



**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **Wando Band honored by National Band Association**

#### **Wando High School**

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

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Sharon Randall**  
Executive Director of Secondary  
Learning Community

**Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer**  
Principal

**Charleston, SC** – The Wando High School Band was recently named as one of the 2019 National Recipients of the National Band Association (NBA) Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award.

The NBA Programs of Excellence initiative recognizes quality programs at all levels. Those programs and educators which challenge students and promote standards of excellence are honored nationally through this initiative.

The band is under the direction of Bobby Lambert, Lanie Radecke, and Jeff Handel.

“The National Band Association is one of the most respected band organizations in our profession,” said Lambert. “They have honored legends in our field as well as programs that expose their students to extraordinary opportunities. We are honored to be counted among some of the best programs in the country and are thrilled to bring a national spotlight to Charleston County.”

According to Lambert, Radecke spent many hours compiling videos, audio recordings, and past programs as part of their application.

“It was quite rigorous,” said Lambert. “The committee is very adamant the winners must have a well-rounded program; a rarity for so many music programs. There are colleges who would love to have our program.”

Many school bands focus on just marching or jazz but Wando exhibits high standards and performance in the realm of ensemble and solo playing in the mediums of concert, marching, and jazz literature.

“We just couldn’t be prouder of the work our students have done,” said Lambert. “This award is not the same as ‘winning a contest’. It is a cumulative award for the great work of not only this band but our previous classes of alumni students and staff members.”

The Bands of Wando are in large part, supported by the local community, along with the Charleston County School District, the Town of Mount Pleasant, its Harmony Sponsors, the Bands of Wando Foundation, parents, and alumni. For more information visit [WandoBands.org](http://WandoBands.org).

“It takes committed students, parents, and administrators, coupled with a community that values doing the best for our students to make our Wando Band successful,” added Lambert.

For more information on this Blue Ribbon Award, contact the Bands of Wando at [director@wandobands.org](mailto:director@wandobands.org).

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 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.