

SC-SIC Council News



"Civic Engagement at Work for Public Education"

Volume 39, Issue 1, 2018

Please Save the Date!

The SC School Improvement Council's 2019 Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 30**, in Columbia at Richland District One's Heyward Career and Technology Center.

Make plans to join us for a day filled with topics and speakers of local SIC interest, presentations from the five 2019 finalists for the Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence, as well as the announcement of the 2019 Riley Award winner and the 2019 recipient of the Award of Merit for *SIC Report to the Parents* Excellence, and the SIC Advocate of the Year.



The day will prove to be an overall celebration of the work and impact of SICs across the state.

Watch your email and the SC-SIC website in the coming months for registration information and materials.

We look forward to seeing you there!

In this Issue

- From the Executive Director.....pg. 2
- Four Elected To SC-SIC Board.....pg. 3
- Picture This! 4 Steps To Understanding Copyright Issues.....pg. 4
- Notice About The SC-SIC Website....pg. 6

\$5 Million Grant To Foster More Family Engagement in SC Schools

By Kathryn McPhail

Director of Communications, University of South Carolina College of Education

The University of South Carolina's College of Education was awarded its largest grant in nearly 20 years — a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement to fund a statewide program to better engage families in South Carolina public schools.

The Statewide Family Engagement Center Program (SFEC) awarded 11 grants nationwide. The University of South Carolina is the only university in the Southeast to receive the grant.

"This new \$5 million investment will help to create closer, more effective relationships between families and schools in every corner of the Palmetto State," says Prakash Nagarkatti, University of SC Vice President for Research. "Congratulations to project director Karen Utter; co-directors Tom Hudson, Gina Kunz and Abe Wandersman; project evaluators Tammiee Dickenson and Ashlee Lewis from the College of Education's Research, Evaluation and Measurement (REM) Center; and their partners at the South Carolina Department of Education and in the community on this major award."



An interdisciplinary team including education and psychology faculty and staff will lead the center, along with partners from the SC Department of Education. Pictured (left to right): Tom F. Hudson, co-director; Brittany Cook, The Wandersman Group; Karen Utter, director; Gina Kunz, co-director; (center) Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

The five-year grant will create the Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC). The University of South Carolina will lead the CFEC, with the South Carolina Department of Education as its primary partner. The grant will fund seven new staff members, six of whom will be assigned to different regions across the state to work directly with families and schools.

See "Grant To Foster More Family Engagement"
pg. 5

Message from the Executive Director

Tom F. Hudson



A new calendar year is almost upon us and we enter a season of celebration, of giving, of light, and yet also a time for reflection and looking at what the months ahead may bring.

Vern McLellan, author of *Wise Words and Quotes*, puts it this way: “What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.”

As for the SC School Improvement Council, I believe I can say that what SC-SIC will bring to the new year is its focus on providing the services, resources, and information needed by South Carolina’s 1,100-plus SICs which work on behalf of the success of their students and schools. SC-SIC has continued to offer training, added materials, and provide new services for local SICs to help them better tackle the responsibilities with which they’ve been tasked through state statute. SC-SIC has undertaken new partnerships and leveraged multiple resources to better support the very important work of our SICs.

While we have made what I believe to be great strides in SC-SIC’s outreach over the years, we of course have even more work to do. SC-SIC must continue to seek additional ways to provide SIC members with the tools, insights, and strategies they need to make positive and lasting change. School communities look to our SICs for *that* and it is SC-SIC’s responsibility, and privilege, to help make it happen.

Whether it be providing additional resources on our web site, *sic.sc.gov*, improved training opportunities for local SIC members and others, more helpful publications and materials to aid local SICs in areas like goal-setting, needs assessment, and more, SC-SIC is committed to support School Improvement Councils in the meaningful work that they accomplish month in and month out for their school communities.

SC-SIC is particularly pleased to spearhead the new federal grant for the Carolina Family Engagement Center highlighted in this issue of *Council News* and is excited to see the positive impact this statewide initiative will bring to our schools, students, families, and School Improvement Councils as that effort grows in the coming years. More information on the Center will be shared with you in the future as its work unfolds.

