



December 15, 2015

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

It gives Paula Harper Bethea and me great pleasure to notify you formally that the Wilkins Award Selection Committee has unanimously chosen you as the recipient of the Riley Institute's 2015 David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership. On behalf of the committee, Ambassador Wilkins, Secretary Riley, and the Riley Institute at Furman, please accept my heartfelt congratulations!

The Wilkins Excellence in Civic Leadership Award is presented each year to a community leader who demonstrates a long-standing and exemplary commitment to working to improve the lives of South Carolinians. Given alongside the Wilkins Excellence in Legislative Leadership Award, the civic award recognizes that working for the common good of South Carolina requires building coalitions and forming relationships not only in the legislature, but also in the community. Along with Mayor Joe Riley, you now join the growing list of illustrious Wilkins civic award recipients which includes Minor Shaw, Ed Sellers, Anita Zucker, Steve Morrison (posthumous award) and Bill Barnet.

This year's award will be bestowed during the annual Wilkins Award Dinner on January 12, 2016, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The evening begins with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:15 p.m. For dinner, we would like for you and Michael to join Ambassador Wilkins, Secretary Riley, and Furman President Elizabeth Davis at the head table. We are also providing an additional table for eight of your family and friends to attend the dinner as our guests.

If she hasn't already done so, soon Kerry Glenn from Smoak Public Relations will be in touch with your office with additional helpful information and to get the names of your guests.

For all of us, thank you for the service and leadership you have given to the people of South Carolina. Congratulations again on being chosen to receive the Riley Institute's 2015 David H. Wilkins Award for Excellence in Civic Leadership.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Gordon
Executive Director
The Riley Institute

Cc: President Elizabeth Davis, Ambassador Wilkins, Secretary Riley, Paula Harper Bethea