

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Simmons selected as “What Women Bring” honoree

Office of Communications

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.
Interim Executive Director of
Communications

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD)’s Chief Academic Officer, Michelle Simmons, was recently named the 2024 Education Honoree by the YWCA of Greater Charleston. The YWCA’s What Women Bring is an annual event that honors outstanding women who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication in their respective fields.

What Women Bring launched in 2018 at the Charleston Area Convention Center. The inaugural luncheon event featured a panel of professional women representing ten different industries having candid conversations about contributions to their professions, past experiences, strengths, challenges, and future opportunities for growth in their workplace and communities. Emceed by WCBD News 2 anchor Octavia Mitchell and WCSC Live 5 News anchor Ann McGill, this year’s event on September 25, 2024, featured a dynamic group of [panelists](#), including Simmons.

With a career in education spanning over 26 years, Simmons has been instrumental in delivering educational opportunities and providing vital support to students and families in Charleston County. She has served in various capacities throughout all levels of the system including as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, director, executive director, associate superintendent, and now chief academic officer (CAO). In her current role as CAO, Simmons oversees a team responsible for curriculum implementation, special education services, and comprehensive student support, including social work and mental health provisions.

“Michelle is an incredible leader who is committed to ensuring positive student outcomes for all students via high-quality teaching and learning opportunities,” said Superintendent of Schools Anita Huggins. “We are tremendously proud of her recognition as this year’s Education Honoree and are grateful to have her as a leader, role model, and advocate for the students of Charleston County School District.”

Throughout her career and in her work daily, Simmons is committed to ensuring access to high-quality programs and courses for all scholars and creating pathways for leadership opportunities for minorities.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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 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 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.