



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 12, 2009 / SBE Volunteer Awards 2009

State Board to recognize exceptional public school volunteers for service

COLUMBIA – Nineteen individuals and organizations are being recognized for their contributions to South Carolina’s public education system.

The State Board of Education will honor these volunteers at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 17 at the River Center, Saluda Shoals Park, 5605 Bush River Road in Columbia.

“These honorees deserve special recognition because of the many constructive ways they affect students’ lives,” said State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex. “Each of their stories is an inspirational illustration of how adults can work with students to create positive momentum toward success in school.”

The annual Volunteer Awards are authorized by the Education Improvement Act of 1984 and are designed to salute the time, energy, talents and other resources contributed to South Carolina schools.

The awards honor significant contributions made by four categories of recipients: businesses, civic organizations, individuals and school improvement councils. Candidates are nominated by school districts across the state.

Criteria for selection include promoting student achievement, enhancing school-community relations, strengthening school or district resources, encouraging a positive climate and promoting teacher effectiveness.

The winners, selected by a statewide panel of judges, are:

Businesses

- Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Foundation, Spartanburg School District Seven
- Math Buddies/Santee Cooper, Berkeley County School District

Civic Organizations

- St. Andrew’s School of Math & Science PTA, Charleston County School District
- East Lake Community Church, Lexington School District Five

Individuals

- Mark Allen, Greenville County School District
- Patsy Amick, Lexington School District One
- Dr. Allie E. Brooks, Jr., Florence School District One
- Christy Kesler, Spartanburg School District Three
- Elijah Andrew Nichols, Berkeley County School District
- Denise Ogden, Beaufort County School District
- Charles Rhodes, Berkeley County School District
- Frank Reid, Berkeley County School District
- John W. Rivers, Berkeley County School District
- Margaret Russell, Spartanburg School District One
- Dr. Charlie Smith, Charleston County School District
- Stephanie Trotter Walker, Greenville County School District
- Pat Wolff, Greenville County School District
- Barbara Woody, Pickens County School District

School Improvement Council

- Round Top Elementary School Improvement Council, Richland School District Two