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*"Civic Engagement in Public Education"*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Five School Improvement Councils named finalists for annual state Riley Award for SIC Excellence**

COLUMBIA – Five South Carolina School Improvement Councils (SICs) have been named statewide 2015 award finalists for their accomplishments in parent and civic engagement.

The SC School Improvement Council's annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the nearly 15,000 local 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:

- Blythewood High SIC (Richland School District Two)
- J.L. Mann High SIC (Greenville County Schools)
- Myrtle Beach Cluster SIC (Horry County Schools)
- North Augusta High SIC (Aiken County Public School District)
- Rudolph Gordon Elementary SIC (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 Michael Guarino. "When parents, educators, and members of the community pool their ideas, energies, and resources for public education, it benefits us all – particularly our children."

The winner of the 2015 Riley Award will be selected from this year's finalists and announced at the SC-SIC Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 7, at River Bluff High School in Lexington.

The SC-SIC Riley Award is named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and US Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

Part of the Center for Education Partnerships within the University of South Carolina's College of Education, the SC School Improvement Council was established in state law over 35 years 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 the state's K-12 public schools.