

**Friday, September 15, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor  
Assistant Superintendent for Communications  
and Business and Community Partnerships  
[erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org](mailto:erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org)



**From L to R: Dr. Shawn Foster, Debra Norman, Dr. Bernard Frost**

**THE STORIES OF OCSD: UNVEILING THE FIRST PRINCIPAL OF THE MONTH,  
DEBRA NORMAN—A LEGACY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**ORANGEBURG, S.C.** — In a community-focused school district with strong traditions, Debra Norman, the Principal of North Middle/High School, stands out for her long-lasting dedication to great education. Recognizing the gravity of her four-decade-long contributions to Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), the District is honored to inaugurate its first ever Principal of the Month award by naming Debra Norman as its very first recipient for the month of August.

Norman has had a career path in education that spans over 40 years, of which 37 have been spent serving Orangeburg County. Her career in OCSD began in 1984 at Bennett Middle, where she served as a teacher until 1991. From that point on, Norman took on multiple leadership roles, including Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, and Principal across various schools within the district.

Through her extensive educational journey, Ms. Norman has collected a portfolio of impressive credentials, including a Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education from Spelman College, a Master's degree in Secondary Education from South Carolina State College, and an

Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina. Moreover, she holds numerous certifications in areas such as principalship, superintendency, guidance, and English/Language Arts.

"When I was informed that I was to be the first recipient of this prestigious award, I was pleasantly surprised. I've always viewed my role as an opportunity to promote positive change, rather than a position to receive accolades. It is humbling to be recognized," said Ms. Norman, upon accepting the award. Her modesty notwithstanding, Ms. Norman has had an extraordinary impact on the district, its schools, and most notably, its students.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her career has been the multi-generational effect she's had on families within Orangeburg County. "It's a unique and heartwarming experience to now serve children of my former students. To be part of their family legacies is a responsibility I cherish," Norman adds.

"This new initiative to recognize our standout principals is incredibly important. The foundation of any great school district lies in its leadership, and Ms. Norman exemplifies that spirit. She is a visionary, an educator, a mentor, and a pillar of our community. Her level of dedication to OCSD and its students is unparalleled," said Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent of OCSD.

Although Ms. Norman retired in 2014, her commitment to education proved tireless. She has frequently returned to serve in interim vacancies, most recently as Principal at North Middle/High School and prior to that in 2021-2022 as a Literacy Facilitator at the same institution.

Debra Norman embodies the essence of what this new award seeks to recognize: long-lasting dedication, a passion for education, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Her influence flows not just through the walls of North Middle/High School, but throughout the entire Orangeburg County School District, touching the lives of students, staff, and families alike for nearly four decades.

As the first-ever Principal of the Month, Ms. Norman sets an incredibly high standard, proving that a lifetime of dedication and love for education can create a legacy that influences generations to come. She is not just a principal. She is a testament to what is possible when one devotes their life to the service of others. Congratulations, Ms. Norman—your story is not just a story of OCSD, but a story of unwavering commitment, passion, and educational triumph that enriches us all.

**Watch the video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z32jtYQ\\_WCQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z32jtYQ_WCQ)

### **Orangeburg County School District**

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at [ocsdsc.org](https://www.ocsdsc.org)

###