

For Immediate Release
June 27, 2025

Contact:
Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Selvitelli Recognized as 2025 Student Activist of the Year by National Education Association for Racial and Social Justice

Office of
Communications

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

Michelle A. Mills
Associate of Communications

Charleston, SC - The National Education Association's Center for Racial and Social Justice (CRSJ) named Kate Selvitelli, a rising senior at Academic Magnet High School, a recipient of the 2025 Student Activist of the Year Award (SAoTY). She was nominated by Patrick Martin, Teacher Cadet instructor and educator at Charleston County School of the Arts and Academic Magnet High School, and by Larissa Bortz, an English teacher at Academic Magnet and the leader of her DAYLO (Diversity Awareness Youth Literacy Organization) chapter.

Selvitelli is the president and founder of Academic Magnet's DAYLO chapter. DAYLO is a statewide organization that advocates for pro-literacy and anti-book bans across South Carolina.

Selvitelli has spoken at the Charleston County School District school board meetings, the South Carolina State Board of Education, and to the South Carolina State Black Caucus. DAYLO has also been recognized by the State House of Representatives. Three weeks ago, she was awarded the South Carolina Education Association's (SCEA) Riley Award, which is given to a K-12 student whose achievements in the school and/or community have helped enhance the sense of worth and dignity of others.

Selvitelli has also been featured in the Banned Together documentary and in a Nickelodeon News segment. Additionally, she has been on panels regarding her activism at Newberry College, the American Library Association's annual meeting, the Authors Against Banned Books monthly zoom call, at the Pat Conroy Literary festival in Beaufort, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Charleston, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Beaufort, and at the annual joint convention with the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance and the North Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association.

Selvitelli will be recognized at the annual Conference on Racial and Social Justice, June 29 – July 1, 2025, in Portland, OR.

The CRSJ Student Activist of the Year Award recognizes a K-12 student or student group that has worked to advocate on educational, social, and/or racial justice

issues that impact the lives of students, fellow educators, and the communities they live and serve in.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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 51,000 students in 90 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.