



For Immediate Release
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Media Release

Wando Alum Awarded Music Scholarship from University of South Carolina

Wando High School

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Mount Pleasant, SC – One of the top music scholarships offered by the University of South Carolina (USC) is one its newest scholarships: the Jennifer Hess Koenemann Scholarship. Last week, Morgan Monty, a 2017 graduate of Wando High School (WHS) and rising sophomore at USC, learned she was the first-ever recipient of this scholarship, which is worth \$2,125 annually. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarships for WHS Band graduates who have been accepted to the School of Music at USC and who are committed to the study of music.

“I am tremendously grateful to have been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Jennifer Hess Koenemann Scholarship,” explained Monty. “I witnessed Christ move in my life in so many ways during my first year at Carolina, and I feel that this is another blessing that He is certainly behind.”

Monty was Wando’s drum major for two years; she is now pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance at USC.

Barbara Hess established this endowed scholarship fund at USC’s School of Music to honor her late daughter, Jennifer Hess Koenemann, Jenni, as she was known, played flute and piccolo in the Laing Middle School and Wando bands. During her time at Charleston County School District schools, she performed at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in 1995, the National Concert Band Festival in 1998, under the direction of Miller Asbill, and spent two summers at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. She graduated from USC in 2004 with a Bachelor of Music and from Michigan State University in 2006 with a Master of Music. She went on to teach elementary school music for 12 years before passing away last year (May 16, 2017) at the age of 35 in the Cincinnati, OH area. Jenni is remembered as a phenomenal music teacher, a dear friend to others, an outspoken student advocate, and one who demonstrated her love for others through many acts of kindness.

“This scholarship is in memory of a flutist who achieved many remarkable things during her time in the Wando Band program, through her studies at USC, and throughout her career as a music educator,” added Monty. “It is my hope to honor the legacy that she has left behind in humility and grace as I carry on the pursuit

of my own education in music. I am truly speechless by the generosity of the Hess family.”

Monty, and future recipients, will receive the scholarship for four years if they maintain at least a 2.5 GPA (grade point average) at USC and meet the scholarship requirements specified by USC’s School of Music.

For more information about Morgan Monty, or the scholarship, contact Jeff Stensland in USC’s Communications and Public Affairs Office at (803) 777-3686 or stenslan@mailbox.sc.edu.

Photo Caption

From left to right: Jay Weis (USC Director of Bands & Orchestras), Morgan Monty, and Barbara Hess

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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.