

For Immediate Release

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Media Release



LaShawna Harris
Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

Office of Communications

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LaShawna Harris selected as CCSD leader of Teaching and Learning

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Lashawna Harris as Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. Harris has served as the district’s Director of Instructional Programs since 2019.

Harris brings over 20 years of diverse experience developing and implementing programs to increase student academic success to the role. She began her career in 1998 as a CCSD classroom teacher at R.D. Schroder Middle School in Hollywood, SC, where she taught sixth through eighth grade social studies. During her time at Schroder, Harris served as department and grade level chair, as well as a Mentor and Cooperating Teacher.

In 2005, Harris took her talents to Berkeley County at Cross High School where she taught eighth grade social studies. While at Cross, Harris improved student achievement resulting in 75-80% student proficiency on the Palmetto Achievement of State Standards (PASS) while collaborating with grade level and department team members to improve instructional delivery.

A standout in her field, Harris was quickly selected by the State Department of Education (SDE) to become a Teacher Specialist two years later at St. George Middle School to provide instructional coaching to the Social Studies Department. While with the SDE, Harris developed 6-8 curriculum maps to support the implementation of content area standards, as well as organized and facilitated professional development focused on improving student academic success. Overall, she led an 11% increase in the Social Studies Department Standardized Test Scores during her time in this role.

With a keen interest in growing professionally as a school administrator, Harris took the position of Title I Facilitator at Cross High School. As the Title I Facilitator, Harris managed the annual Title I operating budget and served as testing coordinator for South Carolina Department of Education Standardized Testing, including HSAP, EOC, and PASS. She also organized and facilitated a parenting program, resulting in increased parental involvement and a 16% increase in School Report Card Survey Results in the areas of teacher and parent satisfaction with school-home relations.

In 2010, Harris was selected as Dorchester School District Four (DD4) Woodland High School's Curriculum Specialist and Assistant Principal of the 9th Grade Academy. In addition to managing professional development and curriculum and instruction, she also implemented a one-week Summer Transition Camp to assist ninth graders with their transition to high school, as well as organized and implemented HSAP and EOC campaigns focused on providing academic support in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics resulting in an overall increase of 14% in ELA and 12% in Mathematics proficiency. The school also improved its SDE State Report Card overall and growth ratings.

An ambitious and skilled leader, Harris was selected as principal at Harleyville Ridgeville Middle School in 2012. With an eye for continuous improvement and growth, Harris provided professional development training for career teachers in the areas of data analysis, differentiated instruction, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Making Thinking Visible, and Understanding by Design. She also successfully implemented the SC Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) resulting in a value added score of five out of five in year three and an intervention program which achieved 100% proficiency on Algebra I and English I End of Course Exams.

With measures of success and proven gains, it was no surprise Harris was selected as DD4's Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Gifted and Talented Coordinator a few years later. In this role, Harris supervised and coordinated all curricular and instructional programs and collaborated with the Director of Professional Development regarding appropriate training for the implementation of curriculum and instructional activities. She also directed and assisted in the development of pre-K-12 curriculum, curriculum maps, and pacing guides, as well as analyzed and interpreted national, state, and local data to ensure accountability.

When Harris was not in the classroom observing instruction and providing administrators and teachers with instructional feedback and strategies, she was collaborating with curriculum specialists on benchmark test development, benchmark implementation, and analysis of benchmark results.

Harris joined CCSD's Learning Services division at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year as the leader of the district's Virtual Schools program. As the leader of this program, Harris coordinated the management of all operations and functions of the CCSD Online Learning Department, including online, distance, and virtual learning programs, in a manner consistent with state and district policies. She also successfully implemented the CCSD Virtual Franchise to expand course offerings in partnership with VirtualSC and coordinated with stakeholders to implement the CCSD Distance Learning Program to expand AP course offerings for rural Title I schools.

In her current role as Director of Instructional Programs, Harris works collaboratively within her division to align instructional programs planning and organizational procedures with the goals and action steps outlined in CCSD's strategic plan and adopted guidelines. She also provides leadership to ensure integration and cooperation between the coordinators of CCSD instructional programs and school-based administration and staff.

"I am thrilled to welcome LaShawna to this role," said Chief Academic Officer Michelle Simmons. She is a true standout in her field, and her work ethic, achievements, and results demonstrate her excellent leadership skills and commitment to ensuring high-quality educational outcomes for students, families, and staff. I look forward to continuing the great work in progress with her in this position."

Harris earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Georgia Southern University, a Master of Education in Student Diversity from Southern Wesleyan University, and an Education Specialist degree in Leadership from Cambridge College.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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 50,000 students in 88 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.