

# SC-SIC Council News



"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"

Volume 40, Issue 2, 2020

## 5 SICs Named 2020 Finalists for Annual State *Riley Award for SIC Excellence*

Five South Carolina School Improvement Councils (SICs) have been named statewide 2020 award finalists for their accomplishments in parent and civic engagement within their school communities.

The SC School Improvement Council's annual *Dick and Tunky Riley*

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see "Finalists for Riley Award Named"  
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## 2020 SC-SIC Annual Meeting Scheduled for April 4

The SC School Improvement Council's 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4, at the SC State Museum, 301 Gervais Street, Columbia.

SIC members from across the state will gather for a day of speakers on topics of interest to local SIC members and to recognize the finalists and winner of the 2020 *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence*.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Sabrina Moore, Director of Student Intervention Services with the SC Department of Education on "Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)," and 2020 Honor Roll Teacher and state Teacher of the Year finalist Sue Weems of Richland School District Two. Attendees will also hear presentations from the five finalists for SC-SIC's 2020 *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence*.

SC-SIC's 2020 SIC Advocate of the Year and the recipient of this year's *SIC Report to the Parents Award of Merit* will also be announced, with the day culminating in the naming of the 2020 *Riley Award for SIC Excellence* winner.

This will be a great day of sharing and learning, as well as celebrating the significant accomplishments of SICs working to make a lasting impact for their school communities.

Visit the SC-SIC website, <http://sic.sc.gov>, for the day's preliminary agenda and registration form. The registration fee for the meeting is only \$35.00 in advance (check, money order or P.O.) and includes lunch and materials. Please note that you must print and mail, email or fax the registration form to the SC-SIC office as the form cannot be submitted electronically. Registrations and payment must be made by Friday, March 27.

We look forward to seeing you at the SC-SIC 2020 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 4, in Columbia!

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# Message from the Executive Director

*Tom F. Hudson*



We're rapidly approaching that time of year – time for the SC School Improvement Council's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 4, in Columbia (see related article in this issue of *Council News*).

This is a wonderful event allowing local SIC members from across the state to come together and learn from one another. I hope that you'll take the opportunity to join us and help contribute to the conversation from SICs honored through our *Riley Award for SIC Excellence* recognitions and other award honorees.

Registration information can be found on the SC-SIC website's [homepage](#).

With a few months remaining in the 2019-20 school year, it's also that time for SICs to think about a few other things related to their Councils: the annual *SIC Report to the Parents*; SIC training; and local SIC member nominations and elections.

As a reminder, the deadline for disseminating your SIC's *Report to the Parents* is April 30 for the 2019-20 school year (see related article in this issue of *Council News*). On the SC-SIC website, we have provided an "*SIC Report to the Parents*" [toolkit](#) to help with this endeavor. There, you'll find some guidelines and examples to help your SIC in crafting its *Report*. The SC-SIC *Member Network* (where we ask local SICs to post their *Reports* by June 1 every year) can also serve as a resource for content and graphic ideas.

This can also be a good time for SICs to think about training – whether its an introductory "SIC Basics" session to get a jump on the new school year, or one of the other more specialized training offerings SC-SIC

*(continued)*

see "From the Executive Director"

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## SC-SIC Board of Trustees

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# Finalists for Riley Award Named

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*Award for School Improvement Council Excellence* was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the more than 13,000 local SIC members who volunteer in the state's 1,100-plus K-12 public schools.

In alphabetical order, this year's *Riley Award* finalists are:

- Chapin Middle SIC (School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties)
- Flowertown Elementary SIC (Dorchester School District Two)
- Millwood Elementary SIC (Sumter School District)
- Pontiac Elementary SIC (Richland School District Two)
- Round Top Elementary SIC (Richland School District Two)

"These five SICs have demonstrated outstanding work on behalf of their school communities," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Dora Leonard. "We congratulate them on their efforts in supporting the impact that parents, educators, and community members can make together for their schools and students."

