



S.C. School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Tom F. Hudson, Director of Program Services, S.C. School Improvement Council
(803) 777-7658 hudsontf@mailbox.sc.edu

Six S.C. public schools named finalists for annual state School Improvement Council award

COLUMBIA – Six South Carolina public schools have been named statewide award finalists for their School Improvement Councils’ efforts to foster parent and civic engagement.

The S.C. School Improvement Council’s annual Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the more than 15,000 local School Improvement Council (SIC) members who volunteer in the state’s 1,100-plus K-12 public schools.

In alphabetical order, this year’s Riley Award finalists are:

Camden Elementary School of the Creative Arts, Camden (Kershaw County Schools)
Chestnut Oaks Middle School, Sumter (Sumter School District 17)
The Children’s School at Sylvia Circle, Rock Hill (Rock Hill-York School District 3)
Nursery Road Elementary School, Columbia (Lexington-Richland School District 5)
Round Top Elementary School, Blythewood (Richland School District 2)
Stone Academy of Communication Arts, Greenville (Greenville County Schools)

“We congratulate these School Improvement Councils for the outstanding work they are doing on behalf of their schools and students,” said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chairman Carlos Primus. “When parents, educators and members of the community pool their ideas and resources for public education, it benefits us all – particularly our children.”

In the past year, South Carolina’s 15,000-plus SIC members turned in well over 240,000 volunteer hours in their local schools at an estimated value of over \$3.8 million – a substantial return on the state’s current SC-SIC budget allocation of about \$220 per school per year.

The winner of the 2010 Riley Award will be selected from this year’s finalists and announced at the SC-SIC Annual Conference, Saturday, March 13th, 2010, in Columbia.

The SC-SIC 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 in the University of South Carolina’s College of Education, the S.C. School Improvement Council was established in state law more than three decades ago to provide the member training, technical assistance, statutory accountability, and other operational resources necessary for the continued success of the community-based SICs in each of South Carolina’s 1,100-plus K-12 public schools.