

SIC District Contact Digest

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March Comes in Like a Lion - and This Year's SC-SIC Annual Meeting Will Blow You Away!

This year's SC School Improvement Council Annual Meeting and Riley Award celebration is scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2019 and promises to be the best one yet. We are privileged to have as our host this year the Heyward Career and Technology Center in Richland One, 3560 Lynhaven Drive, Columbia, SC 29204.



In addition to the stories of our five finalists for the *Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence* (who will be announced on Friday, March 1), our program will include Dr. Daniella Cook from the UofSC College of Education, who will discuss the importance of academic rigor in the classroom; Seanna Adcox, Assistant Columbia Bureau Chief for the Charleston Post and Courier, who will provide an update on education reform efforts in South Carolina; and 2019 SC Teacher of the Year Jeff Maxey who will address the roles of the teaching profession. We will also present the award for *2019 SIC Advocate of the Year* and the *2019 SIC Report to the Parents Award of Merit*.

This year will be a particularly festive occasion as it will include music, art, dance, and other exhibits provided by Richland One students as well as a hot lunch prepared by the Heyward Center's Culinary Arts program. As always, this is also a great opportunity for SIC members to network with their peers from across the state.

We need your help in getting the word out to everyone - especially those folks who may not have entered their email addresses when reporting their membership to the *SC-SIC Member Network*. Please reach out directly to your principals and ask them to notify their SIC members about this event and encourage them to attend. It always helps when the school and/or district offers to help parents and community members cover the cost of registration, which is \$30.

We regularly hear from SIC members that they leave this meeting highly motivated and ready to up their efforts on behalf of their schools. Please help us put that energy to work for the schools in your district. The registration form is available at <https://sic.sc.gov>; the registration deadline is March 22, 2019.

We look forward to seeing everyone on March 30 in Columbia!

Reminder! The Deadline for Distributing SIC Reports to the Parents Is April 30

If your SICs haven't done so already, it's time that they begin planning this year's annual SIC *Report to the Parents*. While the principal or other school or district staff may need to assist with editing, printing, and distribution, the content of the *Report* should be determined by the SIC members themselves. Many SICs appoint one or two members or a committee to develop a draft of the *Report* which is then presented to the full SIC for modification and/or adoption.

The SC-SIC website includes an online toolkit to assist SICs in preparing this important *Report*, which state law requires be distributed no later than April 30 annually. In addition, the *Report* should be uploaded to the SC-SIC *Member Network* by June 1 each year. We've seen increased levels of compliance with this requirement from year to year. Keep up the good work!



Spring is a Great Time to Schedule an SIC Training!

While this may seem counterintuitive, spring is actually a good time to schedule an SIC training for your district's principals and SIC members who still



have a year remaining on their terms. We can help your SICs get a jump on planning next year's elections, preparing updates to bylaws, or figuring out how to sustain and improve their SIC's work into the coming school year. We can also develop a training that is customized to your district's unique needs.

Contact the SC-SIC office at sic@mailbox.sc.edu to schedule a training for your district.