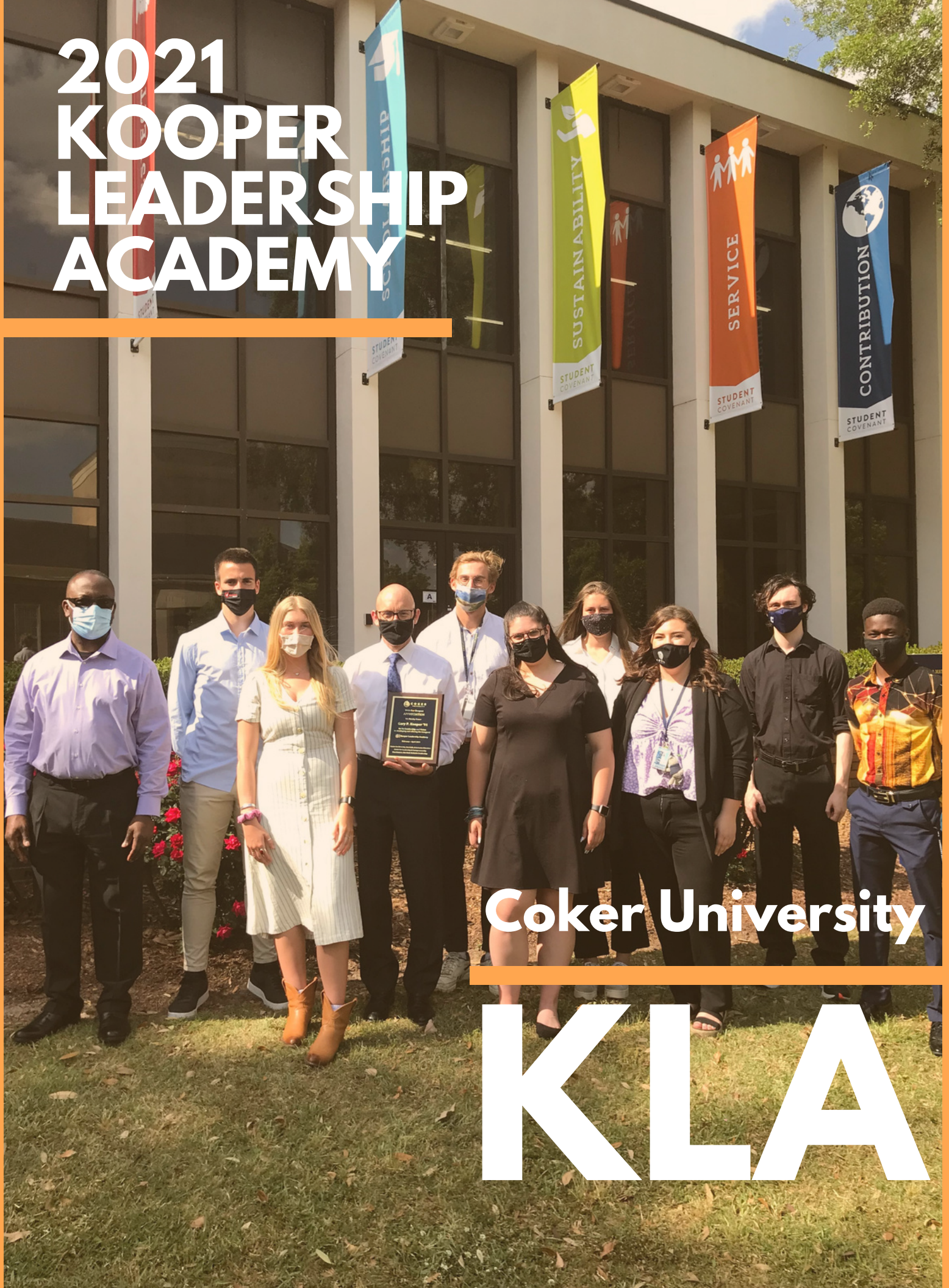


# 2021 KOOPER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Coker University

KLA



# Two Centers. One Goal. Inclusive Leadership.

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**Darlene Small, Director**  
Center for Diversity, Interfaith,  
and Inclusion Education



**Andy Burkemper, Director**  
Center for Leadership  
and Entrepreneurship



**Gary Kooper, Founder**  
Kooper Leadership Academy  
Coker Alumnus, Class of '91

## It's Your Story.

At Coker University, we encourage all of our students to explore their passions, step out of their comfort zones, and write their own unique stories. We believe in the power of collaboration and innovation to create new experiences and growth opportunities for our diverse student leaders.

During the Spring 2021 semester, two center directors and a role-model Coker alum came together to create and launch the inaugural Kooper Leadership Academy, a cohort-based experiential learning program that challenged 11 students to learn new skills, grow their career networks, and make a meaningful impact in the Hartsville community.

