



Charleston County School District

Office of Communications

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Board Recognizes Two Standout Principals and the MMA Robotics Team

Charleston, SC (February 25, 2026) - The Charleston County Board of Trustees recognized several success stories at the Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Board meeting.

Bryan Coleman, principal of **Thomas C. Cario Middle School**, was recognized for being selected as the recipient of the prestigious South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Principal of the Year Award. The honor recognizes Coleman's outstanding contributions to advancing opportunities and outcomes for exceptional children and youth.

Under Coleman's leadership, Cario has achieved remarkable progress in supporting students with special needs. Over the past three years, the school has more than doubled its proficiency scores (according to the SC READY assessment) in English Language Arts for special education students and nearly doubled proficiency in Math - gains that exceed both district and state averages for this population.

Coleman will be honored at an awards luncheon this Friday in Myrtle Beach.

Congratulations to Principal Coleman and the entire Cario community for this recognition.

Additionally, **Wando High School** Principal Chas Coker, who has been named the 2026 Dr. Kay Phillips Administrator of the Year by the Southern Interscholastic Press Association, was honored Wednesday evening. This prestigious award recognizes his exceptional support for student media programs and for cultivating student journalists.

According to Philip Caston, the adviser for the school's [award-winning student media programs](#), Coker has "continued the standard of Wando's and the District's commitment to outstanding student media and then some, and has worked with us to cultivate and build our student media programs into even stronger opportunities and learning experiences for our students."

Principal Coker has been invited to attend SIPA's annual convention in Columbia, where he will receive his award and address students and advisers from across the South at the awards banquet on March 7, 2026.

A team of students was also recognized. **Military Magnet Academy's** FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, TalonSkies, represented South Carolina at the United States Governors Cup, a national robotics showcase at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., this past weekend, where they finished in the top half of the country (22nd overall).

TalonSkies' achievement reflects the dedication of a committed coaching and mentorship team, including TSgt. Ferrette-Clark; Darwin Shorters, Computer Science Teacher at MMA; TSgt. Jerry White, Middle School Leadership Instructor, and Sally-Ann Archie, mentor from BAE Systems. These educators consistently collaborate, innovate, and provide real-world STEM connections for students, preparing them for future careers.

FIRST South Carolina is part of the global FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization, which inspires young people to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through exciting mentor-based robotics programs.

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.