



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA, SC 29208  
803-777-7658  
800-868-2232  
803-777-0023 (FAX)  
SIC@GWM.SC.EDU  
SIC.SC.GOV

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Cassie Barber, SC-SIC Executive Director  
(803) 777-7658 [barber2@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:barber2@gwm.sc.edu)

## **Hudson, Weston named to S.C. School Improvement Council staff**

**COLUMBIA – Tom F. Hudson and Barbara Flemming Weston have joined the staff of the S.C. School Improvement Council (SC-SIC), Executive Director Cassie Barber has announced.**

Hudson will serve as Director of Program Services, assisting in the planning, implementation and evaluation of SC-SIC services provided on the state, regional and district levels for some 17,000 local School Improvement Council members in South Carolina's 85 school districts.

Weston will serve as a Council Specialist, providing support to local SICs of those schools rated as "unsatisfactory" on the state's School Report Cards, to include training and site visits to schools regarding SIC roles, responsibilities and parent/community engagement in local public schools.

"We are extremely pleased to have Tom and Barbara as members of the SC-SIC team," said Barber. "We welcome their considerable experience and their demonstrated commitment to civic involvement in public education."

Hudson has over 20 years of experience in communications and constituent/media relations, most recently as public information officer for Beaufort County Schools and previously in both the public and private sectors. His professional work has been recognized by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), the S.C. Chapter of NSPRA, and by the state's chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, and he has provided numerous training and workshop sessions on the local, state and national levels.

He holds the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion/Philosophy from Maryville College (TN), and is a current board member of the S.C. Chapter of NSPRA, a past member of SC-SIC Board of Trustees, and past vice chair of the Mossy Oaks Elementary School (Beaufort) School Improvement Council.

Weston is a retired 30-year career educator who most recently served as Lead Teacher of English at Lexington School District One's Midlands Middle College. She was previously Curriculum Coordinator for Orangeburg County Consolidated School District Three, has served several administrative capacities with the S.C. Department of Education, was a Teacher in Residence at the former S.C. Center for Teacher Recruitment, and for 24 years was a classroom teacher of English, reading and drama in Richland School District One schools.

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South Carolina School Improvement Council

"CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION"

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from S.C. State University, a Masters of Education degree from Cambridge College and is currently a doctoral candidate in Education at Nova Southeastern University. A three-time Teacher of the Year honoree, Weston was a 1995 national Milken Educator Award recipient. She is a former member of the S.C. Board of Education, past vice chair of the S.C. Professional Review Committee of Colleges and Schools, a past member of the S.C. School Improvement Council Board of Trustees, and has been a member of the College of Charleston's School of Education Advisory Board.

Located in the University of South Carolina, the SC-SIC provides training, resources and technical assistance to parent, community, staff, and student members of legislatively-mandated SICs in every South Carolina public school.