

# SC-SIC Council News



"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"

Volume 39, Issue 3, 2019

## Dr. Diane Monrad Named 2019 SIC Advocate of the Year

Dr. Diane M. Monrad, of the University of South Carolina College of Education, has been named 2019 SIC Advocate of the Year by the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees.

The award was presented March 30 during the SC-SIC Annual Meeting in Columbia.

The SIC Advocate of the Year Award recognizes exemplary efforts on behalf of School Improvement Councils across South Carolina by individuals

(continued)

see "2019 SIC Advocate of the Year"  
pg. 5

### In this Issue

- From the Executive Director.....pg. 2
- South Florence High SIC Honored for Annual SIC Report to the Parents.....pg. 3
- SC-EPFP to Begin Accepting Applications for 2019-20 in June.....pg. 4
- SC-SIC Member Network Update.....pg. 4
- SC-SIC Board of Trustees Seeks Nominations.....pg. 4

## Hilton Head Island Middle School Improvement Council Winner of 2019 Riley Award for SIC Excellence

The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Hilton Head Island Middle School in the Beaufort County School District has been named the recipient of the 2019 *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence*.

The award was presented SC School Improvement Meeting in Columbia.

The annual *Riley Award* created in 2002 to high-contributions made to the over 13,000 School members who volunteer in the state. The award former SC Governor Education Dick Riley recognizing the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.



L to R: Maria Taylor, friend of Dick and Tunky Riley, Pat Freda, Hilton Head Island Middle School Principal, Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director, Shannon Bedenbaugh, Hilton Head Island Middle SIC Chair

ed March 30 during the Council (SC-SIC) Annual

for SIC Excellence was light the significant public education by Improvement Council in every public school is named in honor of and U.S. Secretary of and his late wife Tunky,

"The Hilton Head Island Middle SIC has done outstanding work very much deserving of this statewide honor," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Dora Leonard. "The work of our School Improvement Councils – involving all stakeholders – is so necessary to make positive and lasting change for our schools, our students, their families, and our state. The Hilton Head Island Middle SIC is a true example of such meaningful collaboration."

Presented with Honorable Mentions for their work last school year were: Chandler Creek Elementary SIC (Greenville County Schools); Chapin Middle SIC (School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties); Flowertown Elementary SIC (Dorchester School District Two); and Hilton Head Island High SIC (Beaufort County School District).

Brief descriptions of the work of this year's Riley Award winner and Honorable Mention SICs can be found [here](#).

# Message from the Executive Director

*Tom F. Hudson*



The end of another school year is just a few days away, bringing us to summer and all the sun, fun, and activities this time of year brings. Summer can also be a period when our local SICs, their leaders, and members can start to look ahead to the upcoming school year – which will be upon us before we know it.

I frequently encourage SICs – if they can – to use this time to think about the direction their work will take in the coming year. What particular goals do they want to set for 2019-20 to help their schools and students? Are there goals carried over from the last school year which can still be achieved? Did their SIC's strategies work, or may there be a need for adjustment based on reviewed results? And how did these efforts tie into their school's Five-Year Improvement Plan?

Asking these questions now, while school is out, can help SICs be ready to take on the new year when the school bell rings again this coming August.

Summer is also a good time for local SICs – working with their SIC District Contact – to look at training for their members. Whether it's "SIC Basics" training or more advanced offerings such as "SIC Leadership" or "SIC Goal Setting," our staff here at SC-SIC is ready to come to you to conduct district-wide or perhaps some individual sessions to help local SICs with their very important work. SIC Chairs and/or principals can get in touch with their SIC District Contact to schedule this training and can check the statewide training schedule posted online at [sic.sc.gov](http://sic.sc.gov).

This is also the season for district superintendents to appoint their designated SIC District Contact for the upcoming school year. While this often will be the same district-level staff member as last year, personnel situations do change. Your SIC District Contacts provide a vital link between our office and our 1,200-plus local SICs. I ask superintendents to look for a letter and a designation form from the SC-SIC office in the coming weeks requesting them to select their SIC District Contact for 2019-20.

