



S.C. School Improvement Council

“Civic Engagement in Public Education”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bookman Road Elementary named 2008 Riley School Improvement Award winner

COLUMBIA – The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Bookman Road Elementary School has been named the recipient of the Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award for 2008.

The award was presented Saturday afternoon at the S.C. School Improvement Council’s 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.

Bookman Road Elementary, a Richland School District Two school in Elgin, numbered among its SIC’s accomplishments in 2006-2007 the coordination of community and local business support for construction of the school’s Lighthouse Lookout Nature Trail at the school. The SIC also spearheaded a \$2,300 Palmetto Pride grant for improvements to the school grounds, and members coordinated Bookman Road’s first Take Pride (in the Outside) Day involving over 140 community volunteers. These efforts contributed to the school’s designation as a National Wildlife Federation School Yard Habitat.

“We are very pleased to present this well-deserved honor to the School Improvement Council of Bookman Road Elementary,” said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Jeff Nicholson. “This impressive effort to engage parents and community members in the life and betterment of the school is truly what SICs are all about – and what this award acknowledges.”

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. Mrs. Riley, who passed away on Friday, was remembered at the conference for both her gracious nature and her great contributions to education in South Carolina.

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), Camden; Laurel Hill Primary School (Charleston County School District), Mt. Pleasant; Meadowfield Elementary School (Richland School District 1), Columbia; and Pineview Elementary School (Lexington School District 2), West Columbia. Brief descriptions of the work of these SICs last year is included with this release.

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.

2008 Dick & Tunky Riley School Improvement Award Finalists

Laurel Hill Primary (Charleston County School District), Mt. Pleasant Ms. Julie Allan, SIC Chair; Mr. Michael Antonelli, Principal

Laurel Hill Primary School's SIC is a group committed to supporting and developing literacy skills for at-risk students in the community. The SIC assists in the design and implementation of several literacy-based initiatives to proactively help needy preschool students. The school's LEAP (Linking Education And Preschoolers) Into Reading Night has become an annual event introducing preschool children and their parents to the love of reading through a variety of literacy activities. The SIC also helps to coordinate a free summer enrichment program for 15 preschool students and also organizes children's book drives gathering materials to distribute to students in our community.

Camden Elementary School of the Creative Arts (Kershaw County School District), Camden Mr. Brian R. Hann, SIC Chair; Mr. Ed Yount, Principal

Camden Elementary School of the Creative Arts is located in the downtown historic district of Camden, South Carolina. The school serves a diverse population of 550 students and has integrated the arts throughout the entire curriculum. The SIC adopted the International Standards Organization's (ISO) methodology, which allows the ranking and evaluation of school activities based on their overall impact on students and the learning environment. The major areas of focus for the SIC have been on increasing English/Language Arts scores, increasing individualized assistance programs, making the school's decision process more data driven, and improving the school's grounds and facilities.

Pineview Elementary (Lexington County School District Two), West Columbia Mr. Tim Fitzgerald, SIC Chair; Ms. Miley Rhodes, Principal

Pineview is a community school serving many diverse ethnic and economic groups through a variety of programs. The SIC has focused on community outreach, healthy learners, student achievement, and school attendance. The Panther ROAR recognition program was begun to praise student attendance, achievement and effort for each quarter. Reading initiative programs generated much excitement that remained long after the fall and spring programs concluded. Community members students and parents joined together to make the Walk to School, Grandparent's Lunch Week and Halloween Hike big successes. The SIC has worked closely with the PTA to insure a continuity of efforts benefiting everyone in the school community.

Meadowfield Elementary (Richland County School District One), Columbia Ms. Debra Tedeschi, SIC Chair; Ms. Paula Stephens, Principal

Meadowfield Elementary set numerous goals in its 2005-2010 School Renewal Plan, to include increased student achievement, positive professional development, and an improved school community. The school and its SIC sought a comprehensive framework which would allow for the realization these objectives. Along with the Meadowfield faculty, staff and PTO, the school's SIC investigated the *Paideia* instructional method. The *Paideia* philosophy incorporates three complementary instructional techniques: (1) didactic instruction; (2) intellectual coaching; and (3) seminar dialogue. Funding was secured, extensive training was provided and *Paideia* arrived at the school in 2006-2007 school year. Meadowfield Elementary will become the first nationally-certified *Paideia* academy in South Carolina.

Bookman Road Elementary (Richland School District Two), Elgin (2008 Riley Award Winner) Ms. Tanya Rodriguez-Hodges, SIC Chair; Mr. Michael Guliano, Principal

The Bookman Road Elementary SIC regularly evaluates the school's needs based upon its students' needs. The SIC coordinated local business support (including a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox Grant) for construction of the Lighthouse Lookout Nature Trail. This trail is used for student observations of animals, habitats and vegetation. The SIC also spearheaded a \$2,300 Palmetto Pride grant for improvements to the school grounds. Members coordinated Bookman Road's first Take Pride (in the Outside) Day, which included over 140 volunteers from across the community. Based on the environmental improvements in their schoolyard, Bookman Road Elementary School received designation as a National Wildlife Federation School Yard Habitat.