

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orangeburg County School District and OC Tech Continue Partnership to Guarantee College Access for All Graduating Seniors

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – The Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) and Orangeburg County Technical College (OC Tech) proudly celebrated the continuation of The HOPE Initiative today, an innovative program ensuring every OCSD graduating senior has the opportunity to attend college. Now in its third year, today's event at OC Tech reaffirmed the district's commitment to opening doors for students beyond high school.

Designed to eliminate uncertainty for students unsure about their post-graduation plans, The HOPE Initiative guarantees that 100% of OCSD graduates receive college acceptance. By securing provisional admission to OC Tech, students who may have faced financial, academic, or personal barriers now have a clear and supported path to higher education.

"Not every student has a plan when they walk across the stage at graduation," said OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "We want all of our students to have options and to know that college is within their reach. The HOPE Initiative makes this possible by ensuring every graduate has the chance to take that next step."

For many students, high school graduation can feel like an endpoint rather than a new beginning. The HOPE Initiative was established to change that mindset by removing the barriers that often prevent students from pursuing college. "Some students just need that extra encouragement to

see college as a real possibility,” said Dr. Veronica Scott, OCSD Secondary Schools Director. “Through this initiative, we are providing them with not just an acceptance letter, but a tangible plan for their future.”

As part of today’s event, after receiving their provisional acceptance letters, students had the opportunity to tour the OC Tech campus. This hands-on experience allowed them to explore academic programs, interact with faculty, and learn more about resources available to support their educational journey.

“Our mission at OC Tech is to provide students with the skills and education they need for a successful future,” said Dr. Walt Tobin, OC Tech President. “This partnership allows us to reach students who might not have considered college an option and show them that we are here to support their success.”

Today’s HOPE Initiative celebration, held at 9:30 a.m. in the Roquemore Auditorium on the OC Tech campus, marked another milestone in the district’s ongoing efforts to create brighter futures for its students.

For more information about The HOPE Initiative, please contact Dr. Veronica Scott at veronica.scott@ocsdsc.org.

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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