



**Charleston County School of the Arts**

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Superintendent of Schools

**Anita Huggins**  
Deputy Superintendent

**Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D**  
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High School Learning Community

**Shannon Cook, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **SOA sophomore wins poetry contest**

**North Charleston, SC** - Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) sophomore Acadia Reynolds, won first place in the Medical University of South Carolina's 5th Annual Septima P. Clark Poetry Contest. This competition honors acclaimed Charleston native, teacher, and "Grandmother of the Civil Rights Movement" Septima P. Clark for her dedication to service, education, and equality. As a recipient of the 1979 Living Legacy Award from President Jimmy Carter and of South Carolina's Order of the Palmetto, she was known for developing literacy and citizenship workshops to promote equality.

"School of the Arts is thrilled to celebrate this award with Acadia," said Principal Dr. Shannon Cook. "I have long admired Septima Clark's accomplishments and groundbreaking activism and am pleased that one of our gifted writers is being honored for her poetry and perspective of this incredible educator. We are additionally proud of the work Patrick Martin does with his students-challenging them to learn about those who have left a legacy and to emulate their achievements."

The theme for this year's statewide contest was "Unity in the Community: A World United." Acadia, a Creative Writing major, read her poem at the awards ceremony and won a computer.

"The theme of the contest was unity and connections," said Reynolds. "I'm excited to have won for my poem honoring holocaust survivor Jadzia Stern, who spoke about the importance of building connections and empathy with a diverse community of people. Like Septima P. Clark, Jadzia Stern was a resilient, hopeful woman that people looked up to."

AP Language and Composition teacher Patrick Martin said he was proud of her work.

"I am so grateful for Acadia using her writing gifts to amplify the legacy of others," added Martin. "Her passion for her craft does justice to the sometimes overlooked voices of the past."

For more information, contact Dr. Shannon Cook at (843) 529-4990.

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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.