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*"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Flowertown Elementary School Improvement Council named winner of 2021 Riley Award for SIC Excellence**

COLUMBIA – The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Flowertown Elementary School in Dorchester School District Two has been named the recipient of the 2021 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence.

The award was announced in a virtual awards ceremony held on Saturday by the SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC). This ceremony will be available for online viewing early next week.

The annual Riley Award for SIC Excellence was created in 2002 to highlight the significant contributions made to public education by the over 13,000 School Improvement Council members who volunteer in every public school in the state. The award is named in honor of the former SC Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education and his late wife, recognizing the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

"The Flowertown Elementary SIC has done outstanding work that is very much deserving of this statewide honor," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chair Bob Grant. "The work of our School Improvement Councils – particularly in times like we're facing now – is vital to make positive and lasting change for our schools, our students, their families, and our state. This SIC is a strong example of such impactful work."

The Flowertown Elementary SIC was previously a finalist for the Riley Award in 2020 and 2019.

Presented with Honorable Mentions for their work last school year were: Eastside High SIC (Greenville County Schools); Millwood Elementary SIC (Sumter School District); Myrtle Beach Middle SIC (Horry County Schools); and W.C. Sullivan Middle SIC (Rock Hill Schools).

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 over 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 <https://sic.sc.gov>.

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