

**South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
Nominations for the Board of Trustees Class of 2026
Term: September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026**



Susan P. Amick

**Senior Vice President – Commercial Banker
South State Bank
Lexington**

Susan Paget Amick is a commercial banker with SouthState Bank supporting its Lexington and Columbia markets in South Carolina. As a commercial banker, Susan handles loans, deposits, and other banking products/services for her commercial clients. Prior to joining SouthState Bank, Susan worked with a large regional bank as vice president and commercial relationship manager. With over 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, Amick has worked in various positions in retail and commercial management for both regional and community banks. Amick is a graduate of Furman University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Business Administration. She is also a graduate of the South Carolina Bankers School and Leadership Lexington County.



Ava Ayers

**CEO – A.P.S. Firm LLC
Ed.D., Liberty University
Moncks Corner**

Ava has an extremely decorated background in education. Immediately after graduating college, she was awarded a 10-year teaching license with the Virginia Department of Education which she continues to hold in addition to her current license with the South Carolina Department of Education. Her dissertation focuses on increasing the persistence of African American/Black students' postsecondary endeavors in rural South Carolina. Ava has a breadth of knowledge concerning education, as she has extensive experience in career counseling, academic advising, job development, teaching, music, and arts with institutions including the University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, the S.C. Technical College System, and several public school systems.

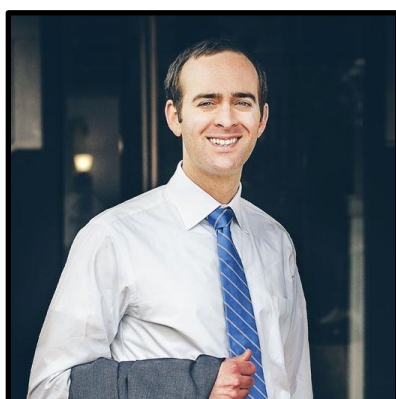
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Jerry Bentley

**Retired Educator and Mental Health Practitioner
Founder/Past President – Black Occupational Therapy Caucus
Columbia**

Jerry Bentley, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, is a retired educator and mental health practitioner. She is a founding member and past president of the Black Occupational Therapy Caucus and current member of its executive committee. Jerry has over 45 years of experience in the practice of occupational therapy, mental health management, education, and consultation. In her active retired status Jerry continues to pursue her passion for justice, equity, and inclusion, formally via MORE Justice, Midland Moms, and L'Arche Greater Washington DC. She is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Bethel AME Church, SCSUNAA, and Church Women United. She consults with organizations to develop public-private partnerships through the application of the occupational therapy process to help businesses address efficiency, equity, inclusion, and risk management.



Wade S. Kolb III

**Member / Attorney
Wyche, P.A.
Greenville**

Wade Kolb is an attorney with Wyche Law Firm in Greenville, SC. A 2000 graduate of the University of South Carolina Honors College, Wade received his J.D. degree from Duke University School of Law. Wade's practice centers on advising educational institutions and employers of all types in navigating complex legal problems. His career handling litigation and appellate work informs the analysis he provides and facilitates his role as trusted outside general counsel. A former teacher, Wade leads Wyche's education law practice, providing guidance to secondary schools and institutions of higher education on policy and handbook reviews, student discipline and honor code matters, and regulatory compliance, including Title IX. Wade also leads Wyche's internal investigations group, helping clients promptly and efficiently collect facts and find solutions to a range of issues.

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Thomas M. Kutyla, Jr.

**Senior Vice President, Commercial Division Manager
United Community Bank
Columbia**

Tom Kutyla serves as the Commercial Division Manager for United Community Bank Columbia Market. Tom recently relocated with his wife (Lea) from Charleston SC on April 1, 2023. He has over 25 years of experience in the banking industry. After college and prior to his banking career, Tom was employed as a manufacturer sales representative for his family's business based out of New York City. He was responsible for marketing 50 product lines to 400+ clients across 3 states and the District of Columbia. Kutyla's hometown is Columbia SC where he graduated from Irmo High School in 1986. He attended Winthrop University and The Graduate School of Banking at Colorado.



Donny McElveen

**Employee Benefits Advisor
Brown & Brown of South Carolina
Mt. Pleasant**

Donny McElveen provides employee benefits consulting and brokerage services for clients in South Carolina and throughout the nation. Donny has led Brown & Brown of South Carolina's Employee Benefits practice since January of 2019. During that time, Brown & Brown has helped their customers develop holistic, robust benefit packages. His passion is helping businesses succeed and reach their culture and financial goals they set out for themselves. He is an avid student of the industry and always striving to stay up to date on the latest and most innovative changes. Donny is a critical thinker who does not rest until the perfect plan is in place for his clients. He specializes in the larger middle market sector, specifically working with self-funded clients. Donny holds a B.S. degree in Travel and Tourism Management from Clemson University and a Master's degree in Human Resource Management, also from Clemson University. Donny resides in Mt. Pleasant, SC with his Wife, Katie, and two sons, Bobby (3) and Meyers (2).

