

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Select students chosen to attend YWCA MLK Breakfast Summit

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Four Charleston County School District (CCSD) students were selected to attend the YWCA Annual MLK Breakfast Summit January 11, 2024, on behalf of the district, which is part of the larger Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. The following students were selected based on their leadership and interest in civil rights and equality.

- Campbell Leshar, Academic Magnet High School (senior)
- Delaney Manigault, Lucy Garrett Beckham High School (junior)
- Deshawn A.J. Washington Jenkins, Baptist Hill High School (junior)
- Sanaa Brown, Burke High School (senior)

"Often times we forget that the youth were at the forefront of several movements during the civil rights era," said Brandi Blake, CCSD's Executive Director, Intercultural Development. "It was important that we brought students, who share the spirit of Dr. King, to join us at the summit and be in community with other civic-minded leaders. We are confident that they will make a difference."

The annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, first held in 1972, was one of the first national tributes of its kind. It is the largest MLK celebration in South Carolina and one of Charleston's longest running events. The MLK Breakfast Summit, co-sponsored by the City of Charleston and YWCA Greater Charleston, is a signature event of the celebration. The breakfast brought together a diverse group of community, civic and clergy leaders, and a cross-section of tri-county citizens to honor and celebrate the dreams and vision of Dr. King.

Darrin Goss, Sr., president and CEO of the Coastal Community Foundation, was the keynote speaker.

Campbell Leshar said he was quite excited to be invited to attend the MLK breakfast.

"It was quite an incredible event, and I loved hearing from each of the speakers," said Campbell. "Derrin Goss is the most amazing speaker I have ever had the privilege of listening to. His speech was full of hope for the future, and it felt comforting to know that there are people out there like Mr. Goss who care for the livelihood of others."

As part of his speech, Goss asked the audience what they would do, to do more in regards to inequality. Campbell said he believes the best thing he can do is help people recognize that much inequality still exists.

"That must be fought within our country, and even though civil rights disparities have gotten significantly better over the past sixty years, they are far from gone," added Campbell. "It is easy for those who are not faced with systematic oppression to forget that it exists, and it is important to remind them of what others go through on a daily basis as it builds empathy."

For more information, contact CCSD's Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.