



**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **Wando's yearbook staff honored at national conference**

#### Wando High School

**Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Steve Larson**  
Interim Associate Superintendent  
High School Learning Community

**Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**Mount Pleasant, SC** – Wando High School is excited to announce the [school's award-winning yearbook](#), *Legend*, accomplished a historic feat this year. *Legend* was a National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Pacemaker Award finalist for the first time in school history. The Pacemaker is considered the highest honor a student publication can receive; the top 22 percent of all high school and middle school yearbooks in the country are chosen as finalists.

Representatives from Wando's yearbook staff attended NSPA's spring conference in Los Angeles last month. While they didn't win a Pacemaker Award (goes to the top 10 percent in the country), the school's yearbook adviser, Phillip Caston, is still excited about the recognition and experience.

"These yearbook students continue to bring extraordinary pride to our school and our program, and personally, to me as their adviser," said Caston. "They are driven by their passion for telling our student body's stories through both writing and visuals, and they only push themselves to be better each year. The honors and awards are just an extra reward for all their hard work. I'm proud of the service they bring to Wando and their commitment to journalism excellence. Students like them give us great hope for the future."

In addition to Pacemaker finalist status, *Legend* placed eighth in Best of Show among the largest books at the NSPA convention. The following students also placed in the convention's individual Best of Show contests:

- First Place, Yearbook Design - Senior Harper Duffy
- Second Place, Photojournalism - Senior Sarah Cote
- Third Place, Photojournalism - Senior Anna Jane Morrall
- Sixth Place, Editorial Leadership - Senior Clara Barresi
- Seventh Place, Yearbook Design - Sophomore Ava Kempinski
- Eighth Place, Editorial Leadership - Senior Lily Higgins
- Tenth Place, Yearbook Design - Junior Katie Brown

"We are extremely proud of our Wando *Legend* yearbook staff for an outstanding exhibition at the Spring NSPA conference and being named as a Pacemaker finalist," added Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "The book is a beautiful

representation of the excellence our students place on themselves and their dedication to the exceptional product. We applaud our *Legend* staff."

Earlier this school year, the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association named *Legend* the best yearbook in the state. The publication also received an All-American rating with Four Marks of Distinction from NSPA and earned the Blue & Gold Award for Writing Excellence from Quill & Scroll for the fourth year in a row.

For more information, contact Phillip Caston at [phillip\\_caston@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:phillip_caston@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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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 of 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 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.