



2021

# YEAR AT A GLANCE

THE RILEY CENTER FOR  
LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

---

[riley.cofc.edu](http://riley.cofc.edu)  
[riley@cofc.edu](mailto:riley@cofc.edu)

# ABOUT THE RILEY CENTER

## Mission Statement

The Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities is an interdisciplinary initiative of the College of Charleston whose mission is to leverage the intellectual resources of the College to support the economic and cultural vibrancy of the City of Charleston and other communities throughout South Carolina, the United States, and around the world.

## Vision Statement

With access to the resources of the College of Charleston's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Riley Center seeks to be a leader in livable community research, education and practice.

The Riley Center defines "livable communities" as those which are economically and culturally vibrant, with equitable access for all residents to education, jobs, healthcare, and housing as well as diverse opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation.

## Values

The Riley Center for Livable Communities is guided by the values of our namesake Mayor Riley. Based on the input of our Advisory Board, these values have been identified and are incorporated into our planning and goal setting, project development, and in the work we do.

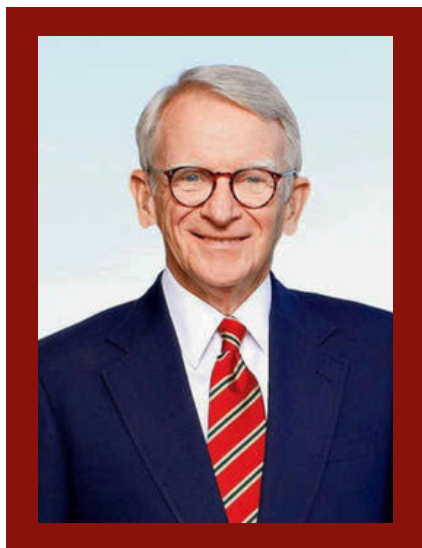
There is no single value or trait that embodies Joe Riley. Rather, it is the combination of vision, courage, inclusiveness, perseverance, and the tenacity to never be outworked that enabled his effective and impactful leadership. Mayor Riley placed an enormous amount of effort into developing attractive housing and engaging public spaces.

Ensuring public access for all to beauty is a central theme of the Mayor's leadership and reflects his authentic caring for every citizen. His leadership approach was inclusive and courageous, and consistently building beautiful parks and buildings reflects the Mayor's commitment to excellence.

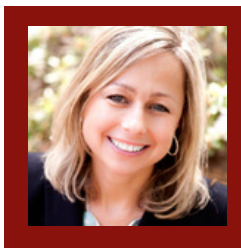
# OUR TEAM

The Riley Center operates with a small team of full-time employees, undergraduate and graduate students, and executives in residence. We supplement our core team with faculty and staff from other areas of the College. Other seasoned professionals are Riley Center Fellows who assist with various projects and grants.

The work of the Riley Center is inspired each day by the legacy, exemplary leadership, and continued counsel of former Mayor Joe Riley. Our 2021 staff included:



**JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE  
FORMER MAYOR OF CHARLESTON  
1975 - 2015



**KENDRA B. STEWART,**  
PH.D.  
RILEY CENTER DIRECTOR



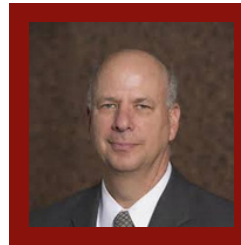
**ALISON BURKEY, M.P.A.**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH



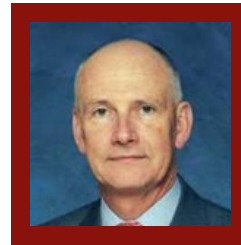
**MARLA ROBERTSON,**  
M.P.A.  
CAP DIRECTOR



**JUDY MILLESEN,**  
PH.D.  
DIRECTOR OF MPA



**GERALD "JERRY" GORDON,**  
PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE



**BOB O'NEILL,**  
M.P.A.  
EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE



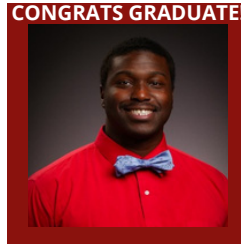
**CHARLTON BROWNELL,**  
M.P.A.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
CONGRATS GRADUATE!



