



S.C. School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Award winners to be highlighted at SC-SIC luncheon, Saturday, March 14, in Columbia

COLUMBIA – The efforts of local School Improvement Councils, along with those of education and community leaders, will be highlighted at the S.C. School Improvement Council’s (SC-SIC) 2009 Awards Luncheon, Saturday, March 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Richland School District Two Conference Center, Columbia Place Mall, 7201 Two Notch Road, Columbia.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Bud Ferillo, owner of Ferillo and Associates, Inc., a Columbia-based public relations firm. He is the producer/director of the acclaimed documentary film, *Corridor of Shame*, which focuses on the inequities of funding and resources in South Carolina’s rural public schools. Ferillo is also helping to spearhead the “Goodbye Minimally Adequate” effort to amend the South Carolina Constitution to mandate the state’s provision of a high-quality public education for its children.

At the luncheon, the SC-SIC’s annual Advocate of the Year Award will be presented to Delores Gilliard, principal of A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School in Richland Schools District One, and Carlos Primus, past chair and long-time member of that school’s SIC.

A highlight of the conference will be the presentation of the SC-SIC’s 2009 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. The award was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the more than 15,000 local SIC members who volunteer in every public school in the state.

The five finalists for this year’s Riley Award are: The Children’s School at Sylvia Circle, Rock Hill School District Three, Rock Hill; Hunt Meadows Elementary School, Anderson School District One, Easley; Mauldin High School, Greenville County Schools, Mauldin; Morningside Middle School, Charleston County School District, North Charleston; and Round Top Elementary School, Richland School District Two, Blythewood.

The Riley Award is named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple’s longstanding commitment to quality public education.

Located at the University of South Carolina’s College of Education, the SC-SIC was established in state law over three decades 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.

Members of the media are invited to attend this event, which should provide numerous photo and interview opportunities.