



Diversity Recruitment Consortium to Launch at OneSouthCarolina 2013

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(GREENVILLE, SC) The Diversity Recruitment Consortium (DRC), a dedicated effort to attract and retain diverse professionals to South Carolina, is set to launch at the Riley Institute's second annual OneSouthCarolina event March 1-3, 2013 in Hilton Head.

The DRC is a group of organizations led by three sponsors: The Riley Institute (founding sponsor), the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce (coordinating sponsor), and the Greenville Chamber (managing sponsor), working together to collectively develop innovative programs, practices, and processes to increase the diversity of professional and executive talent throughout South Carolina.

The DRC uses a sophisticated recruitment style which offers a broader understanding of what South Carolina has to offer, for individual careers and lifestyle opportunities. The DRC will include an Ambassador Network that will provide access to a broad array of professionally-trained individuals with similar backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, offering more robust and relevant information about the South Carolina community.

All South Carolina organizations committed to increasing the diversity of professional and executive talent in their own organizations and throughout the state are invited to join the DRC. Membership is free of charge and participation includes the following:

- Opportunities to attend the following events on a pay-as-you go basis. The DRC will announce dates this Spring for the following:
 - **DRC Ambassadors Reception:** This event will bring together volunteer ambassadors from the various member organizations to build relationships, socialize, network, and share ideas on how the DRC can be a lever for their organization's recruitment and retention efforts.
 - **The South Carolina Employee Resource Group Forum:** This event is an educational workshop for members of employee resource groups / affinity / networking groups of member organizations. The event has two objectives: first, to provide best practice suggestions on how to make employee resource groups more value-added in organizations; second, to facilitate cross-organizational networking and best practice support. The DRC believes this Forum will be a catalyst to meaningful and lasting relationships and support across member organizations.
 - **The DRC Member Organizations Intern Barbeque:** This event will provide an opportunity for interns of the various member organizations to meet and get to know their peers in other organizations. The underlying hypothesis is that as these interns consider whether South Carolina is a good place to start their careers, having friends in similar situations, career-wise, and with similar interest, can be a draw that motivates them to accept full-time job offers. In addition, they'll build relationships to support the remainder of their internships, as well as simply have some fun.
 - **The Graduate Schools Engagement Reception:** This series of events will include visits to graduate schools in the state with a simple message to the talented near-professionals already here: "we want you to stay in the state of South Carolina for your professional

career.” While working through the Ambassadors program to attract talent to the state, the DRC also wants to make sure we don’t overlook the talent that’s already here.

- **Adhoc Events:** A key and valuable aspect of the DRC is the access to a broadly diverse network of professionals that have volunteered to help attract and retain talent in member organizations. The Ambassadors network will include an online resource providing access to names and areas of interest that any member organization can utilize in its recruitment efforts. This includes activities as simple as lunches and dinners, to more involved efforts such as community tours. The number and type of such events is expected to be broad and dynamic.

Quotes from DRC Sponsor Leaders

“The more companies, organizations and individuals we can get to work together and collaborate on the DRC mission, the greater impact we can have.” - Benny Walker, Riley Institute

“We want to make sure diverse professionals can see themselves as able to thrive in South Carolina...connecting those individuals with others that are like them can be an effective way to recruit quality talent and retain those professionals as part of our communities.”

-Ben Haskew, President and CEO, Greenville Chamber

“South Carolina is on the cusp of being a business leader. The DRC will help us get there and enrich our communities and ourselves as we embark on the longer-term objective of attracting and retaining the best talent possible. Instead of a hindrance, diversity can and should be an asset to the State of South Carolina.” - Otis Rawl, CEO, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

“The DRC concept is all about the ARC method – attracting, recruiting and retaining diverse professional executive talent to our state. This is an opportunity we believe will help South Carolina stand out among other states and entice large corporations looking to move here to see us as a destination of choice”. –Nika White, VP, Diversity and Inclusion, Greenville Chamber

“DRC Member Organizations have access to special designated programs that leverage the critical mass of participating organizations to support the success of each Member’s recruitment and retention efforts.” –Cliff Bourke, Chair, SC Chamber of Commerce Diversity Committee

About the Diversity Recruitment Consortium

The Diversity Recruitment Consortium is a group of organizations, founded by the Richard W. Riley Institute and facilitated by the Greenville Chamber and South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, to collectively develop innovative programs, practices and processes that increase the diversity of professional and executive talent throughout South Carolina.

Founding Members: Bluestein, Nichols, Thompson & Delgado, LLC; BlueCross BlueShield of SC; Fisher & Phillips; Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A; Greenville Hospital System; Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, P.A.; Integrated Media Publishing, Michelin N.A.; Nexsen Pruet; Parker & Poe; South Carolina Chamber of Commerce; Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc.; Spartanburg Regional Health System; Wyche Law Firm.

About The Riley Institute

The Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics, and Public Leadership is a multi-faceted, non-partisan institute 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 is unique in the United States in the emphasis it places on engaging students in the various arenas of politics, public policy, and public leadership. For more information visit, <http://riley.furman.edu>.

About South Carolina Chamber of Commerce

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the nation's first state chamber Accredited with Distinction by the U.S. Chamber, is the state's largest statewide broad-based business and industry trade association representing more than 18,000 businesses and more than one million employees, with 90 percent of membership comprised of small businesses. As the unified voice for business and industry, the Chamber is a catalyst for increasing wealth and enhancing the state's global competitiveness in order to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians. For more information, visit, <http://www.scchamber.net>.

About the Greenville Chamber

The Greenville Chamber, now in its 125th year of operation, is the largest business organization in the Upstate. The Chamber's vision is to build one of the premier business communities in the world by driving economic growth and prosperity, serving as an advocate for business interests, training future leaders and facilitating the workforce of tomorrow. For more information, visit www.greenvillechamber.org or call 864-242-1050.

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The Riley Institute at Furman



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