Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT excellence is our standard

STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!

Burke High School

Eric Gallien, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Deputy Superintendent

Jacqueline K. Haynes
Associate Superintendent of Acceleration Schools

Cheryl Swinton
Executive Principal

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Contact:
Cheryl Swinton, 843-579-4815

Media Release

Burke scholars honored by national nonprofit for performance

National Education Equity Lab's Spring 2023 Honor Society recognizes students from Title I high schools who have excelled in college courses from the nation's top colleges

Charleston, SC – Burke High School students are taking advantage of access to college course through the National Education Equity Lab (also known as the Ed Equity Lab) and performing at a high level. Ten Bulldogs were recently named to the Ed Equity Lab's Spring 2023 National Honor Society.

The honorees are scholars whose academic performance was in the top 20 percent of all scholars nationwide taking dual credit Ed Equity Lab courses, from schools including Howard University, Stanford University, Princeton University, Wesleyan University, Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Cornell University, Brown University, Spelman College, Barnard College at Columbia University and Arizona State University.

With the support of Charleston County School District's Acceleration Schools, 31 students from Burke participated in this program during the 2022-2023 school year. Every student earned both high school and college credits. Lakiyah Harris was named Valedictorian for Introductory Sociology, Jasmine Jones was named the Valedictorian for The Education of Black Girls, and Adn Mustafaa was named Salutatorian for The Education of Black Girls. These scholars, along with seven of their classmates, were recognized during a virtual ceremony on August 23, 2023, featuring university professors, high school teachers, district leaders, the National Ed Equity Lab board, and CEO Leslie Cornfeld.

"Our partnership with the National Education Equity Lab continues to promote the vision of Burke High School that students, when given the opportunity, will not only thrive but excel comparatively on a national level with their peers," explained Executive Principal Cheryl Swinton. "These experiences help us to level the playing field while offering our learners a

unique perspective as they engage in rigorous studies that promote post-secondary success."

In addition to Harris, Jones, and Mustafaa, Jacob Brown, Jaha Brown, William Jenkins, Ryleigh Keith, Empress Moore, Janyra Stewart, and Precious Townsend made the Spring 2023 Ed Equity Lab National Honor Society from Burke.

The Ed Equity Lab is an education justice nonprofit that works to bridge the gap between high school and college for students from low-income communities. The organization expands access to college by partnering with institutions of higher learning to offer actual college credit-bearing courses in teacher-led Title 1 high school classrooms across the country.

"Every semester, hundreds of scholars across the country prove that talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not," said Cornfeld. "Their success in professor-led courses from the top colleges in the United States is a testament to the fact that learners from all backgrounds have what it takes to succeed in higher education and beyond. We're grateful for the collaboration of our high school and university partners, and honored to recognize these students for their brilliance, determination, and enthusiasm for learning.

Participating students gain the opportunity to take actual college courses from top professors, with weekly live discussions led by university teaching fellows, co-taught by teachers at their high schools. Scholars earn widely transferable college credits and a transcript from the offering institution upon successful completion. Starting in 2019 with a single Harvard humanities course in 25 high schools, the Lab has now served nearly 15,000 students in 134 cities across 30 states.

For more information, contact Principal Swinton at (843) 579-4815.

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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.