The winner of the 2020 *Riley Award* will be selected from this year's finalists by an independent panel of reviewers and announced during the SC-SIC Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 4, in Columbia.

The *SC-SIC Riley Award for SIC Excellence* is named in honor of former SC Governor and US Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.



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## 10 Local School Improvement Councils Named to State SC-SIC Honor Roll for 2020

The School Improvement Councils (SICs) of 10 South Carolina public schools have been named to the SC School Improvement Council's (SC-SIC) 2020 *Honor Roll* for their significant efforts to foster civic engagement in public education.

These *Honor Roll* SICs will continue in the running for SC-SIC's annual *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence*. Now in its 19th year, the award is named for the former US Secretary of Education and South Carolina Governor and his late wife, and recognizes the vital contributions made by more than 1,100 local SICs and their nearly 13,000 SIC members across the state.

The 10 School Improvement Councils named to the SC-SIC *Honor Roll* for 2020 are (alphabetically): Academic Magnet High SIC (Charleston County School District); Bluffton Middle SIC (Beaufort County School District); Bookman Road Elementary SIC (Richland School District Two); Chapin Middle SIC (District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties); Flowertown Elementary SIC (Dorchester School District Two); Millwood Elementary SIC (Sumter School District); Pine Grove Elementary SIC (Richland One); Pontiac Elementary SIC (Richland School District Two); Round Top Elementary SIC (Richland School District Two); and St. James High SIC (Horry County Schools).

"These School Improvement Councils have demonstrated their dedication and excellence in supporting the success of their schools," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Dora Leonard. "We applaud their noteworthy efforts and thank them – and all SICs across our state – for the positive and lasting difference they make each day for their schools, parents, and students."

"The value of our state's SICs cannot be stressed strongly enough," said Tom F. Hudson, SC-SIC Executive Director. "When parents, community members, educators, students, and others work together on shared goals for the benefit of all, the positive impact is tremendous. I am very proud of the work and accomplishments of our *Honor Roll* SICs this year."

# Design + Content: Creating an Effective *SIC Report to the Parents*

by Claudia Parnell  
SC-SIC Digital & Web Director

The *SIC Report to the Parents* is first and foremost a statement to the school community highlighting the School Improvement Council's efforts in supporting the goals of the school's five-year plan. The *Report* isn't intended to be information issued by the school or district in respect to school or district activities, but as being written and disseminated by the SIC. With that said, there are important things to consider when crafting the *Report*:



- Use a font that is easy to read. Elaborate or artsy fonts have their place but aren't effective at delivering content. Your audience needs a typeface that is clear and legible in order to capture and hold their attention.
- Make sure that the copy is concise and understandable. You're writing for a very diverse group, so keep it simple. Jargon, acronyms, and overly long sentences can be off-putting and unpleasant to read. Bullet points are an excellent way to deliver your facts.

• Tailor your information to the results of the SIC's efforts. If the Booster Club raised \$10,000.00 for playground equipment

that's great, but it's not necessarily an SIC accomplishment. Stick primarily to the work of the Council.

- Pay attention to your format. Six- or four- panel brochures, newsletters, and bulletins are great for delivering information in an enjoyable fashion.
- Incorporate graphic elements and/or photos into your design, including the school logo. Leave enough white space around them and your content to avoid a crowded appearance.

While you want your *Report* to be attractive and eye-catching, there are other aspects of the content itself that are equally important:

- The title should be "*SIC Report to the Parents*," "*SIC Report to the People*," or something similar. Make certain the title includes "SIC" or "School Improvement Council."
- The *Report* needs to have the name and address of the school, the date of the *Report*, school address and contact information, the name of principal, and the names of the SIC members and officers displayed. Include at least one email address or phone number for the SIC.
- The primary content should highlight the Council's work toward achieving its goals, particularly as they relate to the school's five-year improvement plan. While the narrative in the *SC School Report Card* may detail some of the SIC's achievements (as the narrative bears the names of both the principal and SIC Chair), it is important to remember that the *Report Card* narrative and the *SIC Report to the Parents* serve different purposes. It may be helpful, however, to provide a reference or link to *School Report Card* in the *Report to the Parents*.
- Optional content can include tidbits about the things that makes your school different, such as special challenges or conditions, and programs unique to the school: language immersion, arts-infused, single-gender, STEM, Montessori, etc. Test results may be included, but remember that many of these are included in the *SC School Report Card*. Other items to add could be recognition of students, faculty, and staff that have received particular honors or awards. School achievements such as SACS accreditation, Palmetto's Finest, or participation in state or national events may also be highlighted.

