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A Bridge to the White House

Furman University

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A BRIDGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

In late June, Furman University's Bridges to a Brighter Future was one of 20 programs nationwide invited to participate in the National Summer Learning Day Fair at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. First Lady Michelle Obama, as part of her Reach Higher initiative, was at the fair to tour student demonstrations and deliver remarks.

The event, cohosted by the Department of Education and the National Summer

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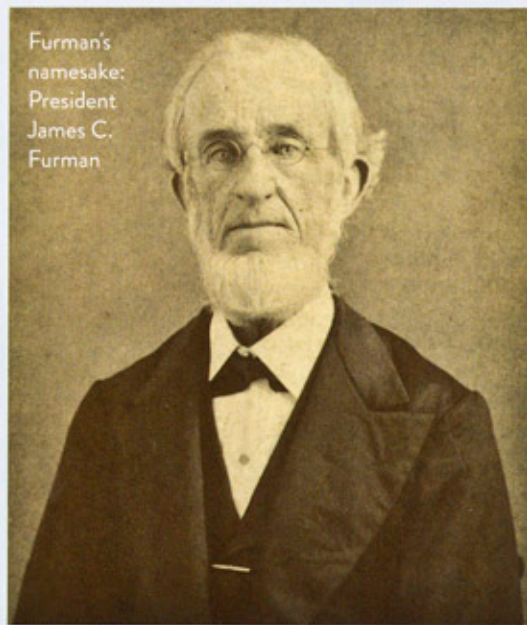
Learning Association, brings together high school students and education leaders from across the country to highlight the critical role summer learning plays in preparing young people for successful college entry and completion.

Tobi Kinsell, director of Bridges to a Brighter Future, accompanied three of the program's students to Washington—Christian Monsolve, a Mauldin High School graduate who will attend Clemson University; Daniel Arnold, a Wade Hampton High graduate who will attend Erksine College; and Nevonne Burrell, a rising senior at Hillcrest High School. Each presented work they had completed through the program.

Bridges is a college access and pre-college enrichment program for Greenville County high school students whose potential outdistances their circumstances. It engages students in a seven-year program that is year-round and begins after ninth grade and ends at college graduation.

As part of the program, students attend a four-week residential program on the Furman campus for three consecutive summers beginning in ninth grade. A college transition and retention program, "Crossing the Bridge," helps students enroll in college, stay in college, and graduate.

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Furman's namesake: President James C. Furman

FROM THE VAULT

A Duel

What you may not have known, remembered, or thought possible at Furman



A duel between two students resulted in the first expulsions from Furman. The incident was described in a September 3, 1860, letter from President James C. Furman to his wife. The sound of pistols that followed the morning bell brought Furman to the veranda to find two students being restrained by classmates, one with a bullet in his shoulder. At a party the night before, the wounded student, John C. Davanel, had insulted his classmate, the son of Colonel Scafie of Unionville, South Carolina. Davanel had refused to apologize, which resulted in the early morning duel. In his letter, Furman notes that dueling had been banned at the school only six years before, in 1854. The university promptly sent both parties home.