



For Immediate Release
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Media Release

Wando Advanced Robotics Team Takes Third Place in South Florida Regional

Wando High School

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Superintendent of Schools

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Kim Wilson
Executive Director of Secondary Learning Community

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Mount Pleasant, SC – The Wando Advanced Robotics team (W.A.R.) surpassed their own expectations and high standards by delivering an impressive performance at the South Florida FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Regional at the Palm Beach Convention Center on March 29-31, 2018. The W.A.R. team placed third overall with a record of 8-3, and had the highest Offensive Power Rating out of all the competitors. Fifty-seven teams participated, including teams from China, Turkey, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic.

“We are so proud that the hard work of our students has paid off as Wando Advanced Robotics had their best season ever!” exclaimed the team’s coach and Wando High School English teacher Giselle Cheeseman. “We placed in the Top-8 at both of the regional tournaments we went to. But, the performance down in Florida was amazing; an unforgettable experience. Thank you to the parents, mentors, and sponsors who supported us on this incredible journey.”

The team actually consists of students from Wando and Academic Magnet High School, along with home-schooled students from the Lowcountry; Julia Ballou, a senior at Wando, served as the team captain. Cheeseman and Nicole Calkins, a math and science teacher at Wando, are the coaches for W.A.R.

More than 3,600 squads from around the world, including 90,000 students and adult mentors, participated in First Robotics competitions at multiple sites throughout the school year.

FIRST, which is a nonprofit organization, states that their robotics competition is the ultimate Sport for the Mind™, where imagination and innovation come together. The event combines the excitement of sport and beauty of art with the rigors of science and technology. Students are challenged to design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform tasks.

W.A.R. also finished in fifth place in the Rocket City Regional in Huntsville, AL last month, and brought home the Quality Award in that tournament for the best engineered robot.

For more information on this program or the team's recent success, please contact Giselle Cheeseman at (843) 881-8200 or giselle_cheeseman@charleston.k12.sc.us.

Photo Caption – Team Photo (students in red or costumes)

Back row (L-R): Austin Setser, Ryan Hastings, James Staubes, Brogan Theobald, Dylan Smith, Ben Duvall, Joseph Lee, Brendan Fisher; middle row (left side): Giselle Cheeseman and Naomi Duvall; middle row (right side): Drew Werner, Lily Brightwell, Adam Brightwell, Todd Hastings; bottom row (L-R) Scott Sanders, John Cutter, Gabe Cutter, Julia Ballou, Claudia Dion

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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.