



PICKENS COUNTY

SUMMER 2022

NEWSLETTER

PICKENS COUNTY IS HIRING HEROES

- AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE
- LONG-TERM & SHORT-TERM DISABILITY
- LIFE INSURANCE
- ON-SITE NURSE PRACTITIONER
- 11 PAID HOLIDAYS
- PAID SICK LEAVE
- PAID ANNUAL LEAVE
- SC RETIREMENT SYSTEM BENEFITS
- EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- CELL PHONE PROVIDER AND GYM MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Pickens County is hiring heroes who want to begin a rewarding career in public service with the sheriff's office, EMS or county fire service. Find all current vacancies by visiting the human resources page of our website and clicking on "Job Openings." Employment applications are also available online.

co.pickens.sc.us



OPPORTUNITY FAIR

Monday, August 8
Monday, September 12

There are two more opportunities to apply or learn more about serving on a board or commission at the Opportunity Fair in the lobby of Council Chambers on Aug. 8 or Sept. 12 from 5 PM - 6:30 PM, immediately before the council meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AMONG GRADUATES OF APPALACHIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES

County Administrator Ken Roper and Trent Acker, Executive Director of the WorkLink Workforce Development Board that serves jobseekers in Pickens County and the surrounding area, are among the 39 Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI) fellows who graduated from the program this summer. ALI is a leadership and economic development program sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission.



In the nine months leading up to graduation, fellows participated in three virtual sessions and three in-person sessions, all of which included skill-building seminars with regional experts, peer-to-peer learning, and case study analysis. All aspects of the curriculum were designed to equip fellows with the knowledge and network needed to create positive change in their communities.

“The Appalachian Leadership Institute was an invaluable experience as I absorbed new strategies and regional approaches to shared Appalachian issues,” Roper said. “But more than these specific tools, I came away heartened to see so many committed public servants working diligently to solve problems in our mountain homes.”

Acker said, “I am grateful for the opportunity to spend the last nine months working and learning with leaders from across Appalachia. We discussed common issues facing our communities, shared best practices, and established connections that I am certain will benefit us all for years to come. ”

Fellows will continue serving their communities through civil service, finance, healthcare, recovery, tourism, and a variety of other public and private sectors. Additionally, as graduates of the Appalachian Leadership Institute, they are now part of the Appalachian Leadership Institute Alumni Network. This program will allow them to continue connecting with, and learning from, other leaders across Appalachia. With each graduating class, the network will continue to grow, connect leaders, and facilitate learning and idea exchange across the 13 Appalachian states.

The background of the entire page is a stylized, semi-transparent American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the colors appearing slightly muted due to the transparency. The flag is positioned diagonally, with the top-left corner of the image showing the stars and the bottom-right corner showing the stripes.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY HOURS

Pickens County non-essential offices will be closed the following dates. Normal hours resume the next business day. This includes all recycle center locations.

MONDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day

MONDAY, SEPT. 5

Labor Day

Have a safe and happy holiday!

PICKENS COUNTY

LEAPS

Leadership Enhancement Academy for Public Servants CLASS OF 2022



**KENDYL
BLACK**



**TOMMY
BLANKENSHIP**



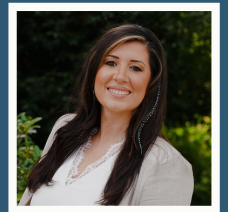
**JEREMY
CRUM**



**MIKE
DUNAWAY**



**DANIEL
FARMER**



**SAMANTHA
GREER**



**ANGELA
HAYES**



**BRENDA
HORNE**



**AMANDA
HOWARD**



**VICTORIA
KNIGHT**



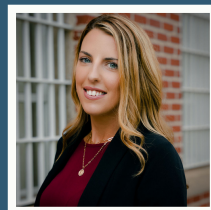
**JORDAN
LEE**



**BRANDON
LOOPER**



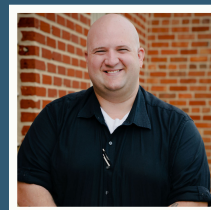
**TIM
OWEN**



**LAUREN
PILGRIM**



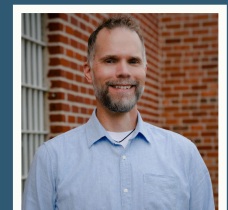
**TEANN
PILGRIM**



**AUSTEN
RICHEY**



**JIMMY
SCRUGGS**



**BOBBY
WOODS**

Not pictured: Shannon Ellenburg, Aubrey Kelly

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF THE
PICKENS COUNTY LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS (LEAPS)**

The first class of the Leadership Enhancement Academy for Public Servants (LEAPS) graduated from the program in July. The LEAPS inaugural class consisted of 20 emerging leaders in Pickens County Government who were selected from various departments throughout the county. Over the course of several weeks, participants heard from county staff who have graduated from the National Association of Counties' (NACo) High Performance Leadership Academy as well as from various leaders in the community, including Clemson Head Football Coach Dabo Swinney; Dan Crosby, owner of Metrocon, Inc.; Michael Cunningham, Interim CEO of AnMed Health Cannon; Angie Farmer, Executive Director of Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County; and Sec. Will Grimsley of the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Each participant demonstrated leadership by speaking in front of the class at least once during the program and by contributing to weekly cohort discussions about leadership in public service. Cohort members were strategically assigned to bring employees together who may not have previously worked together in order to strengthen communication and relationships between departments for more efficient and effective public service. Those who wanted to gain a deeper understanding of county government as a whole had the option to complete two Orientation to Government courses through the SC Association of Counties' Institute of Government to receive an enhanced certificate of completion.

Graduates of the LEAPS program were recognized by Chairman Chris Bowers and Rep. Davey Hiott at a special program on July 27.

The LEAPS committee was made up of county staff who have graduation from NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy, including (l-r): Jamie Reynolds, Jessica Varney, Jamie Burns, Katie Corbin, Trad Julian, Tyler Merck, Austin Dunn





COUNTY EMPLOYEES GRADUATE FROM INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL I, RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION FOR SCAC AWARD

Six Pickens County employees recently graduated from the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) Institute of Government Level I, including Lisa Bryant, Human Resources Director; Allison Fowler, Community and Tourism Development Director; Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council; Ken Roper, County Administrator; Jessica Varney, Collaboration Manager; and Tommy Webster, Operations Director. The Institute of Government provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively in county government. It is sponsored by Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program. In order to graduate Level I of the Institute, participants must complete 27 hours of instruction.

"Choosing to work for Pickens County is actually choosing to serve in so many ways," said Council Vice Chairman Roy Costner, who also serves as First Vice President of the SCAC Board. "The South Carolina Association of Counties is all about bringing together local leaders, both elected and non-elected, who choose to serve in their counties. The SCAC Institute of Government classes are critical to understanding local government and how we can best serve the people who live in Pickens County. Keep in mind, these are college level classes that require a commitment of time and perseverance to complete, but more importantly, these classes give us the tools we need to provide the best possible service to our residents. I am very proud and thankful for those people who choose to give their very best by taking the time to learn and graduate from Level I and Level II Institute of Government classes. As Benjamin Franklin said, 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.' To all of our Pickens County graduates, thank you for giving our communities a great return on investment."

Chairman Chris Bowers, Vice Chairman Costner and Councilman Ensley Feemster have all graduated Level I and Level II of the Institute of Government. Councilman Henry Wilson is expected to complete Level I in 2023.

Pickens County also received an honorable mention for the J. Mitchell Graham award at the SCAC Annual Conference for Crisis Intercept Mapping for Suicide Prevention for Service Members, Veterans and their Families. The J. Mitchell Graham Award recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way.