

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD Operations Division celebrates employees of the year

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Employees across the Charleston County School District (CCSD) are celebrated every day, and annually, the best of the best are recognized as Employees of the Year. The Operations Division announced their nominees Friday, October 13, 2023. Five employees were recognized as finalists, two of which were chosen as the Operations Division Employees the Year (EOY).

Kezia Sturdivant and Steve Kugelman were named EOY for the Nutrition Services Department and Planning and Real Estate Department, respectively, and are this year's awardees for the entire Operations Division.

Sturdivant is the Free and Reduced Meal Coordinator. Kugelman serves as the Facility Use Officer.

Dianne Benton (Capital Programs), Richard Holmes (Security & Emergency Management), and Cindy Echols (Facilities Management) were also recognized.

"Both Kezia and Steve are great examples of the outstanding teammates that we have in operations," said Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer. "Kezia's management of our free and reduced meal program has minimized the financial burden on many families across the district while Steve's coordination of facilities' use for both school and community events have lightened the administrative load on our school staffs."

In addition to coordinating and leading community events to increase free and reduced meal application submissions, Kezia superbly managed timecards and provided timekeeping training for 400 Nutrition Services employees.

Steve led the facilities' use team in standardization of CCSD high school auditoriums and prioritized more than \$5 million of improvements in both auditoriums and district stadiums, in addition to coordinating nearly 12,000 event hours at district facilities.

Additional finalists

- Benton is a Principal on Special Assignment in Capital Programs leading the update to the CCSD Education Specifications, served as direct liaison with other principals in the district on construction projects, and provided critical support on multiple community meetings to move upcoming projects through design and toward construction.
- Holmes is the Assistant Campus Safety Manager who led his team in completing random searches in high schools and school security assessments across the district, all essential in maintaining a safe environment for our students and faculty.
- Echols was the Facilities Management Department Executive Assistant who guided the recruitment, selection, hiring and on-boarding of 25 personnel in the organization, essential for maintenance and repairs in our schools; in addition to managing all department meetings and events.

"Selecting finalists among the hundreds of dedicated employees across the Operations Division was not easy, but each of the five teammates honored this year is clearly deserving of being recognized for all they have done for our schools and children," added Borowy.

For more information, contact the 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.