

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Three More CCSD Schools Recognized by Project Lead The Way

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Communications**

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Charleston, SC — Three high schools in the state of South Carolina were honored recently by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) as Distinguished Schools for the 2017-2018 school year. Two of them are Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools: James Island Charter High School (JICHS), and Wando High School (WHS). Charleston Charter School for Math and Science (CCSMS) received Distinguished School Gateway status for the PLTW opportunities offered to its middle school students. One-hundred and thirty-three high schools and 110 middle schools nationwide received this award.

[PLTW](#) is a non-profit organization that serves millions of K-12 students and teachers in over 10,500 schools across the United States. The organization's recognition program honors schools that are committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. Schools that are recognized for this honor empower their students to thrive in an evolving world and have achieved exemplary results from their PLTW programs.

JICHS currently offers the following PLTW Engineering Courses:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Civil Engineering & Architecture
- Digital Electronics
- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Principles of Engineering

"I am very pleased on how our program has grown since we introduced it to our school in 2003," said JICHS PLTW teacher Carolyn Bird-Whitley.

"Receiving this honor validates all of the hard work and long hours that I have put into this program."

Wando offers PLTW programs in Engineering and Biomedical Science. The Engineering Program offers eight courses, while the Biomedical Science Program offers four courses. Students develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through these programs.

"It is an honor for Wando's students and teachers to be recognized for their commitment to excellence in our ongoing, successful PLTW programs," stated WHS Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "These programs, in turn, allow students to develop skills to be successful in their post-secondary lives."

To be eligible for this designation, high schools must meet the following criteria:

- Offer a minimum of three PLTW courses from any pathway
- At least 25 percent of students participate in PLTW courses or of those who participate, 33 percent or more take two or more PLTW courses during their high school tenure
- Seventy percent of students or more earn a score of "Proficient" (or higher) on end-of-course assessments or 10 percent of students or more earn the Advanced Placement and PLTW Student Achievement.

CCSMS, like Thomas C. Cario Middle School, is being honored as a Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway™. Jessica Wolfrey, the PLTW Gateway Master Teacher at CCSMS, explained four of the ten PLTW Gateway Units (Automation and Robotics, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, Design and Modeling, and Medical Detectives) are available to students, and a fifth, Flight and Space, is infused into an 8th grade science class.

"Over the last five years, we have been working on creating a dynamic PLTW [Gateway] program that grows learners from grades 6-8 at CCSMS," added Wolfrey. "This takes commitment from the teachers and administrators to truly realize a program that vertically aligns 6th-12th grade instruction; we are always refining and working towards that goal. This vision is inspired by our mission at CCSMS to create an environment where our scholar's academic experience is innovative, equitable, and prepares them for college and careers outside of our walls.

For more information about the PLTW program at JICHHS, contact the school's Director of Guidance, Deborah Farrell, at (843) 762-8356. To learn more about PLTW at Wando, contact Assistant Principal of Career, Technology, and Education Tristan Robinson at (843) 821-8200. If you would like to know more about PLTW at CCSMS, contact Jessica Wolfrey at (843) 720-3085.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 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.