

Columbia Urban Leadership Center

- **Co-Chairs Selected for Ad Hoc Committee**

Two Columbia-area leaders, Donna Sorensen and Justin Strickland, have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands Ad Hoc Property Subcommittee for the Columbia Urban Leadership Center project. The purpose of the Committee is to review the long-term property and program plan as approved by the Board of Directors in March 2009, evaluate plan status and impacting issues, and formulate recommendations to the Board of Directors on how best to move forward with the execution of the plan specific to Columbia. This ‘ad hoc’ or temporary organizational committee consists of four members.

Committee member qualifications include having a background in one or more of the following areas:

- Community leadership, presence, and engagement
- Business and Financial relationships
- Construction (commercial or residential)
- Design and Land Use (Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning)
- Girl Scout Governance Experience (either pre- or post-alignment)



Donna Sorensen has previously served as a board chair of the Girl Scout Council of the Congaree Area, Inc. Just a few of her other leadership positions were as board member of both the University of South Carolina Child Development and Research Center and the State of South Carolina Department of Education Taskforce on Nutrition and Health Among our Youth. After graduating with a Master of Science in Nutrition from Cornell University and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Chemistry, from Wesleyan

University, a couple of her employers were Johns Hopkins Hospital and the University of Florida Cancer Center, Shands Hospital. She was the First Lady of the University of South Carolina from 2002 – 2008.



F. Justin Strickland is the president of Southern First Bank/Greenville First Bank in Columbia. Currently, he is the board chair of the Children's Trust of South Carolina. Previously, he was the board chair of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce where he is still a board member. He was board chair of Junior Achievement and a board member of Boy Scouts--Indian Water Council where he was also the former chair of the Explorer Division. He received a BS, Finance, from the University of South Carolina and attended the Graduate School of Banking of the South at LSU. Past affiliations also include the Columbia Urban League, the Business Association of Columbia, the United Way and Rotary. In 1999 he received the South Carolina Outstanding Young Bankers Award.

They are joined by Mel Stebbins, retired Senior Vice President and General Manager, WIS-TV, and Mary Winter Teaster, Managing Director-Broker in charge of CB Richard Ellis and a current council board member.

- **Committee's Key Duties & Tasks**

- Review and become familiar with the Board-approved Program and Property Plan.
- Fully understand the intent of the Urban Leadership Center concept and how it relates to quality programming, community presence, advocacy, and long-term support to girls in South Carolina.
- Conduct current environmental analysis in relationship to decision from March, 2009.
 - Inter-linkage to Camp Congaree, Office, etc.
 - Timing
 - Financial
 - Presence
 - Community Support (both time and finance)
- Formulate recommendations to the board regarding next steps in taking the plan to reality. Create a timeline of work for key tasks as listed above.

- **Committee's Next Steps**

- Create a timeline of work for key tasks.
- Prepare recommendations to the Board and present at the Annual Meeting in November, 2010.