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PRESS RELEASE

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Jefferson High School Historical Marker Dedication

York, SC – York School District One is proud to announce the dedication of a historical marker honoring the legacy of Jefferson High School, the only high school for African American students in the city of York prior to integration.

“Jefferson High School was more than a building—it was a beacon of hope, pride, and belonging for generations of African American students and families. Its story is forever woven into the fabric of York School District One and continues to inspire the work we do to ensure every student is seen, heard, and belongs,” said Dr. Heath Branham, Superintendent of York School District One.

The dedicated marker was made possible through a partnership with the district, Culture & Heritage Museums, Jefferson Remembered, a group of Jefferson high School Alumni, and the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission. The marker was funded by a grant from the SCAAHC’s 2023-2024 Historical Marker Funding Program, recognizing historic sites important to African American History and heritage across the state.

“This historical marker will commemorate the educational haven for thousands of African American children and youth from 1888 –1970. There can never be an end to the link between the wonderful past and our heritage for years to come,” said Phyllis Moore Ward, president of Jefferson Remembered.

Jefferson High School was established on West Jefferson Street in 1903 and later relocated in 1924 to the then newly constructed Rosenwald building on Pinckney Street.

The marker will be unveiled during a public dedication ceremony on Saturday August 30th at 11 a.m. on the historic site of the 1924 Rosenwald building on Pinckney Street, the former campus of

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Jefferson High. A drop-in reception will be held immediately following the ceremony hosted by Jefferson Remembered.

WHAT: Jefferson High School Historical Marker Dedication

WHEN: Saturday, August 30, 2025
11 a.m. (reception to follow)

WHERE: Pinckney St. will be closed from Highway 321 and Highway 49 intersection to Highway 321. Parking available along the road near 16 Spruce St., York, S.C. Additional parking available behind York One Academy at 37 Pinckney St. York, S.C. 29745

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