



**Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies**  
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## Media Release

### Cooper River CAS Students Earn Top Honors at SkillsUSA State Competition

**North Charleston, SC (March 23, 2026)** — Students from Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) made an impressive debut at the SkillsUSA South Carolina State Leadership and Skills Conference, earning multiple top finishes during the statewide competition held March 9–12, 2026, at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia.

The annual event brings together talented students from across South Carolina to compete for state championships in leadership, occupational, and skill-based competitions. Participants showcase their expertise across a wide range of career pathways while connecting with peers, educators, and industry professionals. The conference also highlights the contributions of advisors, state officers, board members, and business and industry partners, while recognizing outstanding chapters through the Chapter Excellence Program.

Competing in its first-ever state conference, Cooper River CAS performed well in the Engineering Technology Design category. The following Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Engineering students earned top honors:

- **Gold (1st Place) – Engineering Technology Design:** Bryson Matthews, Zachary Gould, and Emily Evans
- **Silver (2nd Place) – Engineering Technology Design:** Kamiya Myers, Michael Gould, and Aila Ramirez-Quintana
- **Bronze (3rd Place) – Extemporaneous Speaking:** Michael Gould

All winning students were guided by their advisor, William T. Davis, who teaches PLTW Engineering at Cooper River CAS.

“We are incredibly proud of our students for their outstanding performance in our first year competing,” said Davis. “Their dedication, teamwork, and technical skill truly set them apart on a statewide stage.”

By earning first place, Matthews, Gould, and Evans qualified to represent the school and state at the national SkillsUSA Championships, scheduled for June 1–5, 2026, at the Georgia World Congress Center.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the premier showcase of America’s most highly skilled career and technical education students and one of the largest hands-on workforce development events in the world. Held in conjunction with SkillsUSA’s National Leadership & Skills

Conference each June, the event features more than 6,700 state champions from across the United States competing head-to-head in 114 skilled and leadership competitions.

For more information, contact Principal Vanessa Brown at (843) 953-3231.

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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 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.