



Angel Oak Elementary School

For Immediate Release

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Contact

Judith Condon, 843-559-6412

Media Release

Principal of Angel Oak earns honor from Palmetto State Arts Education

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Michelle Simmons
Associate Superintendent of
Elementary Learning Community

Judith Condon
Principal

Johns Island, SC – Angel Oak Elementary School's principal, Judith Condon, made a decision to invest in the arts when she arrived at the school in 2017. That investment led to a range of opportunities for the students, and eventually, recognition for the school at the state level. Condon is the 2021 Palmetto State Arts Education (PSAE) Arts Administrator of the Year Award.

The honor goes to administrators who demonstrate a commitment to arts programs, make a difference in the lives of South Carolina's school students, and uphold the mission of the PSAE to advance learning in and through the arts for all students.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," explained Condon. "Our arts-integrated model at Angel Oak continues to be a driving force that supports overall school improvement, student engagement, and achievement. This award also recognizes the hard work of the teachers, staff, students, and families at our school as they work to think differently about curriculum, instruction, and assessment in order to serve this new generation of learners".

Condon was honored at the PSAE Conference in Columbia earlier this month, and was recognized by the Charleston County School District's Board of Trustees during this week's Board meeting.

In 2018, Angel Oak was the recipient of a federal SmART Literacy Grant (over 2.1 million dollars) with [ArtsNow](#) to support Arts Integration training for teachers, artist residencies and arts experiences for students for a four year period. In this final year of grant implementation, the school will host "Demonstration of Learning" Days to share effective practices and impactful academic data supporting this model. Teacher portfolios have been recognized by ArtsNow as exemplars in showcasing the implementation of the grant.

In addition to implementing an arts integrated model with fidelity, staff at Angel Oak provide accelerated arts opportunities in dance, visual arts, music (and more) in which students can participate. Related arts teachers participate in "AI Push" blocks to work alongside and collaborate with general education teachers to integrate learning. The school has built an impressive strings (orchestra) program, a STEAM makerspace class and supports a thriving drama club. Local partnerships

with organizations including Engaging Creative Minds, the College of Charleston Opera, YoArt, Charleston Jazz, the Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston Stage and Palmetto City Ballet have helped students to recognize the power of the arts in the school and the community. The [school hallways](#) also serve as an interactive gallery space for "The Faces of Innocence" photography project in collaboration with the Besharat Gallery in Atlanta.

For more information, contact Judith Condon at (843) 559-6412.

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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.