

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Two CCSD leaders to join Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative

Division of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Interim Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Anita Huggins, and Director of General Counsel Investigations, Oscar Douglas, were recently selected to participate in the Riley Institute's Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI) for Fall 2022. They are part of a 43-member class from the Lowcountry.

The DLI, hosted by Furman University, provides individuals with new tools and perspectives to leverage diversity to improve organizational outcomes and drive social and economic progress in South Carolina. These leaders, who are members of DLI's 16th Lowcountry class, were selected through a rigorous application and interview process after being nominated by DLI alumni. They are uniquely positioned to create impact within their organizations and communities. Each class is crafted to reflect the diverse demographics in South Carolina.

Huggins has served a teacher, school administrator, and district leader in CCSD for more than two decades. In her current role with the district, she is helping design, execute, and measure the success of programs that support *Vision 2027*, an initiative that focuses on having all students reading at grade level by fifth grade, by Spring 2027.

Douglas supports the district's Office of General Counsel. Before taking his current position, he was a Deputy Director in the Office of Security and Emergency Management for CCSD. Douglas has been with the district for more than five years.

"Ms. Huggins and Mr. Douglas exemplify the high standards of our district and commitment to serving all our students, staff, and families," said Superintendent of Schools Don Kennedy. "They will be excellent representatives for both CCSD and the Riley Institute's storied program."

The Riley Institute confirmed Huggins and Douglas brought CCSD's total number of DLI participants to 13.

Over the course of five months, the class will engage in intensive discussions and scenario analyses that allow them to openly examine sensitive issues related to

diversity and inclusion with fellow leaders, explore “blind spots,” and gain tools to develop strategies within their own organizations.

“In a time of significant social strife, leaders must come together to identify ways to unite communities to improve outcomes for all,” said Dr. Don Gordon, executive director of the Riley Institute. “The DLI experience will help them as they lead South Carolina toward a better tomorrow.”

Class members also work together to develop capstone projects, partnering with nonprofit organizations to respond to real challenges and opportunities in their communities.

Graduates of DLI become Riley Fellows, members of a powerful cross-sector network of South Carolinians that includes corporate CEOs, legislators, superintendents, religious and nonprofit heads, and business and community leaders.

For more about the program, visit the [Riley Institute's website](#). Contact the Division of Communications at (843) 937-6303 for additional information.

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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.