



East Cooper Center for Advanced
Studies

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For Immediate Release

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Media Release

East Cooper CAS teacher-librarian earns grant from Toshiba America Foundation

Mount Pleasant, SC – Staff members at East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies are committed to providing students with life-changing educational and career opportunities. Thanks to a grant the East Cooper CAS teacher-librarian Melissa Beyel received, students there will have more opportunities.

Beyel learned a few weeks ago that the [Toshiba America Foundation](#) awarded her with a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and technology) grant worth \$4,012. The funding will allow her to utilize [Google Expeditions](#) Virtual Reality kits; teachers can provide their students with immersive learning experiences through this program. Beyel is also going to ask teachers to provide her with nominations of students who will assist in creating a virtual tour of the East Cooper CAS.

“The media center within the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies has become a true innovation center under the leadership of Mrs. Beyel,” explained Principal Jeff Blankenship. “She has established a wide variety of opportunities for students to explore their interests and the addition of these Google Expedition Virtual Reality kits will only enhance their experiences. We appreciate the Toshiba America Foundation and their efforts to promote STEM education here in South Carolina.”

Blankenship added the kits should be available for students to use in January 2021.

Toshiba America Foundation's grants fund projects designed by individual classroom teachers. This “direct-to-teacher” approach brings immediate results. Teachers are able to change the way they teach STEM subjects because the grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and inquiry-based approaches to the curriculum. The organization believes STEM is a lot more fun than just reading a textbook. These grants provide teachers with the tools they need to be more effective educators as well as make the classroom a more exciting place for both teachers and students.

For more information, contact Jeff Blankenship at (843) 856-5815.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is 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 more than 50,000 students in 87 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.

About the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies

The East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies was designed to bridge the gap between high school and college, providing technical skills and training beyond the high school level. Serving students from Lucy Beckham and Wando High Schools, the three-story, 125,000 square-foot academic building features abundant classroom spaces for programs in biomedical sciences, business classes, computer science, cosmetology, engineering, health sciences, horticulture, media technology, and sports medicine. Additional facilities include a 6,100 square-foot automotive technology building, a greenhouse, and an equipment storage building.