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Dr. Liana N. Calloway

OCSD's Dr. Liana Calloway Selected for Inaugural National Black Women Superintendent Academy

Assistant Superintendent joins distinguished national cohort for leadership initiative presented by NABSE and Howard University

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly announces that Dr. Liana N. Calloway, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, has been selected for the inaugural cohort of the Black Women Superintendent Academy, a national leadership and superintendent-placement initiative created by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) in partnership with Howard University's School of Education.

The highly selective academy was created to address the significant underrepresentation of Black women in the nation's top public education leadership positions. According to NABSE, Black women comprise less than 1.5 percent of sitting superintendents nationwide, despite being among the nation's most highly credentialed and experienced educators. The Black Women Superintendent Academy is intentionally focused not simply on professional development, but on preparing and positioning accomplished district leaders to successfully pursue superintendent roles.

"Dr. Calloway is an exceptional educational leader whose selection for this inaugural national cohort reflects what those of us in Orangeburg County School District already know, she has the experience, and leadership capacity to lead at the highest levels of public education," said OCSD Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster. "Her career has been defined by a commitment to ensuring that every student, particularly those who need an advocate most, has access to the support and opportunities necessary to succeed. We are tremendously proud that NABSE and Howard University have recognized the leadership potential and impact she demonstrates every day in Orangeburg County," Dr. Foster continued.

The seven-month academy will run from October 2026 through April 2027 and features a hybrid model of in-person and virtual learning, individualized coaching, mentorship, networking and superintendent placement preparation. The program begins with an in-person convening at Howard University in October 2026 and will include experiences connected to the NABSE national conference and the AASA annual conference before culminating with graduation at Howard University in April 2027.

NABSE describes the academy around three interconnected pillars: leadership development, mentorship and collaborative networking. Participants will engage with experienced superintendents, educational leaders, search professionals and peers from across the nation while developing the leadership skills, relationships and professional portfolios needed to pursue the superintendency.

For Dr. Calloway, the opportunity represents another chapter in a career spanning more than two decades and devoted to student success, educational equity and expanding opportunities for students with disabilities. She began her career as a special education teacher and later served as a Special Education Teacher on Site, Curriculum Coordinator, Curriculum Consultant and Director of Special Education before moving into district-level executive leadership.

Following the consolidation of Orangeburg County's three former school districts, Dr. Calloway served as Chief Officer of Special Education, helping guide special education services through the transition. She was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Student Services in 2020.

Today, Calloway oversees a broad districtwide portfolio that includes Special Education, Nursing, Athletics, Career and Counseling Services, Social-Emotional Learning and Adult Education, directing the planning, delivery, assessment and continuous improvement of services that touch students and families throughout Orangeburg County.

"I am deeply honored to be selected for the inaugural Black Women Superintendent Academy and especially grateful to represent Orangeburg County School District in this national experience," Calloway said. "Every step of my professional journey, from the classroom to district leadership, has reinforced my belief that leadership must always begin with service. I look forward to learning alongside an extraordinary group of women, being challenged to grow and bringing that learning back to the students, families and colleagues I have the privilege of serving. I also hope my journey reminds other women in education that their experiences, their voices and their leadership are needed at every table where decisions about children are being made," she said.

A graduate of South Carolina State University, Dr. Calloway earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education, an Education Specialist degree and a Doctor of Education from the university. She also holds a Master of Education from Cambridge College. Her doctoral research examined the effectiveness of inclusion in rural school districts, with a focus on veteran and nonveteran special education teachers.

The Black Women Superintendent Academy brings together the national advocacy and practitioner network of NABSE with the academic and leadership-development expertise of Howard University. Founded in 1970, NABSE has spent more than five decades advancing educational excellence for Black children and promoting the professional growth and leadership of Black educators. The organization says the academy extends that mission by building a sustainable national pipeline of Black women prepared to lead school systems and influence educational outcomes at the highest level.

"This is bigger than an individual recognition," Dr. Foster added. "When talented leaders from Orangeburg County School District are selected for national opportunities such as this, our entire district benefits. Dr. Calloway will take Orangeburg's story and experience into a national learning community, and she will bring new knowledge, relationships and perspective home with her. That is how leadership grows, and ultimately, that is how opportunities for children grow."

About the Black Women Superintendent Academy

The Black Women Superintendent Academy is a national leadership pipeline and placement initiative developed by the National Alliance of Black School Educators in partnership with Howard University's School of Education. The academy combines leadership development, mentorship, professional networking and placement preparation to expand the number of Black women serving as school district superintendents nationwide.

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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