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*"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 1, 2020

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## **Dr. Luanne L. Kokolis named 2020 SIC Advocate of the Year**

COLUMBIA – Dr. Luanne L. Kokolis, Chief of Strategic Planning, Engagement, and Program Support for Rock Hill Schools, has been named 2020 SIC Advocate of the Year by the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) Board of Trustees.

Due to the current public health situation, the award was announced by SC-SIC in an online video Friday evening, May 1.

The SIC Advocate of the Year Award recognizes exemplary efforts on behalf of School Improvement Councils across South Carolina by individuals actively supporting and promoting the work of SICs within their spheres of influence. Previous award recipients have included state, district, and school-level education leaders, state legislators, and local SIC chairs and SIC members.

“Dr. Kokolis’ efforts on behalf of SICs through the years have been significant and are very much appreciated,” said SC-SIC Executive Director Tom F. Hudson. “Whether working on behalf of the many School Improvement Councils within her district or those statewide, she has been a consistent voice for the impact that our SICs have on the lives and success of our schools, students, and communities.”

A former two-term member of the SC School Improvement Council Board of Trustees, Dr. Kokolis joined Rock Hill Schools in 2006 as Executive Director of Student Services. In her current position, she is responsible for strategic planning, accreditation, student services, nursing services, School Improvement Councils, athletics, alternative education and adult education services, and community partnerships.

A former high school teacher, Dr. Kokolis has also served as an assistant principal and principal at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. She holds a B.S. degree from Robert Morris University (PA), and a Master’s and Doctorate from Indiana University (PA).

Part of the Center for Education Partnerships within the University of South Carolina College of Education, the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) was established in state law 40 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 1,110-plus K-12 public schools. More information on SC-SIC’s programmatic efforts can be found online at <http://sic.sc.gov>.

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