

**For Immediate Release: Tuesday October 18, 2022**



**Academic Magnet High School**

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

**Anita Huggins**  
Interim Chief Academic Officer

**Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.**  
Associate Superintendent of  
High Schools

**Jacob Perlmutter**  
Principal

Academic Magnet High School is proud to announce that Ms. Kimberly Zerbst, our Assistant Principal, has just completed the required coursework, exams, research, and dissertation defense to earn her Educational Doctorate Degree (Ed.D.)!



Dr. Zerbst is the epitome of a lifelong learner; her thirty year educational journey is wide-ranging and includes experiences at many different programs through a diverse group of universities. Most recently, she enrolled in a culminating degree program at Charleston Southern University, earning her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.

Her dissertation included a validation study comparing two types of historical thinking skills for their use in competency based education, a learning paradigm that is widely used in the Northeast and in Europe. She hopes to help bring those practices to South Carolina to make history education more engaging, specifically for students taking Advanced Placement history coursework.

Reflecting on her work, Dr. Zerbst said, *“History is so much more than a collection of dusty old facts, it is a collection of our stories, who we were and who we want to become. By giving students agency in their own learning, we have an opportunity to ignite the love of history in every child.”*

Dr. Robert Doan, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at Charleston Southern University shared, *“There is a small percentage of people who earn a doctoral degree in this world. Not only is Kimberly going to be one of them in December 2022, she completed this task faster than any other student in the history of Charleston Southern University. Kimberly worked hard as a cohort leader and is a great role model for others who decide to pursue this degree in the future.”*

Principal Jacob Perlmutter added *“While anyone who has spent some time with Ms. Zerbst won’t be too surprised by this accomplishment, that doesn’t diminish this remarkable crowning professional achievement!”*

Please join us in celebrating this extraordinary academic honor and professional milestone with our own Dr. Zerbst!