ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are One
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Dr. Ernest Cooper, Director
Lake Marion Technology Center



Dr. Johnny Murdaugh, Director
Cope Area Career Center

DR. ERNEST COOPER APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF LAKE MARION TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND DR. JOHNNY MURDAUGH AS DIRECTOR OF COPE AREA CAREER CENTER

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Ernest Cooper and Dr. Johnny Murdaugh to new leadership roles within the district, effective July 1, 2024.

Dr. Ernest Cooper Appointed as Director of Lake Marion Technology Center

Dr. Ernest Cooper, currently serving as the Assistant Principal at Lake Marion High School, will become the Director of Lake Marion Technology Center. With a strong educational background and extensive leadership experience, Dr. Cooper is well prepared for his new role.

Dr. Cooper received his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from South Carolina State University in December 2023. He also holds a Master of Science in Leadership in Education Administration

from Capella University, an Educational Specialist Degree, a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Troy University, and a Bachelor's degree from St. Leo University.

In his current position since September 2018, Dr. Cooper has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to student success. His new role at Lake Marion Technology Center will leverage his expertise to enhance the center's programs and opportunities for students.

Dr. Johnny Murdaugh Appointed as Director of Cope Area Career Center

Dr. Johnny Murdaugh, who has been the Director of Lake Marion Technology Center since July 2019, will now take on the role of Director of Cope Area Career Center. Dr. Murdaugh brings a wealth of experience and a strong educational background to his new position.

Dr. Murdaugh earned his Doctorate of Education in Education Administration from the University of Sarasota in December 2001. He also holds a Master of Music with a focus on African American Music from Northern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance with a minor in Music Education from South Carolina State University.

During his tenure at Lake Marion Technology Center, Dr. Murdaugh has managed a secondary technical school serving over 1350 students from four feeder schools, with over 16 program offerings. His duties included overseeing curriculum development, building partnerships with businesses and the community, and managing the school's finances and student affairs to ensure compliance with district and state policies.

"We are excited about the new leadership transitions within our district. Dr. Cooper's and Dr. Murdaugh's extensive backgrounds and dedication to education will greatly benefit their respective schools. We are confident that their leadership will continue to drive success and innovation," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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