

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD partners with UofSC to create Men of CHS Teach

Division of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor, Ed.D.
Chief of Staff

Program builds pathway for men of color to become educators

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to building a diverse teacher workforce and preparing all students to be global citizens. High-retention alternative teaching pathways have been created as another means of attracting diverse teacher candidates to Charleston County schools.

Most recently, CCSD has partnered with the University of South Carolina (UofSC) to provide support via Carolina Collaborative for Alternative Preparation. This partnership has been the springboard for Men of CHS Teach, CCSD's Male Teachers of Color Pathway. This alternative certification pathway is a non-degree seeking route which leads to South Carolina teaching certification in Early Childhood or Elementary Education.

"This opportunity means a great deal to me as I get to help shape the lives of our future," said Taylor Wright, a candidate for Men of CHS Teach. "I am appreciative of this opportunity and will do my best to ensure that I impact student lives in the best way possible."

The Men of CHS Teach cohort will follow a residency model, allowing candidates to co-teach alongside effective CCSD teachers. E.B. Ellington Elementary, North Charleston Elementary, Stono Park Elementary, and W.B. Goodwin Elementary are the participating school locations.

"Being a part of this work with Men of CHS Teach is rewarding and makes me proud to be a product and employee of Charleston County School District," said April Butler, CCSD's Director of Pathways to Teaching. "The intentionality is inspiring and so I encourage candidates to apply and become change agents in the lives of our students."

Targeted professional development and mentorship are embedded throughout the experience to ensure that candidates are provided with

ultimate support. Additionally, UofSC has partnered with Voorhees College to provide Praxis Preparation resources to candidates in an effort to assist with securing the state required content level exam.

"The College of Education at UofSC could not be more excited to partner with CCSD on the Men of CHSTeach project," explained Tommy Hodges, USC's Dean of the College of Education. "As the state's flagship institution, we carry with us a mission to address the teacher workforce needs throughout our state. This new pathway marries a number of recent innovations in teacher preparation, and is consistent with our College's commitment to further diversify the teacher workforce.

Candidates who meet the eligibility requirements and pass the interview and CCSD Clearance process are paid based on CCSD's Teacher Salary Schedule. Requirements include the following:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher (any major)
- Minimum of 2.75 GPA
- Has not completed student teaching

Men of CHS Teach is a cost-free alternative certification pathway, that with intentionality, seeks to recruit and retain diverse male Early Childhood and Elementary teacher candidates.

"I am excited to have the Board of Trustees' support for such an amazing opportunity and initiative to address not only our teacher pipeline issues, but most importantly an initiative that will address our commitment to having male teachers of Color in our CCSD classrooms," added Bill Briggman, CCSD's Chief Human Resources Officer. "This is a powerful game changer for our profession and will have a positive impact on our students across the district."

CCSD recognizes that a diverse teacher workforce enhances the learning experience and takes stock in this initiative and the value it brings to the classrooms across the district.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communication 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.