Press Conference to Announce Comprehensive Scholastic Excellence Program to Benefit Hartsville, S.C., Public Schools

February 18, 2011

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Feb 18, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

A press conference will be held at Thornwell School for the Arts at 11 a.m. Monday, February 21, to officially announce the PULSE (Partners for Unparalleled Local Scholastic Excellence) Program, a comprehensive scholastic excellence program that will expand curriculum opportunities and further improve student achievement in Hartsville public schools through collaborative academic and social development initiatives.

The press conference will feature speakers Dr. Rainey Knight, superintendent of education, Darlington County School District; Dr. Mick Zais, state superintendent of education; Dr. Robert Wyatt, president, Coker College; Dr. Murray Brockman, president, South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Mathematics; and Harris E. DeLoach, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, Sonoco.

The PULSE Program is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership involving the Darlington County School District, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Coker College and Sonoco. Sonoco will fund the initiative through a $5 million grant that will be paid over five years.

A key initiative of the PULSE Program is the pilot School Development Program (SDP), that will be implemented at four Hartsville elementary schools in the 2011-2012 school year. The program is focused on improving academic achievement and personal development, and will be created with the assistance of Yale University's Child Study Center Comer School Development Program.

WHO: Darlington County School District, S.C. Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, Coker College, Sonoco

WHAT: Press Conference Announcing PULSE Program

WHERE: Media Center, Thornwell School for the Arts

WHEN: 11 a.m., Monday, February 21, 2011

CONTACT: Robin Montgomery
Sonoco, Corporate Communications
843/383-7509

SOURCE: Sonoco

Sonoco, Corporate Communications
Robin Montgomery, 843-383-7509