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Adela Mendoza

**Executive Director
Hispanic Alliance of South Carolina
Greenville**

In her role as Executive Director of the Hispanic Alliance of SC, Adela is driving systemic change to catalyze economic opportunity for the emerging Hispanic community and to build a thriving community for everyone. Mendoza is an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, a Liberty Fellow, and an active member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. In 2018 Adela was one of six fellows around the world awarded the McNulty Catalyst Award by the McNulty Foundation and the Aspen Institute for her Student Dreamers Alliance Aspen venture (sc.dreamers.org). Adela serves on the boards of Ten at the Top, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Early College, Artisphere, PRISMA Health Upstate, the Duke Energy SC Upstate Advisory Board, and on Clemson University's Council for Diversity and Inclusion. Her work to advance equity and inclusive economic prosperity has earned her recognition as one of Greenville's most influential Hall of Fame leaders by Greenville Business Magazine, and as a Woman of Influence by GSA Business Report.

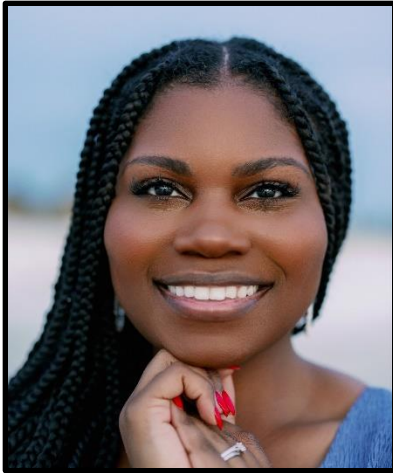


John C. Ramsey

**CEO
Darlington Veneer Company
Darlington**

John Ramsey from Darlington, SC, is a former member of the SCICU Board of Trustees and a 1973 graduate of Charleston Southern University with a BS in Business. He is currently CEO of Darlington Veneer Company. His past board service includes Mcleod Hospital, SCE&G Regional Board, Bank of America Regional Board, Florence Chamber of Commerce, and SC ETV Endowment. He presently serves as a member of the Darlington County Airport Commission, the Charleston Southern Board of Visitors, and the Genesis Health Care Board.

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Kalisha Richardson

**Associate Director, Minority Research
South Carolina Senate
Columbia**

Mrs. Kalisha Richardson is currently the Associate Director of Minority Research for the South Carolina Senate. In addition, Kalisha has an extensive background in higher education, both in the private and public sectors. A graduate of SC State University in 2012, Kalisha is working toward a Master's Degree from Webster University with a May 2023 completion date. Her past higher education experience includes Director of Admissions, University of Arkansas, Charlotte, NC, Director of Career Services, Empire Education Group, Charlotte, NC, Director of Admissions, My Computer Career, Charlotte, NC, and Assistant Director of Admissions, South University, Columbia, SC.



Mark A. Robbins, Jr.

**Senior Director, Global Human Resources
Sonoco Products Company
Hartsville**

Mark Robbins resides in Columbia and is presently Senior Director of Global Human Resources for Sonoco Products in Hartsville, SC. With a BA degree in 2009 from William Paterson University of New Jersey and an MBA from Post University in Waterbury, CT, he is presently working on a Masters of Organizational Development and Leadership degree from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA. He is presently serving as an Adjunct Professor, College of Online and Continuing Education at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH.

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Patrick Z. Sapp
Chief Operating Officer
Universal Therapeutic Services
Greenville

Patrick Sapp is a 1996 graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Psychology, Sociology. He is presently working toward a Master of Arts degree in Professional Counseling at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ. He is presently CEO of Universal Therapeutic Services, LLC, in Greenville, SC. Patrick starred as a football player at Clemson University and also played from 1997 to 2002 in the National Football League with professional teams in Phoenix and San Diego.



Kevin M. Short
Senior Vice President, Mid South Regional Director – Middle Market
Banking
TD Bank
Greenville

Kevin Short is a former member of the SCICU Board of Trustees. He serves as Metro Mid South's Regional Group Director for Middle Market Banking with TD Bank. He also serves as a Director for the TD Bank Community Development Corporation which operates TD Banks New Markets Tax Credit Program. Kevin has more than 40 years of experience in corporate and government banking, marketing, sales, sales management, and project management working with large and middle market companies in a variety of diverse industries. Kevin graduated from Clemson University with a BS in Finance and a minor in Economics. Kevin also completed the Young Executive Institute from UNC at Chapel Hill and is a graduate of the South Carolina Bankers School and the East Carolina University RMA Credit School. He has successfully earned his Series 7, 63 and 24 designations of the National Association of Securities Dealers.