ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTH HIGH SCHOOL BAND STUDENTS SECURE OVER $1.5 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly celebrates its students who have earned prestigious scholarships. These awards highlight the hard work, dedication, and academic success of our students, offering them significant opportunities to advance their education and pursue their aspirations.

The Scholarship Fair, held on February 12, 2025, at Burke High School in Charleston, SC, showcased 15 leading Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) band programs. Mr. Linard McClound, the event's host and a long-serving director of bands, has been pivotal for two decades in helping students progress in their musical education.

Under Mr. McClound's guidance, numerous students have secured scholarships, thanks to his commitment to musical excellence and his longstanding relationships with HBCU band programs. His efforts have significantly impacted the lives of many students, not just in Orangeburg County but across the academic and musical communities.

OCSD also recognizes Mr. Herman Marsh, Band Director at North Middle/High School, for his vital role in mentoring students and preparing them for these opportunities. His dedication has been crucial to the success of his students, enhancing their musical skills and scholarship prospects.

Colleges and universities that participated include:

- South Carolina State University
- Benedict College
- Florida A&M University
- Fayetteville State University
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Livingstone College
- Tuskegee University
- Allen University
- Hampton University
- Southern University
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Savannah State University
- Virginia State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Voorhees University

Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster shared his pride in the students, applauding their resilience and the steadfast support of educators, families, and the community. He looks forward to their future achievements.

The scholarship recipients have demonstrated outstanding leadership, academic prowess, and community service, meriting recognition from various institutions. The total scholarship amounts awarded include:

- Nisiah Rhodes, Senior percussion band member - $132,000
- Darionah Sutton, Junior clarinet and alto saxophone player and band captain - $192,000
- Dylan Peele, Junior assistant clarinet section leader - $256,000
- Diaja Kenly, Senior clarinet band member - $266,000
- Damian Schostag, Junior clarinet and trumpet player - $284,000
- Davion Martin, Senior baritone player and band drum major - $384,000

OCSD is dedicated to creating an environment where students can excel and realize their potential. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all scholarship awardees and their families, celebrating their achievements and the promising impact they will make in their future endeavors.

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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