**CAITLIN BOLGER,**  
M.P.A / M.E.S.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



**JENA COPLEY,**  
M.E.S.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



**RYAN GREEN,**  
M.P.A.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT  
CONGRATS GRADUATE!



**KIT KELLY,**  
M.P.A / M.E.S.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



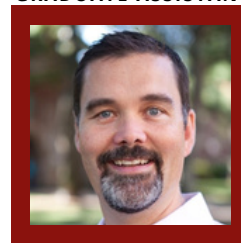
**BRENDAN STANDISH,**  
M.P.A / M.E.S.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



**LINDSAY WALLACE,**  
M.P.A.  
GRADUATE ASSISTANT



**MATT NOWLIN,**  
PH.D.  
FACULTY FELLOW



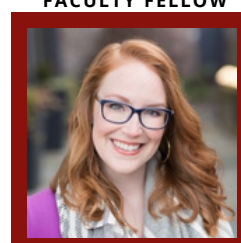
**BRUMBY MCLEOD,**  
PH.D.  
FACULTY FELLOW



**MAREN TROCHMANN,**  
PH.D.  
FACULTY FELLOW



**BILL TOMES,**  
M.A.  
FELLOW



**ALI TITUS,**  
M.P.A.  
FELLOW



# OUR WORK

The Riley Center offers a variety of professional services tailored to fit the needs of those who we serve, including:

**STRATEGIC  
PLANNING,  
PROGRAM  
EVALUATION, AND  
POLICY ANALYSIS**

**LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**MEETING AND  
FOCUS GROUP  
FACILITATION**

**BOARD TRAINING  
AND TEAM  
DEVELOPMENT**

**GRANT WRITING  
AND RESEARCH  
SUPPORT**

**SURVEYS, DATA  
COLLECTION,  
AND DATA  
ANALYSIS**



# BY THE NUMBERS

Grant Funds in 2021

\$750,400

Local Government Employees Who Received Training

350+

Nationwide

Cities and Counties Served

62

Total Grants and Contracts

29

---

## SPOTLIGHT:

# Local Government Leadership Institute

---

In 2021, the Riley Center, in conjunction with Francis Marion University and Coastal Carolina University, hosted its fifth year of the Local Government Leadership Institute in Lake City, SC.

This program is designed to provide a skill-building educational experience for new and potential executive-level managers in South Carolina local governments. The program is intended to prepare participants to affect change in their organizations, and ultimately to improve the communities in which they live.

Twenty-five South Carolina local government employees graduated from the Local Government Leadership Institute in April 2021, and the sixth class began in October 2021. Participants cover topics like budgeting, planning, HR, managing effectively, and more.

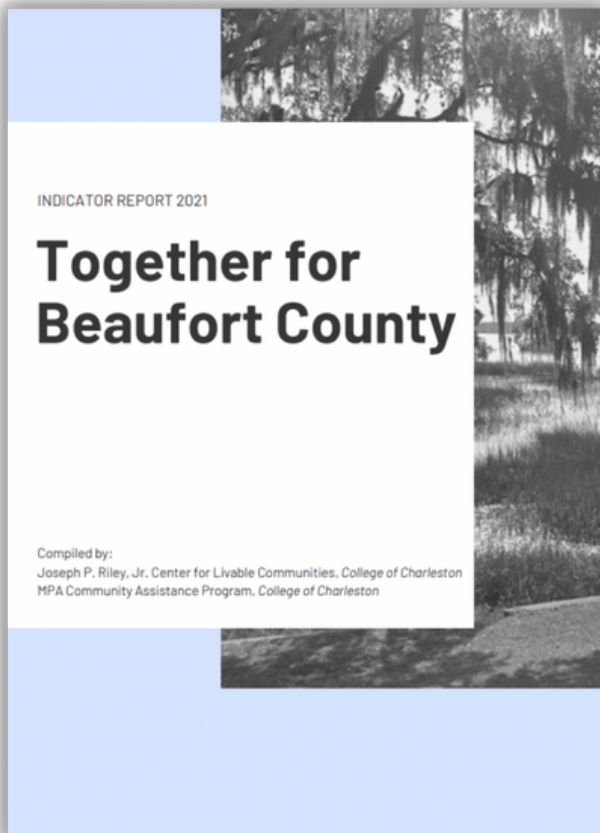


---

## SPOTLIGHT:

# Together for Beaufort County

---



Together for Beaufort County is a consortium of groups that aim to address specific societal needs in their community. It represents the community's commitment to collaborative work to achieve positive collective impact.

The Riley Center worked with Together for Beaufort County to produce a report that examined the social well-being, health, education, environment, and economy of Beaufort County. The purpose was to find the areas in which the community is doing well, and the areas that are in the most need of improvements to be addressed by the group. The report was designed to be easy to read and accessible to everyone.