For each student participant, Darlene and Andy coordinated job shadows with professional connections, informational interviews with alumni connections, and team-based community impact projects. Gary developed and led three leadership workshops in February, March, and April, focusing on the three key areas of **Time**, **Focus**, and **Effort** in achieving lasting results.

Our students stepped up to the challenge, committed to the process, and left their mark on this incredible learning experience. We are excited to launch the 2nd Annual Kooper Leadership Academy during Spring 2022.

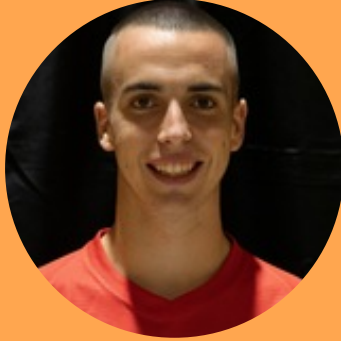
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# 2021 Cohort

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**Kevin Dicey**  
Business Administration



**Guillermo Falo**  
Management



**Kelsey Gibbons**  
Marketing



**Murishi Irankunda**  
Interdisciplinary Studies



**Britt Kabo**  
Entrepreneurship,  
Sport Management



**Mary Kooper**  
Entrepreneurship



**Shanelle Lee-Burns**  
Psychology,  
Criminology



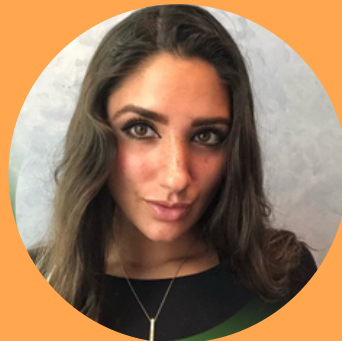
**Justus Lehmann**  
Business Administration



**Julie McMillan**  
Biology



**Tim Quillens**  
Management



**Alicia Quinteros**  
Management

**"THE MISSION OF KOOPER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IS TO ENGAGE THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF INDIVIDUALS, EMPOWERING THEM TO CONSIDER THE VALUE THEY BRING TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS ON A DAILY BASIS."**

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# Professional Connections

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## **Benjamin Brown**

Executive Director of Technology, Darlington County Schools

## **Ted Brown**

Manufacturing Technical Support Leader, GE Healthcare

## **Scott Byrne**

Assistant Director of Global Sustainability, Sonoco

## **Mike Gleba**

Product Sourcing Leader, GE Healthcare

## **Dr. Jordi Jones**

Optometrist, Jones Family Eyecare

## **Justin Powell**

Director, Associate Digital Experience at Walmart Technology

## **Judit Sobel**

Materials/Logistics Operations Leader, GE Healthcare

## **Marcy Thompson**

Vice President, Marketing and Innovation, Sonoco

## **Bran Turner**

County Director, Department of Social Services

## **Julie Tyler**

Sales Consultant, VIP Magazine

## **Andrea White**

Global Director, Sonoco Performance System & Organizational Development



**Time**



**Focus**



**Effort**

# Alumni Connections

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## **Shelly Catlett**

General Dentist, Bamberg Dentistry

## **Katie Cooper**

Consultant, Cerner Corporation

## **Cameron Flotow**

CEO, Phlock, Inc. and Web Developer at Trinity Collegiate School

## **Patrick Flynn**

Lead Communications Consultant, Duke Energy Corporation

## **Henrik Hellbe**

Co-Founder and CEO, nightli

## **Danny Johnson**

Vice President, North Industrial Machine, LLC

## **Demetrious McCoy**

Strategic Planning and Integration Officer, Truist

## **Amesha McElveen**

Logistics Coordinator, Dutton Polymer Group

## **Gabriel Mens**

Senior Product Sustainability Analyst, Brooks Running

## **Felix Schweyer**

Industry Account Executive, SAP

## **Autumn Walters**

Program Director, Brain Balance Achievement Centers

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# Community Impact

Students had only four weeks to plan, promote, and execute team projects to give back to the community and put their news skills to the test.

**\$287**

## CYPRESS ADVENTURES

Alicia, Mary, and Shanelle's Taco Tuesday Fundraisers raised \$287 to support the Peace Tribe project of Cypress Adventures.

## DARLINGTON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Julie and Kevin's Bake Sale raised \$106 and collected 37 pet products to support the local animal shelter.

**\$106+**  
**37 products**

**\$100+**  
**111 items**

## HARTSVILLE INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

Guillermo, Murishi, and Tim's Food Donation project raised \$100 and collected 111 food items and hygiene products.

## HARTSVILLE SOUP KITCHEN

Britt, Justus, and Kelsey's GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign raised \$105 for the local soup kitchen.

**\$105**



**Kooper Leadership Academy**

**Time.**

the great equalizer

**Focus.**

do simple better

**Effort.**

the power is in you

# Coker University

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**Inspiring lifelong  
passion for learning.**

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