



## SCHOOL NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### HEATHWOOD HEADMASTER EARNS TOP SCISA HONOR



COLUMBIA — Heathwood Head of School Steve Hickman has received this year's Dr. Charles S. Aimar Educational Leadership Award — the highest academic honor given by the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).

"This is SCISA's most prestigious academic award for individuals," said Larry K Watt, executive secretary of SCISA. "The Headmasters Association officers look for someone who advances a school academically, who represents the qualities and character that Dr. Aimar

championed. The list of accomplishments during Mr. Hickman's six years at Heathwood Hall made this a natural choice for the selection committee."

Presenting the award at the November 13 meeting of Heathwood's Board of Trustees, Watt noted the school's multimillion dollar investment in new facilities — including a new athletic center, intermediate/middle school and chapel — and expanded academic and extracurricular opportunities. He also recognized Hickman for leading his community to invest in providing all full-time teachers with the latest research based professional training.

Among other achievements, "In just the past 3 years, Heathwood has grown by 120 students. That tells you that there is demand for their program, positive things are happening and people are hearing about the school's success in the community." Watt also cited Hickman's work as the immediate past president of the Palmetto Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) and his decades of volunteer leadership with the United Way.

The Aimar Award is the latest in a string of SCISA honors for Hickman and Heathwood Hall. In 2005, Hickman was named the Charles J. Beach Volunteer of the Year and Heathwood received the SCISA School of Honor Award. From 2000-2006, Heathwood faculty members received a record five consecutive SCISA Teacher of the Year awards, two Teacher of the Year finalist recognitions, and the Charles Smith Volunteer of the Year Award. SCISA counts 105 schools in its membership, which in turn serve approximately 30,000 students statewide.

Asked to comment on his award, Hickman turned the spotlight on his colleagues. "The formula for successful schools is pretty simple," he said. "You put great teachers together with great students and great things happen. Although the award is given to the Head of School, the recognition is one that reflects a collective effort, especially by those teachers who work with our young people in the classroom every day. Truly, the community of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School has been honored for its educational leadership and for its commitment to young people. It is a great privilege to accept the award on their behalf."