



**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### Wando Students Making Their Mark in STEM-Related Competitions

#### Wando High School

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**Mount Pleasant, SC** – Wando High School (WHS) engineering students are taking what they learn in the classroom, and translating their knowledge and abilities into success in engineering/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) competitions outside the classroom.

On March 12, 2018, the University of South Carolina (USC) held its annual Project Lead The Way statewide engineering competition in Columbia, SC. Teams from Wando competed in both competitions: Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. The Warriors did extremely well in Introduction to Engineering Design; two teams from Wando tied for first place. For that event, teams deconstructed a wooden toy glider and presented their findings and work to faculty members at USC.

The following students are members of the winning teams: Brooklyn Cantey, William Eustis, Annabelle McIlwain, Mackenzi Nierduffy, Elise Petit, and Maura Porter.

“Our engineering students showcased their excellent teamwork skills and demonstrated a strong grasp of engineering fundamentals during competitions,” explained Katie Johnson, an Introduction to Engineering Design teacher at WHS. “We have such committed students that really want to excel in tasks outside the typical classroom environment.”

Later in the month, the school’s Engineering Design Squad learned they received honorable mention in the 2018 Toshiba/NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) ExploraVision competition. Hannah Grace Coker and Peyton Smith joined McIlwain and Nierduffy on this project, which discussed how to eliminate “space junk” that is floating in the Earth’s orbit. The honorable mention award places Wando’s submission in the top 10% of all projects submitted throughout the country.

“Wando is definitely making its mark in STEM,” added Johnston.

For more about Wando’s recent success in STEM-related competitions, contact Katie Johnston at (843) 881-8200.

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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.