

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCSD Teacher Natasha Washington Named Palmetto Citizens Teacher of the Game

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly celebrates Natasha Washington for being named a Palmetto Citizens Teacher of the Game, a prestigious honor presented in partnership with the University of South Carolina and Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union (PCFCU).

Washington was recognized during the USC vs. South Carolina State University football game on Saturday, where she received \$1,000, four game tickets, and in-stadium recognition on the scoreboard and loudspeaker before thousands of fans.

"Ms. Washington represents the best of Orangeburg County School District, passion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to student success," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, OCSD Superintendent. "We are happy to see her honored for her work with our students and grateful to Palmetto Citizens for celebrating the invaluable work of educators."

This recognition is part of the ongoing partnership between OCSD and PCFCU, formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2024. Through this agreement, PCFCU has committed to supporting OCSD in celebrating and rewarding excellence in education, promoting financial literacy initiatives, and providing resources that strengthen the district's connection with students, families, and the community.

As part of this partnership, PCFCU awarded a \$250,000 housing grant to OCSD to assist educators with affordable housing opportunities, an initiative aimed at attracting and retaining top teaching talent in the county. This investment demonstrates PCFCU's deep commitment to both the personal and professional well-being of OCSD educators.

Palmetto Citizens, founded by teachers nearly 90 years ago, launched the ***Teacher of the Game*** program to spotlight outstanding educators across South Carolina. One teacher is selected for each USC home football game based on their excellence in teaching, leadership, and service to their school community.

OCSD congratulates Natasha Washington for earning this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her tireless dedication to students, families, and the future of our community.

For more information about the Teacher of the Game program, visit palmettocitizens.org/teacherofthegame.

Also, to learn more about OCSD, 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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