

For Immediate Release

September 6, 2022

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD Operations Division celebrates employees of the year

Division of Communications

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Vanessa Denney
Interim Executive Director of Communications

Charleston, SC – Employees across the Charleston County School District (CCSD) are celebrated every day, and annually the best of the best are recognized as Employees of the Year. The Operations Division announced their nominees, Thursday, September 1, 2022. Five employees were recognized by department and one individual was chosen as the overall Operations Division Employee of the Year (EOY).

Shanikqua Johnson-Smith was named EOY for the Capital Programs Department and is this year's awardee for the entire division.

Also recognized were Tom Gribben, (Security and Emergency Management), Sonya Jones, (Transportation), Mary Wakefield, (Facilities Management), and Terris Wilson, (Nutrition Services).

"I have had the pleasure of working with Shanikqua Johnson-Smith for more seven years now, and just when I think she can't have an even greater year, she does," said Jeff Borowy, Chief Operating Officer. "Her efforts this past year were truly phenomenal and have had a wide ranging positive impact across CCSD."

Johnson-Smith supports both Capital Programs and the entire Operations Division. As the "information hub" for the division, she routinely coordinates actions and directs customers across the enterprise with her exceptional communication and interpersonal skills. Additionally, she is the District 4 Constituent Board Advisor.

Her many accomplishments include the following: led the effort to establish a Capital Programs public meeting process to effectively gather community input and concerns; spearheaded the creation and execution of a Facilities Management Department employee climate survey; coordinated the interview effort for the Executive Director of Capital Programs position and ensured a seamless on-boarding of the selectee; coordinated the transition efforts for the new Principal-on-Special Assignments and exiting of the prior

Principal-on-Special Assignments; and demonstrated personal initiative and continued professional development by completing a Master's Program in Human Resources Management and Cultural Diversity.

Additional finalists

- Gribben is a campus safety manager. He was hired as the district's first manager of the Search and Safety Team in 2018. Gribben has built the program from the ground up which includes random searches in high schools, a comprehensive security assessment program of all schools, and providing security staffing support for unusual occurrences throughout the year.
- Jones is a quality assurance manager with Transportation. She has worked with the state, First Student, and Durham Transportation. Jones' efforts have resulted in significant cost savings for the District and safe and efficient bus routes for all CCSD students.
- Wakefield is a playground coordinator with Facilities Management she works to provide safe and enjoyable play areas for CCSD students. She is always looking for ways to improve playgrounds, both for safety and inclusion of ADA students.
- Wilson is a Nutrition Services Manager. During the pandemic, he traveled all over the district covering for managers in area of the county. Wilson was asked to take over Meeting Street at Brentwood this past year and exceeded the standards set by Nutrition Services. Additionally, he managed the summer school meal program at North Charleston Creative Arts.

"Selecting finalists among the hundreds of dedicated employees across the Operations Division was not easy, but each of the five teammates honored this year is clearly deserving of being recognized for all they have done for our schools and children," added Borowy.

For more information, contact the Division of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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.