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"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

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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 2016 award finalists for their accomplishments in parent and civic engagement within their school communities.

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:

- Ebinport Elementary SIC (Rock Hill Schools/York County School District Three)
- H.E. McCracken Middle SIC (Beaufort County School District)
- Jennie Moore Elementary SIC (Charleston County School District)
- Laing Middle School of Science & Technology SIC (Charleston County School District)
- South Florence High SIC (Florence Public School District One)

"We salute these School Improvement Councils and the wonderful work they have undertaken for their schools and students," said SC-SIC Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Guarino. "When the ideas and energies of parents, educators, students, and community members are combined to strengthen public education, we all benefit – particularly our children."

The winner of the 2016 Riley Award will be selected from this year's finalists and announced at the SC-SIC Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 19, at EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia.

The SC-SIC Riley Award for SIC Excellence is named in honor of former SC 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 nearly 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 K-12 public schools.