On October 30, the Columbia Urban League honored seven extraordinary individuals at the 45th Annual Fund Campaign and Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, hosted at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. This event recognized seven extraordinary servant leaders and champions who have used their talent and resources to promote healthy communities for citizens in South Carolina. The tremendous community contributions made by these honorees have contributed significantly to the overall quality of life of the Palmetto state through their own community work.

James T. McLawhorn, Jr., President and CEO of the Columbia Urban League, states, "The overall economic future depends on all communities being healthy. These honorees epitomize the essence of this year's theme of "Healthy Communities Promote Economic Empowerment" because they have continuously promoted healthy communities through their individual and collective efforts and support for social justice, civil discourse, corporate social responsibility, community service, volunteerism, philanthropy and education." Mr. McLawhorn concludes, "Through our honorees efforts, they have enhanced the quality of life for citizens of our state."

The 2012 Equal Opportunity Dinner Honorees are: Mr. John Baker, Mrs. Sue Berkowitz, Mr. Reggie Gallant, Mr. Bobby Gist, Dr. Milton Kimpson, Dr. Harris Pastides, and Mr. Ronald Tryon.

This event brings together an array of diverse individuals and stakeholders, underscoring the importance of our collective responsibility to further healthy communities through promoting economic opportunity for all. Individuals, organizations and corporations that champion equal

opportunities for all and promote civility will be recognized with seven annual awards.