

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD and Charleston Metro Chamber team up to grow diversity, equity, & inclusion training opportunities

Office of Communications

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North Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to offer district staff members the opportunity to participate in the Chamber's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Certificate Program. Presented by Wells Fargo, the Chamber's DE&I Certificate Program is an informative program designed to equip leaders with necessary tools and resources to thrive in the diversity, equity, and inclusion space. Through a series of four workshops, participants gain a better understanding of how they can lead as an equity-centered leader and make a larger impact on their business, employees, and community. The Chamber welcomed the program's first graduating class in 2022.

Upon the announcement of this program, CCSD saw the outstanding resources and training this program could offer to its school and district leaders and quickly moved to explore partnership opportunities with the Chamber. The result was a partnership which allows district leaders to participate in cohorts dedicated to CCSD staff throughout the year. The district's first cohort of 34 individuals began on February 3, 2023, and will conclude on March 24, 2023.

"This is yet another fantastic tool to support the District's commitment and mission to create culturally competent learning environments that adapt to and value diversity as well as foster cultural knowledge," said Deputy Superintendent of Schools Anita Huggins. "We are delighted to be working with the Chamber on this valuable learning opportunity for our staff and are excited to work together to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our classrooms and our greater community."

Leading this work is Kenya Dunn, consultant and DE&I practitioner. Kenya is an experienced executive, coach, and entrepreneur. She has a 20-year track record of transforming cultures, activating large groups of people to accomplish complex goals and a gifted ability towards leadership development. Kenya serves as the Chamber's Executive Fellow of Diversity, Equity and inclusion.

"We are excited to partner with the Charleston County School District to provide this important training to further our efforts of creating an equitable community," said Richard Waring, Vice President of DE&I for the Chamber. "The Diversity

Certificate Program prepares participants to serve as an equity-centered leader and make a greater impact on our community.”

With approximately 1,600 member organizations representing 160,000 professionals, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce serves as the collective voice of the business community, and a catalyst for regional economic advancement and member success through Talent, Advocacy, Leadership and Business Development. Visit charlestonchamber.org to learn more about the organization.

To learn more about the Chamber’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, visit www.charlestonchamber.org/dei or 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 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.