



**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **West Ashley High students recognized for accomplishments in Career and Technology Education**

**West Ashley High School**

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Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Sharon Randall**  
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**Charleston, SC** – West Ashley High School is excited to announce two scholars earned awards for their work in Career and Technology Education (CTE). The South Carolina Department of Education's Office of CTE named junior Dejah Parks as the Work-Based Learning Student (WBL) of the Year Award for the Trident region and senior Reggie Miller as the Technology Champion for the Trident Region.

Parks is a CTE Completer in Helen Shepherd's Nail Technology program at West Ashley High School. Simply Your Spa, located in the Magnolia Park shopping center on Ashley River Road in Charleston, hosted her work-based learning experience.

"Dejah Parks is the epitome of hard work and dedication," said Shepherd. "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is the little extra,' which she always displays. Dejah's unique awesomeness and positive energy inspire confidence in others. If you want the light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is. Dejah is definitely a shining star."

Miller is a CTE Completer in the school's Culinary Arts CTE Program of Studies, led by Jason Wheless. Leon's Fine Poultry & Oyster Shop on King Street hosted Miller's work-based learning experience.

"Reggie Miller is everything the West Ashley Culinary program stands for," explained Wheless. "He hit the deck running and never looked back, taking with him knowledge, techniques, a strong network, passion, creativity, and leadership. There is no doubt he will make a huge impact in whatever field he pursues."

The SC Work-Based Learning Student of the Year Award identifies students who are leading examples of excellence and dedication in their WBL experiences and can demonstrate how that WBL experience will benefit them in their potential career field.

The Technology Champion of the Year honor goes to students who display the ability to balance life inside and outside the classroom with extra-curricular activities and service to the community while demonstrating success in academics, part-time employment, and work-based learning experiences.

Parks and Miller, as well as Antoinette Green (a district career specialist who is the Trident Region's Career Specialist of the Year), will be honored at the South Carolina Education & Business Summit in Greenville, which is scheduled to take place in late July.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.