

For Immediate Release

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**Cooper River Center for
Advanced Studies**

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Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
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Media Release

Godfrey-Jackson named State CTE School Counselor of the Year

North Charleston, SC – The South Carolina Department of Education’s Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Intervention Services announced that Shirley Godfrey-Jackson is the 2023 recipient of the South Carolina CTE School Counselor of the Year.

Godfrey-Jackson is the ninth African-American female graduate from the Citadel’s Corps of Cadets. She has spent her entire career with Charleston County School District. For the past three years, she has served as the Career Counselor at Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies.

Quality career guidance is critical to the total educational experience of the 21st century student. This award recognizes Godfrey-Jackson’s sincere interest in career guidance while understanding the value of career and technical education programs in educational institutions. Godfrey-Jackson will be recognized at the 2023 South Carolina Education and Business Summit later this month.

“Every student deserves to have opportunities presented to them,” said Godfrey-Jackson. “Watching students maximize opportunities is almost magical and makes my career choice a dream come true.”

Rich Gordon, Charleston County School District’s Executive Director of Career Technology Education said that Godfrey-Jackson is the model for professional school counselor standards and competencies that not just meet but exceed the rigorous demands of 21st century scholars.

“Shirley is a tireless professional who ensures that faculty, staff, and students are receiving the academic, career planning, and social/development support that they need,” said Gordon. “Her knowledge, attitude, and skills are second to none; it shows in the achievement and success of the students she serves.”

Cooper River CAS Principal Vanessa Brown has worked with Godfrey-Jackson in several roles over the past 15 years.

"She is a person of excellence and works diligently to ensure her students achieve success," said Brown. "When I was offered my first principalship, I knew I wanted Mrs. Godfrey-Jackson to serve as my Guidance Director because my students would be well cared for by a knowledgeable counselor who has their shared experiences."

The school counselor's role is vital in delivering a quality career guidance program by assisting each student with educational pathway decisions while providing each a seamless transition into the world of work.

"Shirley truly believes that every student can succeed, every student should have access to a high-quality education, and every student should graduate prepared for postsecondary success," added Gordon. "We are so fortunate to have her on our team."

For more information, contact Principal Vanessa Brown at (843) 953-3231.

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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 of 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 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), music and other creative and performing arts, career and technical preparation programs, and military.