



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
 75 Calhoun St.,
 Charleston, SC 29401
 (843) 937-6303

Media Release



Vanessa Brown
 Director of Postsecondary Pathways for Peninsula Programs at Burke High School

Vanessa Brown to Continue Service in New Role **Supporting Postsecondary Pathways at Burke High** **School**

Charleston, SC (April 17, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) is pleased to announce that Vanessa Brown has been named Director of Postsecondary Pathways for Peninsula Programs at Burke High School, where she will play a critical role in advancing the district's Peninsula Promise.

Ms. Brown, who recently announced her retirement as principal of the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CRCAS) effective July 15, 2026, brings decades of experience in Charleston County schools and a distinguished record of expanding opportunities for students through career and technical education and postsecondary pathways.

"Ms. Brown has dedicated her career to ensuring students have access to meaningful opportunities that prepare them for life beyond high school," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "We are incredibly fortunate that someone of her experience, knowledge, and deep commitment to this work will continue to serve our students in this role. There is no one more qualified to help lead this effort forward."

In this new role, Ms. Brown will help develop and coordinate postsecondary pathways aligned to the Peninsula Promise at Burke High School. She will work closely with school and district leaders to expand access to high-quality opportunities, including dual enrollment, industry-recognized credentials, and career-connected learning experiences.

Ms. Brown will collaborate directly with Burke High School Principal Jacob Perlmutter, Ms. Cheryl Swinton, Program Executive for the Peninsula Promise Project, and Dr. Rich Gordon, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education, to ensure strong alignment between academic programs and workforce pathways, helping students seamlessly transition to college, careers, and beyond.

During her tenure at CRCAS, Ms. Brown strengthened the center's role as a regional hub for career and technical education, expanding hands-on learning opportunities and building strong partnerships with industry leaders. Her leadership helped ensure that more students graduated with both academic knowledge and real-world skills aligned to high-skill, in-demand, and high-wage career fields.

This appointment reflects CCSD's continued commitment to investing in experienced, visionary leadership to ensure the success of the Peninsula Promise and to deliver a connected, high-quality educational experience for every student on the Charleston Peninsula.

Ms. Brown will begin in this role following her retirement from CRCAS.

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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.