Recently, SC-SIC hosted its first webinar for SIC members and others focusing on resources related to student health and wellness. We saw a solid turnout of folks participating in this offering, which was also recorded and will be available soon on the SC-SIC website as an

*See “Message from the Executive Director”
pg. 6*



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Four Elected To SC-SIC Board

Mary Anne Byrd of Camden, Rosemary P. Choice of Estill, Carol Hill of Florence, and Bonnie King of Manning have been elected this fall to the SC School Improvement Council Board of Trustees, Board Chair Dora Leonard has announced.

All four will serve three-year terms on the Board. Ms. Byrd will represent the state's Upper Central region, Ms. Choice the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), and Ms. Hill and Ms. King the state's Pee Dee region.

"These four professionals have a demonstrated tremendous commitment to public education and its importance to the health and future of our state," said Ms. Leonard. "Our Board is very fortunate to have their shared experience and insight, and we look forward to their contributions in assisting the SC School Improvement Council as it provides vital services to our schools, students, families, and communities."

The SC-SIC Board of Trustees is composed of 17 members from all corners of South Carolina and acts in an advisory capacity to the SC School Improvement Council, which serves nearly 14,000 members of local SICs in the state's 1,100-plus K-12 public schools.

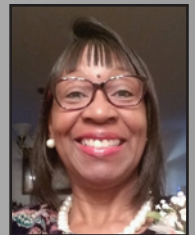


Mary Anne Byrd

Ms. Byrd has served as Communications Director for Kershaw County School District since 2005, where she has also been SIC District Contact and a former member of the Lugoff-Elgin Middle SIC. Previously an Education Associate with the SC Department of Education, where she developed and coordinated the Red Carpet Schools Program, she was also Public Information Coordinator with Darlington County School District from 1988 to 1997. She holds the BA degree in Journalism from the University of South Carolina, the MBA degree from Francis Marion University, and holds the Accreditation in Public Relations (APR).

Ms. Byrd has received numerous awards for her work in school public relations, including the 2018 Communicator of the Year Award from the SC Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SC/NSPRA). In the community, she has served as Vice Chairperson for the United Way of Kershaw County, a Relay for Life Team Captain and Volunteer Recruiter with the American Cancer Society, and Building Committee Chairperson and Sunday School Teacher at Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church in Camden.

Ms. Choice serves as the Director of Student Services for Hampton County School District 2, where she has been employed for the last 29 years, during 11 of which she has also served as SIC District Contact. She holds the BA degree from Winthrop University, the MA degree in Counseling from Webster University, and is a graduate of the SC Department of Education's Leadership Development Institute for District Administrators.



Rosemary Choice

Ms. Choice has served on the Community Relations Board of the Federal Correctional Institute, Estill, the Estill Mayor's Advisory Council, the Lowcountry Regional Education Dropout Prevention Team, the SC Education Oversight Committee's Parent Involvement Taskforce, and currently serves as an Executive Board Member of the South Carolina Association of School Social Workers. In 2017, she was named the Hampton County Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year.



Carol Hill

Ms. Hill is a longtime educator currently serving as Director of Adult Education for Florence School Districts 1 and 4. She was previously Principal of South Florence High School where during her tenure the SIC was a three-time finalist for SC-SIC's Dick and Tunky Riley Award for SIC Excellence.

One of the state's first 15 National Board Certified Teachers, she has also taught English and coached at South Florence and Pendleton High Schools, and served as a Teacher-In-Residence for three years at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA). She is also a nationally recognized trainer of Cognitive Coaching, Adaptive Schools, and Habits of Mind. Prior to her career in education, she was a technical writer for Biochem International, Inc. in Wisconsin, and a restaurant manager. Ms. Hill holds the BA degree in English from Carroll College (WI), the Master's degree in Professional Communication from Clemson University, and the Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Winthrop University.

Ms. King is Director of Public Relations for the Williamsburg County School District where she has served since 1999, previously as Coordinator of School to Work Programs and Coordinator of Tech Prep. Before joining the district, where she is also SIC District Contact, she served as Job Developer and Plan Manager for Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs, and as Financial Administrator for the City of Manning. She holds the BS degree in Marketing, the MA degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, and the Master of Education degree in Counselor Education from South Carolina State University.