We're also taking this time here at SC-SIC to plan ahead for the coming school year, reviewing the resources, tools, and information we make available for our local SICs, and looking for innovative and more effective ways in which we may help them carry out their important work for their school communities.

*(continued)*  
*see "From the Executive Director"*  
*pg. 5*



## SC-SIC Board of Trustees

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# South Florence High SIC Honored for Annual *Report to the Parents*

The School Improvement Council of South Florence High School (Florence 1 Schools) has been named the recipient of SC-SIC's second annual *SIC Report to the Parents Annual Award of Merit*.



The 2019 award was announced at SC-SIC's 2019 Annual Meeting March 30 in Columbia.

The South Florence High SIC previously ranked as one of the five finalists for SC-SIC's annual *Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence* in 2018, 2017, and 2016.

State statute requires that each SIC in South Carolina prepare and disseminate a *Report to the Parents* each spring to inform their parents and others of the school's and SIC's work and progress toward established improvement goals.

"This award is intended to recognize *Report* content, clarity, and design appeal, as well as to stress the importance of the *SIC Report to the Parents* to school communities," said SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson. "We congratulate the South Florence High SIC on its outstanding efforts to excellently fulfill this required aspect of state law."

Over the past five years, SICs have been asked to not only produce these *Reports* for their local communities but to also post them electronically to SC-SIC's online *Member Network* database as part of their accountability process. There, *Reports* are readily available to anyone wishing to read more about the efforts of SICs to achieve progress for their schools and students.

Staff and state Board of Trustees members of SC-SIC review all *SIC Reports to the Parents* posted to the *Member Network* and through discussion and consensus determine an annual award recipient.

Helpful tips and resources to assist SICs in preparing these *Reports* are also available to them on the [SC-SIC website](#).

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## SC-SIC Board of Trustees Seeks Nominations

The SC School Improvement Council Board of Trustees is composed of individuals from every region of South Carolina and serves in an advisory capacity to the SC-SIC office and staff. Board members are elected to three-year terms; vacancies for unexpired terms are appointed by the Board Chair. The Board will be conducting its annual elections in July for the Class of 2022, and it seeks individuals willing to serve and assist the work of SC-SIC statewide.

Members of the Board represent a variety of personal and professional backgrounds (parents, educators, current SIC members, school board members, former legislators, and more), and the Board strives to maintain its diversity. This year, the Board is specifically seeking representatives from the Midlands, Upper Central, and Pee Dee/Coastal regions of the state.

If you know someone who has a demonstrated commitment to public education, or if you yourself are interested in serving on the SC-SIC Board, nominate that person or yourself for consideration for Board membership. Send a resume and letter of interest to SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson at [hudsonTF@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:hudsonTF@mailbox.sc.edu), by Friday, July 12, 2019.

More information on the SC-SIC Board of Trustees can be found on the [SC-SIC website](#).

# SC-EPFP to Begin Accepting Applications for 2019-20 in June

The SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) – a 10-month professional development program for established and emerging leaders in education and related fields designed to work toward the implementation of sound education policy and practice in South Carolina – will begin accepting applications in June through mid-August for the 2019-20 academic year.

SC-EPFP operates under the auspices of the national Education Policy Fellowship Program of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) in Washington, DC ([iel.org](http://iel.org)), which oversees Fellowship programs offered through 18 state sites and the District of Columbia. In South Carolina the program is coordinated by the SC School Improvement Council.

SC-EPFP meets monthly September through June (primarily in Columbia) for a full day of dialogues, interactive exercises, small group policy projects, and more. An overnight Leadership Retreat is scheduled in the fall and a four-day Washington Policy Seminar hosted by the Institute for Educational Leadership is held in the nation's capital in March.

Educators may qualify for recertification or certificate renewal credits, and graduate credits may also be available.

For more on SC-EPFP, including additional program information, application materials, tuition and travel costs, and scholarship opportunities, call the SC-SIC office at 1-800-868-2232 or visit the [SC-EPFP page](#) on the SC-SIC website.



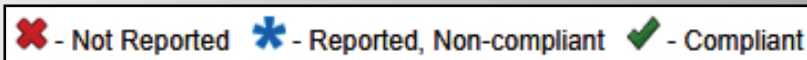
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## SC-SIC Member Network Update

Many of you are familiar with the SC-SIC [Member Network](#), the online database used by South Carolina schools and school districts to report their School Improvement Council membership. The database is completely reset each year, so here are some deadlines and details to keep in mind as you navigate the site.

