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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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William J. Clark Middle School Students Win Statewide Honors in 36th Annual Economics and Financial Literacy Poster Contest

Orangeburg, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) is proud to announce that two of its outstanding students, William J. Clark Middle School students, Jaidah Green and Hanika Faith DeGracia, have been named winners in the 36th Annual Economics and Financial Literacy Poster Contest, hosted by the South Carolina Council on Economic Education (SCCEE). Selected from a pool of over 350 entries statewide, their creative illustrations of key economic concepts—productive resources and producers and consumers—were chosen as two of only sixteen winning posters.

The annual contest encourages K-12 students to demonstrate their understanding of fundamental economic and financial principles through visual art. Now in its 36th year, the contest aims to foster financial literacy, creativity, and critical thinking among students across South Carolina. Winning entries are selected based on originality, accuracy of economic concepts, and artistic expression.

"We are beyond proud of Jaidah and Hanika for this remarkable accomplishment. Their creativity and understanding of economic principles at such a young age demonstrate the power of engaging, real-world learning experiences. These young scholars are a shining example of the excellence we're cultivating across Orangeburg County School District," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District.

To honor their achievement, Jaidah and Hanika were recognized at the 36th Annual Economics and Financial Literacy Awards Luncheon on Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in Columbia, S.C.

"At William J. Clark Middle School, we believe in nurturing every student's talent, and Jaidah and Hanika have made us all incredibly proud. Their success is a testament to their hard work, the support of our teachers, and the strength of our school community," said Mr. Phillip Mickels, principal of William J. Clark Middle School.

During the event, the students received:

- Their original artwork beautifully framed
- A personal check in recognition of their achievement
- A check for their teacher
- Several printed calendars featuring their published artwork
- An official certificate of accomplishment

William J. Clark Middle School and Orangeburg County School District applaud Jaidah and Hanika for their dedication and success. Their work not only reflects academic excellence but also serves as an inspiring reminder of the importance of financial literacy and creative education in our schools.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Erica S. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Communications and Business and Community Partnerships, at erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org or 839-356-4040.

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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