The report was presented to the group in June 2021 and is currently being used to address problem areas in Beaufort County. In 2022, the Riley Center is working to produce a report specifically focused on education in the county.

# HIGHLIGHTS



The Riley hosted the third year of the Riley Mayors' Design Fellowship in June 2021. This program is in partnership with Clemson University, the Municipal Association of SC, and the SC Arts Commission. We pair SC Mayors with Clemson graduate students and experts in fields such as landscape architecture and downtown revitalization in order to address an issue or a proposed project in their town or city.

Fall of 2021, The Riley Center helped to design and conduct a statewide employee engagement survey for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

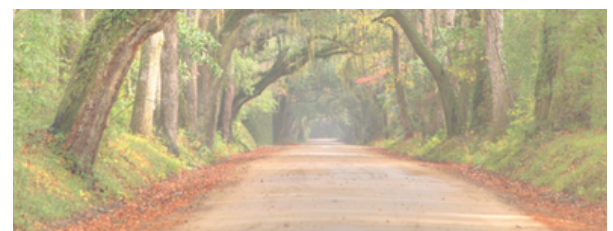
The Riley Center oversaw the development of the strategic plans for the Isle of Palms and Dorchester County's Public Safety division.

In January of 2021, The Riley Center oversaw the largest South Carolina City and County Management Association (SCCCMA) event yet!

SCCCMA is comprised of 180 city and county managers, administrators, and assistants throughout the state. The group meets twice a year for professional development sessions, ample networking, swapping best practices, and more.

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry worked with the Riley Center and the Master of Public Administration Community Assistance Program (CAP) to develop a *Vital Signs*® Report for the Foundation's four-county service area.

Both nationally and internationally, these reports help to measure the vitality of local communities and support actions toward improving a collective quality of life.



2021  
**VITAL SIGNS  
REPORT**

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

# ADVISORY BOARD

  
COLLEGE of CHARLESTON  
at WestEdge  
Controller's Office  
Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities  
Office of Procurement  
176 Lockwood Drive

**THE RILEY CENTER IS VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THIS DISTINGUISHED ADVISORY BOARD WHO OFFER THEIR TIME, COMMITMENT, AND EXPERTISE TO ACHIEVE THE RILEY CENTER'S MISSION.**



DAVID AGNEW  
CAPERS BARR  
RUSTY BENNETT  
RON BOGLE  
SANDRA CAMPBELL  
GINNY DEERIN  
CHARLTON DESAUSSURE, JR.  
YVONNE EVANS  
FOSTER GAILLARD  
LEWIS HUDGINS  
LEE HIGDON  
RAY HUFF  
LINDA KETNER  
CHRIS MARLIN  
CLAY N. MIDDLETON  
LAYTON MCCURDY  
SCOTT PARKER  
ELISE PARTIN  
DAVID RAWLE  
ROBERT ROSEN  
HENRY SMYTHE  
MARY ANN SULLIVAN  
STEVE SWANSON  
SHEILA WERTIMER





# COMPLETE PROJECT LIST

## **Strategic Planning & Facilitation**

Dorchester County  
SC Department of Mental Health  
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry  
Florence Crittendon  
Charleston Regional Flood Warning M-App  
CIVIC Microbond Grant  
Heron Foundation: Encourage Community Foundation  
Together Beaufort County  
King Street Strategic Plan  
Tri-County Cradle to Career One Region  
Rent Responsibly Short-Term Rental Study  
Charleston Resilience Network partnership

## **Local Government/Nonprofit Capacity Building**

Columbia Fire Department  
Charleston County  
City of West Columbia Efficiency Study  
South Carolina City/County Management Association  
SC Clerks to County Council  
Municipal Association of South Carolina  
SC Association of Counties  
Isle of Palms Strategic Plan  
Sustainability Institute Americorp Program  
Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities

## **Training and Professional Development**

EDGE: Engaging, Developing, Growing, and Empowering your Local Government through Leadership and High Performance  
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Conference  
Isle of Palms Supervisory Training  
Local Government Leadership Institute  
Charleston County  
International City/County Management Association

## **Community Partners**

Center for Creative Retirement  
Social Emotional Learning Alliance of SC  
Vantage Point Foundation  
Charleston Leaders  
SC Department of Veteran Affairs

## **Mayor Riley Legacy**

Riley Mayors' Design Institute  
Archiving Riley documents