

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Carolina Tobacco Summit Awards Recognize Advocacy & Awareness

COLUMBIA – Eight awards were presented during the South Carolina Tobacco Summit on April 4 recognizing South Carolina businesses, organizations and individuals who have effectively raised awareness about the toll of tobacco use in the state or have supported efforts to reduce the toll.

Tobacco-Free Media Coverage presented to Eric Ward from Columbia Free Times for covering the “tobacco toll” issue in the state with depth and understanding, while communicating the intricacies of these complicated issues with fairness, objectivity and clarity.

Tobacco-Free Business of the Year presented to Square D of Columbia for implementing 100% tobacco-free policy, reaching out for cessation resources for employees, providing cessation classes on-site for employees and demonstrating commitment to policy and health.

Coalition of the Year presented to the B.R.E.A.T.H.E. Coalition of Horry County for their support for successful passage of a smoke-free workplace ordinance for the Town of Surfside Beach.

Legislator of the Year presented to The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander (Senator representing Oconee and Pickens Counties) for chairing the Senate Finance Sub-Committee addressing the state cigarette tax and demonstrating support for increasing the tax and dedicating funds to tobacco prevention and cessation.

Policymaker of the Year presented to Mark Generales, former member of the Beaufort County Council, for spearheading the state's first countywide comprehensive smoke-free workplace ordinance and advocating for passage of ordinances in other parts of the state.

Organization of the Year presented to the Musicians & Songwriters Guild of South Carolina for their partnership with the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative to produce the *Rock 'N a Hard Place: Musicians for a Smoke Free SC* calendar promoting smoke-free workplaces and benefiting the Christopher Conner Foundation.

Community Advocate of the Year presented to Ron McKinney, Attorney for the City of Greenville, for arguing the Greenville case before the highest state court. This successful litigation set legal precedent for tobacco control making history in and for South Carolina.

Service Award presented to Renee' Martin, Executive Director of the South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative, for perseverance and dedicated service to addressing tobacco prevention and control issues statewide from smoke-free ordinances to the cigarette tax and cessation.

The **South Carolina Tobacco Collaborative (SCTC)** is a statewide assembly of the leading health organizations, community coalitions, and businesses committed to reducing the toll of tobacco use in South Carolina by providing resources and information on tobacco related issues to advocates, lawmakers, and concerned citizens. For more information, please visit www.smokefreesc.org.

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