ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATORS NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Marshall Elementary School lunch clerk Senetta Williams and Carver-Edisto Middle School math teacher Kavitha Rathinam have been nominated for National Life Group's 2024-25 LifeChanger of the Year award. Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year honors outstanding K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who make a difference in students' lives through excellence, positive influence, and leadership.

Williams was nominated by a colleague, Jacqueline Sanders, for her steadfast dedication, kindness, and genuine care for the students, staff, and families at Marshall Elementary School. In her role, she makes sure every child is nourished and supported both physically and emotionally during the school day. She knows each student by name, making them feel valued and recognized.

"In a role that often goes unnoticed, Ms. Williams represents what it means to truly change lives. She brings compassion, dedication, and a strong sense of community, making a lasting impact on everyone she meets," said Sanders.

Rathinam was nominated by her colleague, Rehana Nasser, for her persistence and determination to advance GT math education in her community. She recently earned her National Board Certification and a doctoral degree at the same time. Beyond teaching, she collaborates with the district on curriculum development, keeping GT math programs on track.

"I am incredibly excited to nominate Kavitha for this award because she has changed my life and the lives of students by inspiring a passion for mathematics," said Nasser.

Get Involved

Community members are encouraged to support these nominees by leaving comments on their individual profiles. The selection committee will take these comments into consideration when choosing winners. Show your appreciation and share how they've made an impact by visiting their nomination pages:

View Williams' full profile: Senetta Williams Nomination
View Rathinam's full profile: Kavitha Rathinam Nomination

About LifeChanger of the Year

Since 2011, LifeChanger of the Year has recognized and rewarded more than 8,500 K-12 teachers, administrators, and school employees in over 2,300 school districts. The program has awarded more than $790,000 in cash prizes to winners and their schools for their meaningful contributions to education.

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be presented during the 2024-2025 school year.

- **Grand Prize Winner** – Receives $10,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- **Grand Prize Finalists (4)** – Each receives $5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- **LifeChanger Award Winners (10)** – Each receives $3,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- **Spirit Award Winner** – Given to the nominee whose community shows the most support for their nomination. The winner receives $5,000 to be shared with their school/district.
- **Spotlight Award Winner** – Given to a nominee in a specific discipline each year. The winner receives $5,000 to be shared with their school or district.

Winners are chosen by a selection committee of past recipients and education professionals and will be announced in early 2025. Nominees must be K-12 teachers or school district employees. To be considered, nominees must:

- Make a meaningful impact on students' lives
- Improve their school or district's atmosphere, culture, and pride
- Demonstrate strong leadership at the school and/or district level
- Show a history of professional excellence
- Foster a supportive environment for learning
- Uphold the highest moral and ethical standards

<u>Orangeburg County School District</u>

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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