



# S.C. School Improvement Council

*“Civic Engagement in Public Education”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Six new members join SC-SIC Board of Trustees**

COLUMBIA – Mark A. Bounds of Columbia, Kenneth G. “Ken” Clark of Swansea, Brian R. Hann of Camden, Elizabeth “Liz” Michael of Columbia, Sherri L. Smith of Greenwood, and Fred S. Washington, Jr. of Beaufort, have recently joined the South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees, Board Chairman Jeff Nicholson has announced.

Hann was appointed by Chairman Nicholson to fill an unexpired term. Bounds, Clark, Michael, Smith, and Washington were elected by the Board’s membership to full three-year terms on the Board, which is composed of 21 members from across the state and acts in an advisory capacity to the SC-SIC. Located within the University of South Carolina’s College of Education, the SC-SIC provides training, resources and technical assistance to the 15,000 parent, community, staff, and student members of legislatively-mandated SICs in each of South Carolina’s 1,200 K-12 public schools.

“We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding group of new Board members who are so dedicated to the improvement of public education in our state,” said Nicholson. “We welcome them and look forward to their insight and contributions to the Board, the SC-SIC and to the educational future of our state’s children.”

Mark A. Bounds is the current Deputy Superintendent for Educator Quality and Leadership with the S.C. Department of Education. He has held numerous leadership positions with SDE over the last eight years, including serving as Director of the Office of School Leadership and State Director of the Communities in Schools program. Bounds is retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He holds the Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, the Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Navy College of Command and Staff, and the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Towson University.

Kenneth G. “Ken” Clark is a former member of the South Carolina General Assembly, representing House District 96 (Lexington/Aiken) and having served on the House Education and Public Works Committee and the House K-12 Education Subcommittee. He is currently President/CEO of Christ Central Institute in Wagener, SC. A former member of the Lexington School District 4 Board of Trustees, Clark is retired from the U.S. Navy with rank of Captain and has served in numerous leadership and management positions in the public and private sectors in the field of information and computer systems. He holds the Masters of Public Administration degree in Computer Systems/Management Information Systems from American University, and the Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy.

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Brian R. Hann has been the School Improvement Council Chair for Camden Elementary School for the Arts in Kershaw County. This SIC's outstanding efforts last year led to it being named as a finalist for the SC-SIC's 2008 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. Hann is Occupational and Safety Risk Manager with the University of South Carolina Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management. He holds the designations of Certified Industrial Hygienist, Certified Safety Professional and Associate in Risk Management. Hann also hold the Master of Public Health degree in Environmental Health Science/Industrial Hygiene from the University of South Carolina and the Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science/Community Health from the State University of New York at Cortland.

Elizabeth "Liz" Michael is currently Organizational Development Specialist with SCANA Services, Inc. She previously served as Educational Policy Analyst and Program Director of *South Carolina Business Week* magazine with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Her professional background also includes the positions of Director of Training for National Mentor, Inc., and Associate Director for the Mental Health Association of South Carolina. She currently serves as a gubernatorial appointee to the Advisory Committee on Child Care Regulations. Michael holds the Master of Social Work degree and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Experimental Psychology, both from the University of South Carolina.

Sherri L. Smith is District Coordinator for K-12 Curriculum and Instruction for the Abbeville County School District. A 24-year career educator, she has served in the elementary school classroom teaching Kindergarten, Third Grade, English Language Arts, and Science Lab, and as a school-level curriculum coordinator. She was named District Teacher of the Year for the McCormick County School District in 1999. In her current position, she also serves as the District SIC Contact for Abbeville County. Smith holds the Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix, and the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Lander University.

Fred S. Washington, Jr., currently serves as Chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Education. Recently retired as Director of the Beaufort County Department of Social Services, a position he held for 27 years. His professional work also includes service as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Worker and Supervisor, Director of Hawthorne House Community Center in Roxbury, Mass., Manpower Director of Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services, Pupil Personnel Services Director for the Beaufort County School District, and Interim Director of the Colleton County Department of Social Services. Washington is a graduate of Boston University.