



**R.B. Stall High School**

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Joseph Williams, Ed.D.**  
Associate Superintendent of  
Secondary Learning Community

**Jeremy Carrick**  
Principal

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact**

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

## Media Release

### **R.B. Stall's ROTC student-cadets earn scholarships and opportunities**

**North Charleston, SC** — Student-cadets in R.B. Stall High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) overcame a challenging year to achieve success this past school year. Graduating seniors who participated in the program earned various opportunities, including an AFJROTC Scholarship, Academic and Instructional Flight Scholarships, an Air Force Reserve Aim High Flight Scholarship, and a Lowcountry Aviation Association Flight Scholarship.

R.B. Stall's Senior Aerospace Instructor Lt. Col. Lonnie Ford takes great pride in leading the AFROTC program, which helps student-cadets overcome social obstacles and encourages them to establish and achieve their goals.

"We have one of the most diverse school populations in the Lowcountry," explained Lt. Col. Ford. "I believe the mesh of cultures at Stall creates an environment the leads to our students and staff working for and supporting success for everyone in our school community."

Hunter Kirby, the Class of 2021 valedictorian, accepted a nomination to the prestigious United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), which will provide him an education free of cost, as well as training at one of the most distinguished military institutions in the nation. The vetting process to be selected for the academy is extensive, and Kirby was nominated from an applicant pool of over 3,500 students. Kirby is already in Colorado, pursuing a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force (USAF).

Another member of Stall's AFJROTC program, Kaycee Koontz, received a four-year AFROTC Scholarship, which provides full college tuition at any public university within the United States. Koontz will attend the University of South Carolina in August, and upon graduation, she plans to become a commissioned officer in the USAF.

Additional R.B. Stall student-cadets Gissell Hernandez, Halany Howell-Jordan, Chrishtiana Paraiso, and Alexia Soriano will experience fixed-wing aircraft instructional flight training this summer through the Air Force Reserve AIM High Flight Program or in separate training courses with the Lowcountry Aviation Association. Participation in these programs will potentially lead students to

accomplish a solo flight upon completing the training, which is a requirement to receive a pilot's license.

"The student-cadets, under Lt. Col. Ford's leadership, have built a tradition of excellence here at Stall," said Principal Jeremy Carrick. "They are committed to representing themselves, their families, their classmates, and our school community with honor and respect wherever they go. I cannot be more proud of them and their accomplishments."

For more information about Stall's AFJROTC program or the accomplishments of the student-cadets, contact Lt. Col. Ford at [lonnie\\_ford@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:lonnie_ford@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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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.