

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **WAHS instructional coach and Beckham teacher cadet educator recognized with distinguished achievement award**

Office of  
Communications

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Superintendent of Schools

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**Charleston, SC** – Sandra Cannon, a West Ashley High School, an instructional coach, was recognized with a Jessie Williams Little - Distinguished Achievement Award this year. The Jessie W. Little “Leading the Way” Award, established in honor of Jessie W. Little (Winthrop class of '73), serves to recognize those mentor teachers who offer crucial support and guidance to new and future educators. Mentor teachers play an important role in the Teacher Education Program at Winthrop University as well as in the South Carolina ADEPT process for first-year teachers.

Bettie Parsons Barger, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Education Partnerships and Preparation at Winthrop presented the award.

There are a variety of public school teachers who fill the role of a mentor. To be considered for this award, teachers must be a formal mentor to beginning or veteran teachers, be a mentor teacher for pre-service teacher candidates in field experiences and/or student teaching, or be a teacher cadet instructor. Nominees must have been in the classroom for at least three years.

In addition, most mentor teachers who receive this award work in high-needs schools and positively impact diverse student populations.

This award is a partnership between the Littles and the James and Susan Rex Institute for Educational Renewal and Partnership. The chosen recipient receives \$2,500 cash and is inducted into a collaborative group of mentor teacher leaders working to improve education for the state of South Carolina.

Additionally, Erica Becker from Lucy Beckham High School was named a Jessie Williams Little “Leading the Way” Award for outstanding mentorship Honorable Mention Teacher for her work in recruiting and retaining teachers! She teaches College of Charleston Dual Enrollment Teacher Cadet class, mentors first year teachers, host student interns and works tirelessly to share the joys of teaching with those interested in becoming teachers!

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.