



S.C. School Improvement Council

"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

MEDIA ADVISORY

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SC-SIC statewide meeting March 24 to focus on community connections and annual Riley Award for SIC Excellence

COLUMBIA – The SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration will be held Saturday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Dreher High School, 3319 Millwood Avenue, Columbia.

Titled "The School-Community Connection: Plugging-In to Power Potential," the meeting will be attended by parents, community members and educators representing public schools and their School Improvement Councils (SICs) from across the state.

Special guest will be former SC Governor and US Secretary of Education Dick Riley. Other speakers for the event will include Dr. Bruce Field and Dr. Steve Thompson of the University of South Carolina College of Education; Daniel Canada, Chairman of the Eau Claire Promise Zone; and Mitch Kennedy, Community Services Director for the City of Spartanburg. Presentations will also be shared by finalists for this year's Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence.

Other local and state officials are also expected to be in attendance, including Fred S. Washington, Jr., Chair of the Beaufort County Board of Education, who will be presented with the 2012 SIC Advocate of the Year Award, and Ellen M. Still, former SC Deputy Superintendent of Education and Research Director for the state Senate Education Committee, who will be presented the 2012 SC-SIC Mover and Shaker Award for lifetime contributions to public education in South Carolina.

A highlight of the conference will be the presentation of SC-SIC's annual Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence by Governor Riley. The award, named for the Governor and his late wife, Tunky, was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the nearly 15,000 local SIC members who volunteer in every public school in the state.

The five finalists for this year's Riley Award are: Baron DeKalb Elementary SIC (Kershaw County School District); Blythe Academy of Languages SIC (Greenville County Schools); Burton-Pack Elementary SIC (Richland School District 1); Jennie Moore Elementary SIC (Charleston County School District); and Port Royal Elementary SIC (Beaufort County School District).

Located in the University of South Carolina's College of Education, the SC School Improvement Council 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 the conference, which should provide numerous photo and interview opportunities. Additional information about the SC-SIC Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration is available on the web, <http://sic.sc.gov>.