



Wando High School

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Media Release

Wando's Nicole Breen honored as 2023 SC Scholastic Journalist of the Year

Mount Pleasant, SC – Wando High School is proud to announce Nicole Breen, co-editor in chief of the [school's award-winning yearbook *Legend*](#), was recently named the 2023 South Carolina Scholastic Journalist of the Year by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association (SCSPA).

Breen is the eighth student from Wando to earn this honor. The senior is also the sixth Warrior to receive this award in the past seven years and the fifth yearbook student to achieve this recognition during that span. It is the highest honor a high school journalist can receive in the state.

"It's incredible to see our talented students continue the tradition of excellence and dominance in this award," said Wando English teacher and yearbook adviser Phillip Caston. "Nicole is such an outstanding leader, dedicated student, and talented young journalist. This award is a fitting accolade for her as she finishes her stellar high school career."

Breen completed an online portfolio of work ranging from writing, photography, design, editing, and entrepreneurship, as well as several letters of recommendation and a personal essay. Breen's portfolio can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#).

"I am absolutely honored to be named SCSPA's Journalist of the Year," Breen said. "Being a part of my school's yearbook has gifted me in so many ways and to be named Journalist of the Year is truly the cherry on top."

Breen was honored along with the other 49 state winners at the National Scholastic Press Association in San Francisco on April 22, 2023.

"Nicole exhibits astounding work ethic, compassionate and selfless leadership skills, and full dedication to the craft," added Caston. "Her attitude is always positive regardless of any adversity she faces, and she inspires her peers to follow paths of excellence as well. Nicole helps set our standard for a competitive yet familial environment in Wando yearbook."

Breen's portfolio will represent South Carolina in the [Journalism Education Association's National Journalist of the Year](#) competition. She will attend Auburn University this fall.

For more information, contact Phillip Caston at phillip_caston@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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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.