

New Liberty fellows named

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The Liberty Fellowship program announced that 22 South Carolinians were chosen from a pool of 400 candidates statewide for its class of 2012.

Greenville businessman Hayne Hipp, founder of Liberty Fellowship, said the new class, representing business, government and nonprofit sectors in the state, "is extremely capable of meeting the challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities in the lifetime Fellowship program."

He added, "More important to our state, not one of them is satisfied with the status quo. Each has a deep desire to take action to improve South Carolina."

Jenny Johnson, executive director of the program, said, "The members of this class span a broad and interesting spectrum. They are established leaders who represent a mosaic of backgrounds, skills and experiences."

Class members will attend four seminars over the two-year period, including one Aspen Institute global seminar with leaders from around the world, and each class member has committed to completing a personal project that will have a positive impact on the state.

Following are the members of the new Liberty Fellowship class:

Pamela A. (Pam) Bakerm, a shareholder with the McNair Law Firm in Columbia;

Daniel J. (Dan) Ballou, is a founding member of Hamilton Martens Ballou & Sipe law firm in Rock Hill;

Russell W. Booker, superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Seven;

John F. Castile, city manager of Greenville on July 1;

James S. (Jamie) Fulmer Jr., vice president of public affairs for Advance America, Cash Advance Centers Inc. in Spartanburg;

Richard J. (Rich) Gaton, co-founder and president of BDI Pharma Inc., a national distributor of specialty biopharmaceuticals established in 1995 and headquartered in Columbia;

Tanya A. Gee, clerk of court for the South Carolina Court of Appeals;

Mary H. Hipp, a community activist from Greenville, who is the chair of the Friends of the Zoo board and serves on the boards of the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, Friends of Brookgreen Gardens, Greenville Women Giving and Metropolitan Arts Council (incoming chair);

J. Blanding (Blan) Holman IV, senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and co-founder of SELC's Charleston office;

R. Michael (Mikee) Johnson is CEO and president of Cox Industries, a privately owned business specializing in manufacturing and global distribution of pressure-treated wood;

Amy E. Love, deputy executive director of New Carolina – South Carolina's Council on Competitiveness;

Nicolas D. (Nick) Muzin, senior vice president of Legal & Government Affairs for The InterTech Group, a private equity conglomerate in Charleston;

Susan D. Newman, assistant professor in the College of Nursing and College of Graduate Studies at the Medical University of South Carolina;

Scott E. Porter, section chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Oncology at Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professorship in the Department of Bioengineering at Clemson University;

Patricia S. (Tricia) Ravenhorst, director and immigration attorney of the South Carolina Immigrant Victim Network;

Vaidehi A. Shah, a founder of Velocitas Partners Inc., an advisory firm partnering with social investors including venture capitalists, foundations, pension funds, family offices, individuals and other socially-motivated investors;

James E. Smith Jr., principle of James E. Smith Jr. P.A. and a member of the S.C. House of Representatives;

Robin B. Stilwell, state Circuit Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit;

Gustavo A. (Gus) Suárez, associate attorney with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart who also teaches Immigration Law at Greenville Technical College;

Laura G. Varn, vice president of corporate communications and media relations for Santee Cooper;

Peter B. Waldschmidt, founder and CEO of Gnosco Inc., a software product design and development company in Greenville;

Thad H. Westbrook, partner with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough.

Liberty Fellowship is a statewide leadership initiative founded by Hipp, Wofford College and The Aspen Institute.

The program seeks to inspire outstanding leadership in South Carolina, empowering the state's leaders to realize their full potential. Fostering a values-based approach, Liberty Fellowship exposes rising leaders, ages 30-45, to diverse perspectives, critical thinking, and intellectual and personal development through an intense two-year program.

For more information, visit www.libertyfellowshipsc.org.