped lead several legislative efforts that resulted in requirements for government to publish all meeting agendas, respond to requests for public records more quickly, and refrain from charging excessive fees for the production of the information.

Newton served as chairman of Beaufort County Council for 10 years, where he championed successful efforts to improve infrastructure. He also led an effort to make county government more accessible and to engage its citizens in the governing process by installing cameras in committee rooms, rotating council meetings to different regions of the county and installing video and telephone access to council meetings on remote barrier islands.

Born in Greenville, Newton is a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law and Washington and Lee University. He is a partner at the firm Jones, Simpson & Newton P.A. in Bluffton.

# Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership

## The Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership

is presented to a community leader who demonstrates a long-standing and exemplary commitment to working to improve the lives 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 have required a remarkable investment of personal time, energy, and responsibility.

### Past Civic Award Winners

2016	Hayne Hipp
2015	Governor Nikki Haley and Mayor Joe Riley
2014	Bill Barnet, III
2013	Steve Morrison (posthumous award)
2012	Anita Zucker
2011	Ed Sellers
2010	Minor Mickel Shaw



## Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden Jr. (USMC-Ret.)

A former Marine Corps general and astronaut who was the 12th administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Charles Bolden has inspired countless South Carolinians with his determination to move past barriers created by segregation and racism.

A 1964 graduate of C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, Bolden had long dreamed of entering the U.S. Naval Academy, but no South Carolina Congressman would appoint him to the Academy. Undeterred, he petitioned President Lyndon Johnson and soon won an appointment from an Illinois Congressman. He became a naval aviator and went on to break many more barriers.

During his 34 years in the Marine Corps, Bolden flew more than 100 combat missions in North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. He led various Marine forces at locations around the world, including in the Pacific, Kuwait, and Japan. His many military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After joining NASA's Astronaut Office in 1980, Bolden traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle, commanding two of the missions and piloting two others. His flights included deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope and the first joint U.S.-Russian shuttle mission. He was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in May 2006.

As head of NASA from 2009 – 2017, Bolden led the NASA team to successfully land the Curiosity rover on Mars, launch a spacecraft to Jupiter, and develop the Orion spacecraft that will carry astronauts to Mars and beyond. Because of his people-centered leadership, NASA was named the best place to work among large federal agencies for five years in a row.

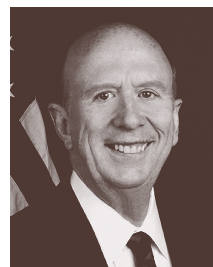
Bolden remains committed to inspiring the next generation of scientists and explorers by sharing his experiences and encouraging more young people from underserved communities to study science, technology, engineering, and math courses.



### Elizabeth Davis

Elizabeth Davis became Furman University's 12th president on July 1, 2014. She came to Furman from Baylor University, where, as executive vice president and provost, she oversaw the university's 11 schools and colleges as well as more than a dozen research centers and institutes. A graduate

of Baylor, Davis earned her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1992. She has delivered hundreds of addresses throughout the U.S. on issues involving higher education, university leadership, and financial management.



### David Wilkins

Ambassador David Wilkins is a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. He chairs the firm's Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

Wilkins served as the United States Ambassador to Canada from June 2005 until January 2009. Prior to his appointment to Canada, Wilkins served 25 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives, 11 of those as speaker.



### Dick Riley

Richard 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 is currently a senior partner in the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and its affiliate,

EducationCounsel. Riley is the recipient of numerous education and other public service awards. In 2009, *TIME* magazine named Riley one of the Top 10 Best Cabinet Members in our nation's history.

# Wilkins Awards Dinner Sponsors\*

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# The Riley Institute

Furman University's Riley Institute broadens student and community perspectives about issues critical to South Carolina's progress. It builds and engages present and future leaders, creates and shares data-supported information about the state's core challenges, and links the leadership body to sustainable solutions.

Launched in 1999, the Institute is named for former South Carolina Governor and former United States Secretary of Education Richard W. (Dick) Riley. It is committed to nonpartisanship in all it does and to a rhetoric-free, facts-based approach to change.

[riley.furman.edu](http://riley.furman.edu)

