ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are One
102 Founders Court • Orangeburg, SC 29118
Phone: (803) 534-5454

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications
and Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org




**OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster and state and national district leaders at the 2023 NIET Annual Conference**

# OCSD School Leaders attend NIET Conference to share how OCSD is "Elevating Education.'

**ORANGEBURG, S.C.** – Several OCSD district and school leaders attended the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to share and learn best practices to strengthen instruction and accelerate student learning last week.

NIET's vision is that every student in America is taught by an excellent teacher and supported by influential leaders every year—which has been the foundation of their work for the past two decades. Further, NIET believes intentional, sustained, and high-quality investments in educators directly result in success for all students and are essential to eliminating equity gaps.

During the conference, OCSD educators chose to attend sessions in the following strands: unleashing teacher leadership, transforming school leadership, ensuring success through robust instructional practices, establishing positive environments, and building the educator pipeline.

"The NIET conference is one of the most fulfilling conferences I have attended as a school leader," shared Mr. Rahim Elamin, Orangeburg Wilkinson High School Principal. "One of the best practices that I plan to employ at OW High School will be to increase student's voice and implement a student leader advisory council," he said. "I want to hear directly from my scholars about how we can better support them academically, socially, and emotionally," he continued.

OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster participated on a panel with other state and national district leaders, discussing the investments in elevating our educators. Dr. Foster shared that in OCSD, intentional efforts are being made to not only recruit educators – but to retain educators. In addition, he shared that communication in OCSD effectively supports recruitment and retention efforts. He also shared specific initiatives, including geofencing, differentiation in pay, signing bonus' (grant-funded), leadership academies, and educator advisory councils.

"Support from NIET for our schools includes onsite coaching and support focused on strengthening collective leadership, collaborative learning, instructional excellence, and reflective culture. In addition, educator coaching and support has focused on the effective implementation of one or more of the NIET best practices (i.e., cluster/PLCs, leadership teams, observation and feedback, evaluation, teacher leaders, curriculum alignment) based on each school's individual needs assessment," said Dr. Andress Carter-Sims, Assistant Superintendent for C&I. "This support has resulted in building capacity with school-level leadership teams and classroom teachers resulting in academic achievement for our students,' she continued.

**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

###