

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Project Lead The Way honors five CCSD schools

Office of Strategy and Communications

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce five schools have been named Distinguished Schools by Project Lead The Way (PLTW), either as a High School or Gateway School. The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs.

Wando High School becomes the first high school in South Carolina honored by PTLW three years in a row, and Thomas C. Cario Middle School is the only middle school in the state to receive Distinguished School status for three consecutive years for its Gateway to Technology program.

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science (CCSMS) is a Distinguished High School for the first time, and the middle school program picked up Gateway honors for the second time in three years. CCSMS is one of just a few schools in the country to pick up multiple awards from PLTW in the same year.

In addition, Morningside Middle School was recognized for the second year in a row as a Gateway School and Laing Middle School received the Gateway honor for the first time.

This recognition program started in the 2017-2018 school year; this is the highest number of CCSD schools to make PLTW Distinguished Schools list in one year (four in 2017-2018 and three in 2018-2019).

“We are building innovative CTE (Career and Technology Education) learning communities using the PLTW curriculum throughout the district,” said Tralice Reddock, the district’s Career and Technology Education curriculum specialist. “Our teachers are committed to providing thorough and creative opportunities for our students, and our students, in turn, are embracing and excelling with these opportunities. It is exciting to see schools recognized nationally.

[PLTW](#) is a non-profit organization that serves millions of K-12 students and teachers in approximately 12,200 schools across the United States. The organization's recognition program honors schools that are committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. Schools that are recognized for this honor empower their students to thrive in an evolving world and have achieved exemplary results from their PLTW programs.

"Project Lead The Way prepares our students for the high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers of the future," added Rich Gordon, CCSD's Executive Director for Career and Technology Education. "Students learn how to problem-solve, think strategically, and work in teams, all the while building determination and grit."

Wando offers seven courses through its Engineering Program and four courses through the Biomedical Science Program.

Cario Middle carries all ten courses in the Gateway to Technology program: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Science and Technology, Automation and Robotics, Design and Modeling, Green Architecture, App Creators, Medical Detectives, Magic of Electrons, Energy and the Environment, and Flight and Space.

Morningside currently offers Automation and Robotics, Science and Technology, and Design and Modeling.

At the high school level, Charleston Charter provides the seven courses in Engineering and four courses in the Biomedical Science Program. In middle school, CCSMS rotates scholars between several of the PLTW classes each year, including Design and Modeling, Green Architecture, and Medical Detectives, to prepare them for the high school curriculum.

Laing provides students with the opportunity to take Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Medical Detectives, and Science and Technology.

For more information about the PLTW in CCSD, contact Tralice Reddock at tralice_reddock@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing 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. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music

and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.