



S.C. School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stone Academy of Communication Arts named 2010 SC-SIC Riley School Improvement Award winner

COLUMBIA – The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Stone Academy of Communication Arts (Greenville County Schools) has been named the recipient of the Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award for 2010.

The award was presented Saturday afternoon at the S.C. School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Annual Conference in Columbia.

The 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 School Improvement Council (SIC) members who volunteer in every public school in the state.

The Stone Academy SIC has been particularly interested in the needs of its most vulnerable students and bridging the gap between home and school. Partnering with The Frazee Dream Center, a free after-school and summer program for under resourced children in downtown Greenville, and with the school’s Parent as Teacher educator, the SIC of this arts magnet school has helped connect resources with an increasing number of families and at-risk students. The SIC has also worked with parents and city officials to address traffic safety concerns, and successfully advocated to its school board for the purchase of additional land for a new school play space.

“The School Improvement Council of Stone Academy of Communication Arts has done an outstanding job and this award is well-deserved,” said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Carlos Primus. “Having parents, educators and community members working together so effectively on behalf of their school and young people is really what SICs are all about.”

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.

Presented with Honorable Mentions for the work of their SICs last school year were: Camden Elementary School of the Creative Arts (Kershaw County School District); Chestnut Oaks Middle School (Sumter School District 17); The Children’s School at Sylvia Circle (Rock Hill School District-York 3); Nursery Road Elementary School (Lexington-Richland School District 5); and Round Top Elementary School (Richland School District 2). A brief description of the work of each of these SICs during the last year is included with this release.

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.

S.C School Improvement Council Board of Trustees

Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award

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2010 Winner

Stone Academy of Communication Arts – Greenville
(Greenville County Schools)
Ed Holliday, Principal John Kaup, SIC Chair

Of particular interest to the SIC of this arts magnet school has been the needs of its most vulnerable students and bridging the gap between home and school. Partnering with The Frazee Dream Center, a free after-school and summer program for under resourced children in downtown Greenville, and with the school's Parent as Teacher educator, the SIC has helped connect resources with an increasing number of families and at-risk students. This SIC has worked with parents and city officials to address traffic and safety concerns at the school, and successfully advocated to their school board for the purchase of additional land for a new school play space.

2010 Honorable Mentions

Camden School of the Creative Arts - Camden
(Kershaw County School District)
Ed Yount, Principal Maria Spring, SIC Chair

This SIC took on several issues in 2008-09 to increase science assessment scores, promote a positive learning environment, utilize data analysis to improve decision making, and improve school grounds and facilities. The SIC implemented an annual clean-up day, initiated the creation of an outdoor classroom, "The Owl's Nest," to assist with science instruction, and examined Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) results to help target instructional decisions. As a result, the school has seen continuous improvement in science scores, gains in MAP math scores, and strong school community partnerships – including grant awards from local entities – for its outdoor classroom.

Chestnut Oaks Middle School - Sumter
(Sumter School District 17)
Cornelius B. Leach, Principal James Gary, SIC Chair

The SIC of Chestnut Oaks formed character education and attendance committees to help motivate and instill pride in students. Under the school's new motto, "Soar High With Falcon Pride," this SIC worked with the school's administration to take steps to improve student attendance (a significant factor in the school's not meeting NCLB Adequately Yearly Progress goals), institute an academic attire policy, reward positive student characteristics, and use various data collection techniques to share student information with parents. Student attendance has risen, classroom disruptions have dropped, teacher instructional time has increased, disciplinary referrals have been drastically reduced, and student and parent support has been positive.

2010 Riley Award Honorable Mentions (continued)

The Children's School at Sylvia Circle – Rock Hill

(Rock Hill School District – York 3)

Sandra Lindsay-Brown, Principal Melissa Rouse, SIC Chair

The SIC of this Montessori school of choice undertook a variety of issues in its commitment to provide engaging instruction for all students. It emphasized school-wide community minded service projects on the local level and beyond, began aggressively pursuing grants awarding over \$10,000 for classroom materials, instructional programs and technical equipment, and it mobilized parents, community members and district administrators to renovate and reinvigorate interior and exterior portions of the 60 year-old school building. This SIC also actively partnered with teachers and school administrators in providing additional assistance to underachieving students, resulting in double digit gains in test scores and closing achievement gaps.

Nursery Road Elementary School - Columbia

(Lexington-Richland School District 5)

Christina Melton, Principal Tabitha Keeler, SIC Chair

This SIC focused on quality communication with parents, improving nutritional options in the cafeteria, and increasing the SIC's visibility within the school and district. As the school did not meet all its AYP objectives, the SIC undertook a campaign to more fully inform parents of the school's progress, and to alleviate concerns, explain AYP and the S.C. School Report Card in a more understandable fashion. The SIC also assumed a greater advocacy role with its school board regarding facility needs, and through wearing SIC shirts and nametags, made a significant recruiting effort for new SIC members at major school functions.

Round Top Elementary School – Blythewood

(Richland School District 2)

Jeaneen Tucker, Principal David B. Stephens, SIC Chair

Among the items addressed by this SIC was the implementation of a school Commitment Covenant signed by parents, students, teachers, and administrators to focus on enhancing the success of each student. The SIC emphasized a program to boost ELA scores through the use of electronic books and online reading programs, more than doubling book circulation. SIC members worked with teachers and the PTO to identify volunteer needs within the school, to solicit the necessary help and took web-based and printed approaches to inform parents of available support services. It also partnered with local businesses and other resources to help beautify the school campus.



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<http://sic.sc.gov>