Bonnie King

Ms. King has also served as Chairperson of the Williamsburg County School to Work Partnership and Education and Economic Development Act committees, and has been a Board Member of the Employers Initiative for Persons with Lifelong Disabilities, the Williamsburg County Career and Technology Education Advisory Team, and the Williamsburg County Development Board Workers Task Force Team and the county's Transitional Team Steering Committee. A certified Grant Specialist and Grant Administrator, Ms. King previously served on the SC-SIC Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2016.

Picture This! 4 Steps To Understanding Copyright Issues

Respecting intellectual property is something our students need to learn and value before leaving our classrooms; here's how to start

by Diana Gill

Technology Coach, East Porter County School Corporation

Schools are using digital content more than ever before. They are relying on digital resources, open educational resources, and teacher-created content to support curricular goals. As more of our content is pushed out to students through online platforms, our responsibility to consider copyright as part of our planning process, no matter what the process looks like, grows.

When we are in the trenches of testing windows, grading, school safety, and all of our other daily responsibilities, copyright might not feel like the number-one priority. But it has to become a priority.

It is important that we as educators invest time and effort into becoming comfortable applying copyright—not only to keep ourselves free of the consequences of not doing so, but also so that we can pass on these skills to our students. This is a responsibility that we all share, no matter the grade level or content area.



Image source:

<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2018/05/31/picture-this-4-steps-to-understanding-copyright-issues/?all>

One image at a time

Applying copyright best practices can be intimidating. There are so many moving pieces to think about and much of it lives in the gray area. Instead of trying to tackle it all at once, commit yourself to making one change at a time. Images are the perfect place to start.

We all use images in the content we create. Teachers include images on instructional materials, we encourage students to use images as part of their work, and administrators publish information for the community that can include images. If you're doing a quick Google Image search to locate something for a school mascot logo on the school website, for example, it's time to stop.

Respecting intellectual property is something our students need to learn and value before leaving our classrooms, but we can't support them until we do it ourselves. So where do we start?

Enter Creative Commons

Creative Commons helps creators navigate and manage the elements of copyright as applied to their own creative works. For example, a teacher creates a lesson and wants to share, but wants to be more specific about how that lesson is used in other classrooms. The teacher could then use a Creative Commons license and apply it to the work. Creative Commons also maintains a platform for searching items that have used the Creative Commons licenses. Several platforms support Creative Commons licensing, and most of these are platforms you will recognize, such as YouTube and Flickr.

The four steps below walk you through the process of searching for images, choosing images, and giving appropriate credit.

1. Use Creative Commons to search for images. Get into the habit of using Creative Commons Search to locate images. You can filter for items that you can use commercially or for items that you can modify. You can also filter by specific platform.

2. Make locating the licensing information for each image part of your process. Remember, the images are not necessarily free to use. Check each image for how it is licensed. The location of the license depends on the platform, but generally speaking, you should be able to find it below the image.

3. Get to know the Creative Commons licenses. Creative Commons licenses give specific guidance on how that image can be used. A license may include elements that do not allow for modification (noderivatives), forbid reuse for commercial purposes (noncommercial), or require that you share the new work in which you have included the image (share alike). The only license that does not require attribution is CC0, in which licensors waive their rights to the work, similar to how we might cite something as part of the public domain.

4. Include image attributions in all of your materials. Best practices for attribution direct us to include four items: title, author, source, and license. We should also hyperlink back to the source of the image, the author's page, and include a link to the Creative Commons license as part of the attribution.

See "Understanding Copyright Issues"

pg. 6

“Grant To Foster More Family Engagement”

Continued from page 1

“Part of our mission is to improve education for all students,” says Jon Pedersen, dean. “Of course, this includes preparing highly qualified educators, but also advancing research and initiatives, such as this program, that will allow schools to better serve students and their families.”

The center will work with public schools to implement and enhance effective family engagement policies, programs and activities that lead to improvements in student development and academic achievement.

“The active and positive involvement of all families in the education of their children is an essential ingredient in the success of our schools and our students,” says Molly Spearman, South Carolina Superintendent of Education. “The Carolina Family Engagement Center will be a strong addition as we continue to reach out and grow the involvement of students’ families across the state.”

Research shows that when families are engaged in a child’s education, school drop-out rates decrease and grades improve. With South Carolina ranking in the bottom half of the country in education, health and child and economic well-being, the center leaders say the need for successful school reform and improved student achievement is critical.

