



Vince Moore, Director
News and Media Relations
vince.moore@furman.edu
864.294.3107

SEMIFINALISTS SELECTED FOR WhatWorksSC AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The award highlights outstanding educational initiatives throughout the state

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—The Riley Institute at Furman and South Carolina Future Minds have announced the 10 semifinalists for the second annual 2012 Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorksSCsm Award for Excellence.

The award will be presented Oct. 17 in Columbia following the South Carolina Future Minds annual meeting. The event is open to the public.

The award highlights outstanding educational initiatives throughout the state, and is presented in conjunction with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the South Carolina State Board of Education. Candidates were selected from more than 50 entries in the Riley Institute's WhatWorksSCsm clearinghouse.

The 10 semifinalists are:

- **Bridges to a Brighter Future**, serving students in Greenville County Schools
- **Chester Park Elementary School of Inquiry**, Chester County Schools
- **Clemson University Reading Recovery Training Center**, serving students statewide
- **Diverse Pathways in Teacher Preparation, University of South Carolina**, serving students statewide
- **Early College High School**, Horry County Schools
- **Language! The Comprehensive Literacy Curriculum at West Ashley High School**, Charleston County Schools
- **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support**, Beaufort County Schools
- **Project Lead the Way, Orangeburg School District 4—Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College Middle College Partnership**
- **Star Academy**, serving students in 12 South Carolina districts
- **Teacher Cadet Program, Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA)**, serving students statewide

MORE

The winner receives a \$10,000 grant sponsored by BB&T for enhancement of the program or consultation with other schools, districts, and organizations interested in modeling the program. Two other finalists will receive \$1,000 grants from the Riley Institute.

For more information, please visit the Riley Institute’s Center for Education Policy and Leadership website at <http://riley.furman.edu/education> or contact Scott McPherson at scott.mcperson@furman.edu. Information about the Riley Institute’s WhatWorksSCsm clearinghouse can be found [here](#).

About WWSCsm

WhatWorksSCsm ties strategies for world-class schools in South Carolina to promising in-state initiatives. It includes policy papers written by state leaders, case studies and an evolving clearinghouse of initiatives that explore and exemplify key strategies for improving South Carolina’s public schools. WWSCsm continually seeks information about exemplary education initiatives and welcomes ongoing nominations for consideration for succeeding years’ awards.

**Creation of WWSCsm was driven by “In Their Own Words: A Public Vision for Educational Excellence in South Carolina.” This study, the largest ever done in South Carolina and unique nationally, details key strategies for creating world-class schools in South Carolina, derived from 3000 focus group hours with more than 800 stakeholders. It was conducted by the Riley Institute in 2005 and 2006 with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.*

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