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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Four education leaders tapped for state School Improvement Council Board of Trustees

COLUMBIA – Virginia Alston Brown, Ed.D., of Sumter, Michael L. Lisle, Jr., of Summerville, Retha Ross, of Darlington, and E' Lane C. Rutherford, of Pawleys Island, has been named to the South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees, Board Chairman Jeff Nicholson has announced.

Dr. Brown was elected to a full three-year term. Lisle, Ross and Rutherford were appointed to fill the remainder of unexpired terms on the Board, which is composed of 18 members from across the state and acts in an advisory capacity to the SC-SIC. Located in the University of South Carolina, the SC-SIC provides training, resources and technical assistance to the 17,000 parent, community, staff, and student members of legislatively-mandated SICs in every South Carolina public school.

“These outstanding individuals have a deep commitment to education and a passion for well being of South Carolina’s children,” said Nicholson. “We welcome them and are very fortunate to have their contributions to the Board, the SC-SIC and our vision for the future of our state’s public schools.”

Dr. Brown is a 35-year career educator, having served as a classroom teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, and principal on the elementary and middle school levels. She has been the director of instruction for Sumter School District 17 for the last seven years.

Lisle’s professional career includes nearly 10 years in educational services, including leadership positions with the Communities in Schools program in Florida, and as director of academic intervention services with the Florida Department of Education. He currently serves as director of children and youth services for Trident United Way in North Charleston.

Ross has been a volunteer in public schools in a number of communities for over 30 years, serving as a reading tutor, room parent and teacher’s aide. A strong advocate for parent, teacher and student involvement in schools, Ross has also served on the Darlington Middle School SIC and is a past president of the Parent-Teacher Association.

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South Carolina School Improvement Council

“CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION”

Rutherford's professional background includes service in youth ministry and civic education programs. A former executive director of Kids Voting SC for Georgetown County, and a past parish administrator for Holy Cross Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, she has been that church's director of youth ministries since 2004.