



S.C. School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Principal/Parent team honored as SIC Advocates of the Year

COLUMBIA – Delores Gilliard, principal of A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School in Columbia, and Carlos Primus, parent vice-chair of the school’s SIC, have been named by the S.C. School Improvement Council as SIC Advocates of the Year for 2009.

The awards were presented at the SC-SIC’s Awards Luncheon March 14th in Columbia.

Working together at the Richland School District One school for the last several years, Gilliard and Primus have spearheaded a series of SIC-sponsored programs and initiatives to involve families and various segments of the community in the success of the school.

“Mrs. Gilliard is a rare combination of an effective administrator, a lifelong educator and a compassionate individual,” said SC-SIC Executive Director Cassie Barber. “Her work and commitment exemplify what true advocacy for public schools, their students and their families, is all about.”

A career educator with a Masters Degree and certification in reading elementary education and administration, Delores Gilliard has served as principal of Richland School District One’s A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School since 1996. Previously a classroom teacher, curriculum resource teacher and an assistant principal, Mrs. Gilliard has also taught at the college level.

Under her leadership, the Lewis Greenview Elementary SIC was the recipient of the 2005 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. Following this recognition, Mrs. Gillard made presentations at various regional SIC training sessions throughout the state and appeared on ETV in an SC-SIC sponsored segment providing tips on becoming an effective SIC and sharing the Lewis Greenview experience with others.

Mrs. Gilliard, along with her school’s SIC, has been a driving force behind a strong outreach effort in the Greenview community to increase parental – particularly male – involvement in the school. Donuts for Dads, the DADS (Dads Are Doing Something) program, NPLB (No Parent Left Behind), and the Annual Male Leadership Conference are a few of the collaborative efforts that she and the SIC have implemented to make a real difference in the lives of the school’s parents and children. These efforts were recognized when the Lewis Greenview SIC was named Outstanding Volunteer Group by Richland School District One in 2006.

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“Mr. Primus embodies the true spirit of parental involvement, civic engagement in public education and advocacy for the achievement of our children and schools,” said Barber. “His dedication is consistent and wide-reaching.”

An honors graduate of Claflin University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management, Carlos Primus has been employed with Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company in Columbia for eight years, most recently serving as Lead Training Facilitator and Coordinator for the Senior CSR Team in the Policyholder Services Department.

He is very active as a parent, community member and advocate on behalf of children, currently serving as Chair of the St. Andrews Middle School SIC in Richland School District One. Mr. Primus has also volunteered at the school with the Lunch Buddies and Junior Achievement programs, and presently serves as Vice Chair of the A.J. Lewis-Greenview Elementary School SIC, and as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the SC School Improvement Council. He is also a member Richland One’s district-wide SIC, its Governmental Relations Committee, and its Strategic Planning Committee.

During his tenure as Chair of the Lewis Greenview SIC, the SIC was honored with the 2005 Riley Award and the 2006 Richland School District One Volunteer Group of the Year award. Working closely with the school’s principal, Delores Gilliard, Mr. Primus has integrally helped the Lewis Greenview SIC reach out to its parents and greater community through a series of innovative and effective programs.

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.