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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From L to R (M. Stephens, S. Felder-Hilliard, K. Guinyard, A. Irick, Dr. S. Foster)

**ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE: ANNOUNCES
2023-2024 TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR AT ANNUAL
CONVOCATION**

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – In an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement, the Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) announced the 2023-2024 District Teacher of the Year and the Support Staff of the Year at their annual District Convocation. Loretta Gadson-Washington, OCSD Director of Classified Personnel, unveiled the much-awaited names, acknowledging the exemplary dedication and commitment of the winners and runner ups.

Gadson-Washington took center stage and expressed her honor at being able to announce the winners. "The winner of the 2023-2024 District Teacher of the Year is Audrey Irick," Gadson-Washington announced, followed by, "And the winner of the Support Staff of the Year award is Katina Guinyard."

"These awards are not merely a recognition of outstanding commitment and skills; they are a testament to the power of education, and the remarkable contributions our educators and support staff make every day. Our winners and runners-up are shining examples of dedication and service that inspire us all," said Dr. Shawn Foster, OCSD Superintendent.

Also, the district wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary work of the runners up: Mary Stephens for Teacher of the Year and Stephanie Felder-Hilliard for Support Staff of the Year. Their diligent work in their respective roles continues to make a profound impact on our district and sets a high bar for educational excellence.

The District also extends congratulations to the top five finalists, who were awarded for their exceptional service to the school community.

In a generous gesture, Marcus Johnson, owner of Nissan of Orangeburg, sponsored the cash prizes for the winners. The Teacher and Support Staff of the Year each received a cash award of \$5,000, the runners up received \$2,500 each, and the top five finalists received \$500 each. This partnership with local businesses showcases the strong ties between the community and the school district.

Neal Martin of Rhodes Graduation Services announced a special gift to further honor the winners and runners-up. The company will donate commemorative rings to each, providing a lasting symbol of their achievement and dedication to education.

The Orangeburg County School District extends heartfelt gratitude to all staff members for their diligent efforts, to Marcus Johnson for his generous sponsorship, and to Rhodes Graduation Services, as we continue our mission to nurture talents, inspire minds, and shape futures.

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

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