

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt 843-937-6583

Media Release

District celebrates four Rookie Teachers of the Year

Division of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Chief of Staff

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) honored four first-year teachers Thursday, August 26, 2021, by surprising them with Rookie Teacher of the Year awards.

Alexis Porfilio (Sullivan’s Island Elementary School), Rebecca Patsalos (Angel Oak Elementary School), Kathleen Remley (Thomas C. Cario Middle School), and Payton Gehrs-Schultz (East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies) were all honored with a surprise visit from Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait and district staff.

The CCSD 2021 Rookie Teachers of the Year represent the top first-year teachers at the early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each teacher was nominated by their principal for embracing Charleston County School District’s vision for teachers who truly exemplify the best in their school. After being selected by the schools, the rookies wrote essays in which they described the ways that they meet the needs of their students and their students’ families. These applications were rated by a team of veteran educators who had the difficult job of finding the top Rookie Teachers of the Year.

“To be recognized as an outstanding first-year teacher is quite an honor,” said Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent for CCSD. “Not only is an educator’s first year in the profession filled with a lot of firsts, last year they had the added challenge of navigating virtual learning during a pandemic and they were fantastic. These wonderful ‘rookie’ teachers are an asset to our district and to the teaching profession.”

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