Check out the [SC-SIC website for a toolkit](#) that provides additional guidance on how to create the *Report* and to view examples of outstanding *Reports* selected by the SC-SIC office. Always feel free to contact us directly with any questions, and happy *Reporting*!

# The CFEC Scene!

**Carolina Family Engagement Center staff making tools, trainings, and materials available to all stakeholders!**



Sharing CFEC & Family Engagement enthusiasm at Rock Hill Schools' Fall School Improvement Council meeting! L-R: Bill Cook, Julia Beaty (CFEC), Kelly Scott, Juan Roldan

The power of parent, school, and community collaboration was showcased at Burton Pack Elementary at their Parent Breakfast! The school's Family Engagement Specialist Ms. Louallen (center front) shared ways that parents can become engaged with the school's SIC.



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**Facebook -**

**@CFECatUofSC - and**

**Instagram -**

**uofscfec! Visit the**

**website at**

***cfec.sc.gov* for more**

**family engagement**

**opportunities and**

**resources!**



CFEC Project Director Karen Utter and SC Education Oversight Committee Deputy Director Dana Yow met with Anderson District Two parents about understanding the SC School Report Card.



CFEC Liaisons attended the National Network of Partnership Schools Leadership Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, led by Dr. Joyce Epstein, to learn about the NNPS family-school-community partnership model. L-R: Ranina Outing (CFEC), Laurann Gallitto (CFEC), Lorilei Swanson (CFEC), Brenda Thomas, Joyce Epstein, Julia Beaty (CFEC)



Lori Chappelle, CFEC teacher partner, reviews James M. Brown Elementary School's Title I Family Engagement Plan with Lorilei Swanson, CFEC Regional Family Engagement Liaison.

The Carolina Family Engagement Center is located within SC-SIC in the University of South Carolina College of Education and is funded through grant U310A180058 from the U.S. Department of Education.



Dick & Tunky Riley Award  
for  
School Improvement Council  
Excellence

# SC School Improvement Council 2020 Annual Meeting and Riley Award Celebration

Saturday, April 4, 2020  
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM

Vista Room, South Carolina State Museum  
Columbia, South Carolina



## Help us celebrate the work of South Carolina's SICs!

Download the agenda and registration form at the SC-SIC website, <http://sic.sc.gov>

Registration fee is \$35.00 (check, money order or PO)

Fee includes lunch and materials

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### *From the Executive Director*

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provides. As SICs gain new members each year, keeping abreast of training on the roles and responsibilities of local Councils is important and helps SICs in carrying out their work for their school communities. Have a training question? Just reach out to us and we'll do all we can to provide answers and arrange a session for your district.

While many SICs hold their membership nominations and elections process in the fall of each year, a growing number do so in the spring so that they are prepared to start work as soon as school opens. Regardless of when your SIC holds its elections, it's essential that you round up a solid slate of nominations for balloting. Also on the SC-SIC website, you'll find an "[SIC Elections](#)" toolkit with many helpful tips in gathering nominations, holding elections, and involving your school community in the process.

These are just a few things for SICs to think about now that spring is nearly upon us. As you go about your SIC work, please consider us as a ready resource to help you and your SIC be effective and impactful. SICs do indeed make a difference, and we're grateful that you are there to help that difference being made.

I hope to see, and speak, with you all at the 2020 SC-SIC Annual Meeting Saturday, April 4, in Columbia!