“When schools, families and communities work together on behalf our students’ success, we all benefit, particularly our children,” says Tom Hudson, executive director of the South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) and a co-director of the Carolina Family Engagement Center. “But such meaningful collaboration doesn’t just happen spontaneously. The center will work to provide both families and schools with the capacity, tools and resources needed to truly engage in their children’s education.”

In the past year, the SC-SIC (housed at UofSC) and the South Carolina Department of Education have partnered to provide a series of training sessions for more than 100 parent liaisons — school staff members who serve as go-betweens for families and schools.

“These trainings focus on topics including how to better engage families of color and how to best communicate with parents whose primary language isn’t English,” says Karen Utter, SC-SIC associate director and CFEC project director. “Many of our school systems already have ways they are involving families, so we are not starting from scratch. But our state lacks a unified and evidence-based approach to engaging families. That’s what this grant will help us accomplish through collaboration with our partners.”

The CFEC’s initiative will provide 24 schools in six regions across the state with ongoing training and technical assistance in supporting comprehensive family engagement programs which will address the specific needs of each school. CFEC also will sponsor programs that provide opportunities for teachers and parents to build the knowledge and skills needed to serve as leaders in family engagement and school improvement in their communities. Through these initiatives, as well as extending the reach of services already offered by CFEC partner organizations, the center’s ultimate goal is to see measurable improvements in student achievement and development.

“Equity demands that every child have access to a quality education no matter that child’s circumstances or zip code,” says Utter. “CFEC will serve all families, with an emphasis on low income and disadvantaged families including homeless children, students with disabilities, minorities and children in foster care. Trusting relationships are the foundation of effective family–school partnerships. The programs we create must be grounded in a respect for all cultures and families, and families must be involved in developing programs and practices.”

Other partners whose collaborative efforts will impact the work of new center include: Family Connection of South Carolina; South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness; South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families; The Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies, Arnold School of Public Health; PASOs, Arnold School of Public Health; Francis Marion University’s Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty; and Children’s Trust of South Carolina.

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“Understanding Copyright Issues”

Continued from page 4

Here’s an example.



Photographer Through the Camera Lense by Photos by Lanty is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Will educators continue to use images they should not be using in their materials without too much thought of retribution? Of course. However, now we have a few simple steps to incorporate into our creative process to improve our copyright skills, model best practices for each other and our students, and, ultimately, help our students consider copyright as part of who they are as creators. Know better; do better.

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<https://www.eschoolnews.com/2018/05/31/picture-this-4-steps-to-understanding-copyright-issues/?all>*

About the Author:

Diana Gill is the technology coach for East Porter County School Corporation in Indiana. She is a Google Certified Innovator, Trainer, and Educator Level 1 and 2. She serves on the Indiana Connected Educators board and conference committee and is a #INeLearn moderator. Gill is also a member of the EdTech Heroes, eLeadNW1, and The 411 Vodcast.

“Message from the Executive Director”

Continued from page 2

ongoing resource. Over the remainder of the 2018-19 school year, watch your email and the website for announcements of several more SC-SIC hosted webinars on other topics of interest.

So, what will you bring to the New Year?

I have said on many occasions that SICs are essentially about relationships – identifying them, building upon them, nurturing them – so that as these relationships grow stronger, we can bring more people, ideas, and resources to bear to improve the lives of our students and families, the success of our schools, and the outlook for our communities. I would ask that all our local SIC members, nearly 14,000 parents, educators, students, and community members across the Palmetto State, commit themselves to continuing their vital efforts in the new year ahead.

Remember that SC-SIC is here to help. We welcome your inquiries, ideas, and suggestions. We also welcome the opportunity to work with you throughout 2019 and beyond to truly foster civic engagement at work for public education in our state.

And you each have my wish for a very happy holiday season and a bright and promising New Year!

Notice About The SC-SIC Website

SC-SIC strives to guarantee the accessibility of our website, sic.sc.gov, for site visitors with special needs. To this end, the site has been updated to follow Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, legislated to eliminate barriers in information technology, provide accessibility to people with disabilities, and to encourage development of assistive technology. Adjustments have been made to some design elements to accommodate the new platform, but with the exception of the “Quick Links” positioning (now at the top of the screen), navigation of the site remains essentially the same.

SC School Improvement Council welcomes your feedback on the new site design and encourages you to contact us with any suggestions!