- **June 1** - SC-SIC requests that schools upload their *SIC Reports to the Parents* by this date each year
- **July 1** - database is reset. After this date, all user accounts are disabled and passwords must be reissued. Users can email SC-SIC Digital and Web Director Claudia Parnell at [cparnell@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:cparnell@mailbox.sc.edu) to request a new password or, alternatively, fill out a new account request.
- **November 15** - statutory deadline to report SIC membership to the SC-SIC state office
- **January 1** - last date to change a blue asterisk to a green check

### Compliance Indicators



Two years ago, SC-SIC updated the *Member Network* compliance symbols to more accurately reflect the SIC's compliance with state reporting laws. If an SIC is reported by the November 15 deadline, the SIC Chair is designated, and the composition of the Council conforms to statute, that status is designated with a green check. If it met the reporting deadline but is out of compliance for other reasons, a blue asterisk is displayed. If the membership is not reported for that school year, a red X is displayed. A red X or a blue asterisk will change to a green check if the compliance error is corrected, but schools have only until January 1 to make the change.

### Upload Issues

Some users have reported problems uploading their *Reports to the Parents*. If you receive an error message while attempting to upload your PDF file, it's probably too large. Adobe Acrobat users can save their files as a smaller size; other users can employ an online tool such as [smallpdf.com](http://smallpdf.com) to reduce file size.

Anyone with questions about the *Member Network* should contact Ms. Parnell for assistance.



# 2019 SIC Advocate of the Year

continued from pg. 1

going above and beyond in actively supporting and promoting the work of SICs within their particular spheres of influence. Previous award recipients have included state and district education leaders, state legislators, and local SIC Chairs and members.



Dr. Diane M. Monrad with SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson

“The SC School Improvement Council is deeply grateful for Dr. Monrad’s strong and unwavering commitment to the principles and practice of SICs in South Carolina, and for her personal and professional championing of their value to our state’s schools and communities,” said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Dora Leonard.

Dr. Monrad is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policies at the UofSC College of Education, and is Director of the College of Education’s SC Educational Policy Center. Over the past 30 years she has managed a variety of educational evaluation and policy research studies, and she has extensive research experience in program evaluation, educational policy analysis, and assessment of educational reform programs. She has also served as principal investigator for a number of education efforts across the state on magnet programs, reading initiatives, gifted education, gap-closing schools, principal evaluation, teacher specialists in low-performing schools, and school climate.

Prior to joining the SC Educational Policy Center in 1995, Dr. Monrad was Director of Research and Evaluation with the SC School Improvement Council, and throughout the years she has also served as both an elected and appointed member of a number of local SICs, and has provided professional development on school climate to SIC members, as well as technical assistance to SC-SIC staff.

Dr. Monrad holds the Ph.D. and M.A. in Psychology from Johns Hopkins University, and the B.A. in Psychology from Duke University. She is the author of numerous publications and reports, and co-author of a book on assessment titled, *Put to the Test*.

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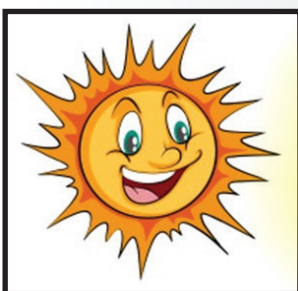
## From the Executive Director

continued from pg. 2

We encourage you to peruse the SC-SIC website to look for these materials. Please make yourself familiar with the site and the many things it has to offer. Keep up with us on social media; “Like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SCSIC) and become part of the conversation on school improvement in our state.

I thank you – all 13,000 of you – for your support and efforts on your local SIC this past school year. SC-SIC looks forward to working along with you (and newly-elected SIC members) in 2019-20. South Carolina’s School Improvement Councils do meaningful things for their schools and their students year after year. SC-SIC is honored to have a hand in those efforts with you.

Here’s wishing you and yours a happy, healthy, and memorable summer! See you in the fall!



# HAPPY SUMMER!