



2017 Recipient of the Distinguished Research Award

H. Gibbs Knotts

The College of Charleston's Distinguished Research Award, recognizes those faculty members who have a significant career of research. This year's award goes to Dr. Gibbs Knotts from the Department of Political Science.

Since hired as a chair of Political Science in 2012, Professor Gibbs Knotts has established an exceptional scholarly record while meeting the demands of leading a large department. As a scholar of Southern Politics, Gibbs has published a university-press book, fifteen peer reviewed articles, three book chapters, and over 30 op-ed pieces in local and national outlets that address timely and pressing issues related to local, state, regional and national politics.

Gibbs focuses on issues around the political impact of Southern identity. His recently published coauthored book, *The Resilience of Southern Identity: Why the South Still Matters in the Minds of Its People* (UNC Press, 2017) is the culmination of analysis of how Southerners understand their Southern identity. As the Executive Editor of UNC Press noted, *The Resilience of Southern Identity* is "the first book in 30 years to use the tools of social scientists to investigate Southern identity." The committee tasked with selection for the Distinguished Research Award was also impressed with how Gibbs' work reaches a wide audience inside academia as well as in the media. For example, he has published several pieces on the complicated effect of race and ideology in the rise of Senator Tim Scott, South Carolina's first African-American Senator since Reconstruction.

Gibbs fills a large gap in the literature while also addressing the rapidly changing nature of American politics. We hope this award will continue to inspire a productive research agenda that addresses critical research interests in the larger public and within the academy.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Gibbs Knotts' outstanding career of research with the 2017 Distinguished Research Award.

