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Contact:
Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD 2025 Teacher of the Year Finalist Profile - West Ashley's Kee hopes to foster trust between families and the community

Office of
Communications

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

Michelle A. Mills
Associate of Communications

Charleston, SC – Megan Kee arrived at West Ashley High School in January of the 2019-2020 school year. She knew her first year teaching would be hard, and then the COVID-19 pandemic added extra pressure and stress to the experience. However, Kee made it through with flying colors, earning the Rookie Teacher of the Year designation.

Kee credits the school administration and the community for her success and is appreciative of the continued training and professional development she has received over the years.

"Teaching was a thing I always knew I wanted to do," said Kee. "Everything I have worked for and achieved has a singular focus: I want to build systems that I would want for my own children."

A large part of Kee's own story is her family's journey. Her grandmother grew up in rural Malaysia and left home to get schooling to become a nurse. Her father was fortunate enough to attend a great school in Malaysia's capital city of Kuala Lumpur. Similarly, Kee has had great educational privilege thanks to the sacrifices her dad made once moving to the United States.

"My desire to improve systems for all children is really rooted in the fact that people took chances on members of my family in order to give them a better shot, and I am trying to pay that forward," explained Kee.

In college, Kee was in a guest lecture that broached the topic of Asians as the "Model Minority," due specifically to their cultural understanding of collectivism.

"Rather than putting focus on one's own success, culturally we put the emphasis on everyone's success," said Kee. "Two of my classmates, one on each side, turned and said, 'That's you'. I actually ended up writing my master's dissertation on this and the crossover between this cultural belief and learning communities for

young teachers. While my heritage is not something I'm particularly in touch with, the idea of collectivism is something that I abide by and is seen in my classroom and in my school community. My door is always open to colleagues and scholars."

Kee's classroom, like her teaching style, is student-centric. At any moment, even when she is not teaching a class, her classroom is full of students. Alongside the wall of Kee's room is seating for students not on her roster who need additional academic support during the school day. Students from entry-level courses, SAT Bootcamp, and off-campus dual-enrollment classes fill those seats, raising their hands when they need help, and often assisting each other. She said watching strangers collaborate within her classroom - students grade levels apart - speaks towards the inclusive nature of Kee's classroom, where all students are welcome, and all learners are supported.

That's why Kee is determined to use the opportunity as a Top Five Teacher of the Year Finalist to advocate for trust.

"I want the community to know that teachers are professionals and the extensive training and professional development provided to us has prepared us to teach and fully do the job we were called to do," said Kee. "My hope is to advocate for trust so that the community is reminded that we as educators are prepared to serve their children."

Kee believes that every person is impacted by education and by the quality of schools in their community.

"The belief that anyone can teach, or that those who can't do teach, has negatively impacted our country for decades," said Kee. "I believe that Charleston County School District (CCSD) is making great strides towards helping the community view teachers as professionals, with a set of skills that must be honed and sharpened. Specifically, the competitive pay rate of CCSD will prevent teachers from needing supplemental income, giving them the space to really thrive professionally. It will also attract young teachers, fresh from education programs."

Kee explained that with CCSD emphasizing that teachers impact students most, the hope is that the community shifts towards trusting teachers, administrators, and district professionals to make the decisions that they have been trained to make.

"As public servants, we are all making choices to benefit the public as a whole, as schools are a vessel for implementing community-wide social mobility," said Kee. "In the spirit of collaboration, my message to the public and my fellow educators would be that we are all in this together. Every single teacher across the state wants their students to be successful, just like every parent wants their child to achieve greatness. Parents, by supporting your student's teachers and taking an active role in your student's education, you are showing your student how important it is, because with an education, anything is possible."

Kee is looking forward to serving and is humbled and appreciative of the support she has.

"Students can do anything, and I hope that as their teacher, I show them that they are capable," Kee added.

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.