



# S.C. School Improvement Council

*“Civic Engagement in Public Education”*

## MEDIA ADVISORY

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

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## **SC-SIC conference March 8<sup>th</sup> to spotlight national, state speakers and annual Riley School Improvement Award**

COLUMBIA – The S.C. School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Annual Conference will be held Saturday, March 8, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Columbia Conference Center.

The conference, titled “Reaching Higher by Reaching Out,” will be attended by over 300 parents, community members and educators representing public schools and their School Improvement Councils (SICs) from across the state.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Steven M. Constantino, an educator and author recognized as a leading practitioner in the field of family engagement in schools. Speaker for the luncheon portion of the conference will be Dr. Jim Rex, State Superintendent of Education.

Other local and state officials are also expected to be in attendance, including State Representative Robert Q. Williams (District 62, Darlington-Florence), who will be presented with the SIC Advocate of the Year Award for 2008.

A highlight of the conference will be the presentation of the SC-SIC’s annual Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. The award was created in 2002 to recognize the significant contributions made to public education by the more than 15,000 local SIC members who volunteer in every public school in the state.

The five finalists for this year’s Riley Award are: Laurel Hill Primary School (Charleston County School District), Mt. Pleasant; Camden Elementary School of the Creative Arts (Kershaw County School District), Camden; Pineview Elementary School (Lexington School District 2), West Columbia; Meadowfield Elementary School (Richland School District 1), Columbia; and Bookman Road Elementary School (Richland School District 2), Elgin.

The Riley Award is named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley and his wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple’s longstanding commitment to quality public education.

Located at the University of South Carolina’s College of Education in Columbia, the SC-SIC provides training, resources and technical assistance to parent, community, staff, and student members of legislatively-mandated SICs in each of South Carolina’s nearly 1,200 public schools.

Members of the media are invited to attend the conference, which should provide numerous photo and interview opportunities. Directions to the Columbia Conference Center (169 Laurelhurst Avenue, in Columbia’s St. Andrews area), along with additional information about the SC-SIC Annual Conference, is available on the web, <http://sic.sc.gov>.