



SC School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Senator Wes Hayes receives SC-SIC Board’s 2014 Legislator of the Year Award

COLUMBIA – State Senator Robert W. “Wes” Hayes, Jr. (R-District 15, York), has been presented with the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees’ Legislator of the Year Award for 2014.

The award was presented Saturday, March 22, during the SC-SIC Annual Meeting in Columbia.

“Sen. Hayes has been a consistent supporter of School Improvement Councils and education in our state, highlighting the fact that education is not a partisan issue, but an issue of sound public policy,” said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Ellen M. Still in presenting the award. “Through his leadership, his words and his actions, he has shown time and again that he values our schools, our students, our educators, our parents, and our state’s School Improvement Councils.”

A native of Rock Hill, Sen. Hayes has served in the South Carolina Senate since 1991, previously serving in the South Carolina House of Representatives representing District 46 from 1985-1991. He is currently serving on the Senate’s Banking and Insurance Committee (Chair), Education Committee (K-12 Subcommittee Chair), Ethics Committee (Past Chair), Finance Committee, and Medical Affairs Committee.

Sen. Hayes earned his B.S. degree in 1975 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was President of his class and Battalion Commander. He served five years in the US Army’s 82nd Airborne Division where he was a Master Parachutist, Ranger, and recipient of the Legion of Merit Award. Upon leaving active service, he was a member of the SC Army National Guard until 2005, in which he held the rank of Colonel. He earned his J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1983, and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar and the US District Court of South Carolina in 1983, first practicing at Harrelson, Hayes and Guyton, and later founding his own firm in Rock Hill.

Active in his community, Sen. Hayes serves on the boards of the York County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Westminster Towers, South Carolina Bank and Trust of the Piedmont, and Guardian Fidelity Mortgage Corporation. A longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, he also belongs to a number of other organizations, including the American Legion, Kiwanis, Elks, Gideons, Christian Legal Society, National Lawyers Association, state and county Bar Associations, and the Republican Party.

Sen. Hayes is married to the former Sarah Shurley and has three children, Wes III, Creighton and Margaret.

A core partner of the Center for Educational Partnerships at the University of South Carolina College of Education, SC-SIC was established in state law over 35 years ago to provide the member training, technical assistance, statutory accountability, and operational resources vital to the continued success of the community-based School Improvement Councils in each of the state’s 1,100-plus K-12 public schools.