Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD Board of Trustees Special Recognitions for October 13, 2025

Charleston, SC (October 14, 2025) – The Board recognized several staff members October 13, 2025.

National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month

Heather Anderson, the director of school counseling services for the Charleston County School District (CCSD), presented a resolution recognizing October 2025 as National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month in CCSD.
CCSD believes every student deserves to learn and thrive in an environment that is safe, caring, inclusive, and free from bullying, harassment, or intimidation; and
The resolution proclaims that National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month, observed each October, unites schools, families, and communities in raising awareness, promoting kindness, and taking action to prevent bullying. CCSD proudly boasts a Comprehensive Bullying Prevention Protocol Toolkit to establish consistent districtwide procedures for education, prevention, reporting, and intervention, ensuring that every concern is taken seriously and addressed promptly. The district's plan is data-informed, culturally responsive, and developed with input from students, families, and staff to ensure equity, access, and safety across all schools.
CCSD remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion and accountability through education, prevention, and early intervention so that all students feel seen, supported, and safe. As a result, the Board of Trustees recognized October 2025 as National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month and encourages all schools to continue implementing inclusive, evidence-based practices that strengthen relationships and ensure a safe learning environment for every student.

National Day of Concern
This year's National Day of Concern is on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to prevent youth violence, raise awareness, and empower students to take a stand for peace and safety.
The Department of School Support Team has planned several activities for students to acknowledge the day on October 15, 2025. Students and staff across the district are encouraged to wear orange to show their support. At 10:15 a.m., schools will participate in a district-wide moment of silence to honor those lost to gun violence, and CCSD students will recite the Day of Concern Pledge and sign Pledge Banners affirming their commitment to reversing the epidemic of gun violence.
Members of the Department of School Support team joined the Board of Trustees in a stand of solidarity against gun violence.

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week 2025 is being celebrated from October 13–17, 2025. The official theme for 2025 is "Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport," which encourages students to explore global cuisines through special menus, decorations, and activities. In CCSD, our talented Nutrition Services Team ensures students have nutritious and yummy school lunches every single day. Their healthy meals power student learning.
Trustees applauded their continued work, Monday evening.

Operations Employee of the Year
CCSD recognized the 2025 Operations Division Employee of the Year, Jamie Simpson, a Nutrition Services Manager at Lucy Beckham High School.
Jamie's leadership has transformed the school's cafeteria into a model of teamwork, efficiency, and student engagement. Under his guidance, student meal participation has increased significantly in both the breakfast and lunch programs, thanks to his focus on quality, service, and connection with students. Known for his servant leadership, Jamie never asks his team to do anything he wouldn't do himself. His collaborative approach has fostered professional growth among his staff and earned him the Spirit of the Bengal Award from Lucy Beckham High School, where he received a standing ovation from students for his impact on their daily lives.

212° Award
This month's 212° Award Recipient was DeAndre Ladson, who was selected by Angel Oak Primary School as staff member of the month. The award he received describes DeAndre as someone who goes above and beyond to serve Angle Oak students in the cafeteria. He takes pride in the cafeteria's mobile serving cart that has enabled the breakfast line to move quickly and students to be served more efficiently.
DeAndre was recognized Monday for his passion for his work, and the joy he has in going that extra degree for the students, and his smile says it all; he loves what he does!

SCSBA Boardsmanship
Board member and leadership team training is a priority for the South Carolina School Boards Association. Established in 1982, SCSBA's Boardmanship Institute offers a year-round training curriculum focused on leadership skills for board members on state and national educational issues.
Congratulations to trustees Keith Grybowski (Board Chair) and Pam McKinney (Committee of the Whole Chair), who reached a new level in Fiscal Year 2024-25.
The pair were presented with certificates and pins in honor of this accomplishment.

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.