



**Charleston County School of
the Arts**

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Media Release

SOA music educators awarded at state professional development conference

North Charleston, SC – Two Charleston County School of the Arts music educators were recognized by the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) at the February professional development conference in Columbia.

Dr. Christopher Selby was named to the SCMEA Hall of Fame and Kenneth Turner was awarded the National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence" Award.

Selby directs SOA's high school orchestras and Turner is the high school band director.

Under his direction, Selby's orchestra students performed at the 2019 [Midwest Clinic](#), and they won the 2016 ASTA National Orchestra Festival's top award of Grand Champion in the competitive public school division.

In addition to teaching and conducting, Selby is a published author and served two separate terms as the President of the state's Orchestra Division, and president of SCMEA from 2011-2013. He is currently the chair of the American String Teachers Association K-12 Committee.

"It was such a surprise and honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for the South Carolina Music Education Association," said Selby. "I have loved serving the SC music educators in this organization over the past 22 years, and it is also a wonderful feeling to be recognized for that work."

Under Turner's direction, the SOA Wind Ensemble was a featured performing ensemble at the 2022 SCMEA In-Service Conference, and both of his SOA Jazz Bands received a Superior with Distinction at the SCBDA State Jazz Performance Assessment. The Jazz Band at SOA also recently placed more students in the SC All-State Jazz Band than any other school in the state.

"The SCMEA Conference is an opportunity for music teachers from across the state to share ideas, network, and support each other," said Dr. Denisse Santos, Director of Visual & Performing Arts for CCSD. "The various workshops and sessions provide opportunities for inspiration and learning of new ideas that teachers can take back

with them and implement in their own classrooms. There is also an opportunity to listen to performances from the top performance groups in the state.”

The mission of the SCMEA is to support and promote quality music education in South Carolina schools and communities. The annual conference brings together musical professionals, educators, and exhibitors for three days of learning and collaboration.

Several CCSD music educators hosted conference sessions for attendees including Selby and Turner. Others include Margaret Selby, Laing Middle School Orchestra teacher; and Santos. Suzanne Reed, middle school band director at SOA, guest conducted a piece at the concert as well.

“This year, we had the opportunity to hear two extremely talented groups of students from SOA that were featured at the conference,” added Santos. “I am so proud of the students and teachers from both groups from SOA, and extend my congratulations. This year’s conference was truly an uplifting experience.”

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

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Caption

From left to right, Ken Turner, Director of SOA High School Bands, Suzanne Reed, guest conductor and Director of SOA Middle School Bands, Shannon Cook, principal of SOA, Basil Kerr, Former Director of SOA High School Bands and Dr. Denisse Santos, Director of Visual and Performing Arts for CCSD.

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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.