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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southeastern Community & Family Services Elects New Board Chairperson

Lumberton, NC – August 12, 2015 — Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. (SCFS) has elected its new Board Chairperson, Ms. Davian “Joy” Ellison. Ellison is the successor of former Board Chairperson, Mr. Jason King, who served two one-year terms, from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. King will now serve as the Board’s Vice Chairperson. Ellison will serve a one-year term, which took effect on July 1, 2015. *“I am excited about working collaboratively with this organization. Southeastern has weathered the storm and demonstrated resilience. It’s time to move forward and fine-tune our strengths. We provide a valuable service to our counties and I look forward to being a part of progress,”* stated Ellison. In addition to Ellison and King, new Board officers include John Ferguson, Treasurer; Gwendolyn Chavis, Assistant Treasurer; Linda McLaughlin, Secretary, and; Scott Witten, Assistant Secretary.

About Davian “Joy” Ellison

A graduate of Scotland High School and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Davian LaJoyce Ellison, affectionately called, "Joy", has had various work experiences ranging from sales and marketing to economic and community development. She is no stranger to political involvement as well, as she has served as the Scotland County Democratic Party Chair and 3rd Vice Chair, State Executive Council Member and Democratic National Convention Delegate for 2012, representing the 8th Congressional District.

Ellison is the first African American female to be appointed to, and serve on, the Laurinburg City Council, as well as the first African American member of the Laurinburg Junior Service League. She was invited to a luncheon to celebrate young elected officials across the country hosted by our President, Barack Obama in 2011 and attended a White House press briefing to discuss rural development.

While serving on City Council, Ellison is credited with being an alternate for the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission Regional Task Force and motioning to lower Laurinburg's tax rate by two cents, a decision that has served the citizens well. She initiated the first City Employee Survey in conjunction with the Employment Security Commission, which has aided the city's Comprehensive Employment Plan.

Coupled with politics, Ellison has taken an interest in global affairs and enjoys studying about cultures other than her own. It began at The University of North Carolina, where she was involved in the UNITAS program which is a residential program that allows students from different cultures to live and study together. There, she met numerous friends with whom she is still connected. Joy has traveled to Vienna, Austria, and Munich, Germany and plans to continue to see the world.

Ellison has taught Exceptional Children for several years, as well as Eighth Grade Language Arts. Currently, she is a Principal Intern with the Public Schools of Robeson County and last year completed the county's Aspiring Administrator's Program. A finalist for the North Carolina Principal Fellow's Program, Ellison was appointed statewide Co-Chairperson of the Educators for Kay Hagen Committee. Still busy, Joy is seeking her Master's in School Administration from Fayetteville State University.



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About Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc.

Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. (SCFS) is a federally funded nonprofit agency based in Lumberton, North Carolina serving low income residents in seven neighboring counties for nearly 50 years. The Agency has over 200 employees and an approximate annual budget of \$16 million utilized to operate and manage 15 Head Start schools, Section 8 housing, and other programs involving workforce readiness, economic development, and self-sufficiency.

To learn more about SCFS, and to stay alert of the latest activities and news, you may visit www.SCFSNC.org.

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Photo Caption: *Davian “Joy” Ellison, New Board Chair, Southeastern Community & Family Services*