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Media Release

21st Century Grants Expand Learning Opportunities for CCSD Scholars

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC — Learning does not stop when the afternoon bell rings for dismissal. That is why Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Office of Expanded Learning pursues funding through a federal grant program, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). The 21st Century grants support academic enrichment through after-school opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty schools.

The 21st CCLCs help students meet state standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math, provides students a broad array of enrichment activities that complement their regular academic programs, and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

This year, the Office of Expanded Learning applied for and received three 21st Century grants for a total of four schools; Angel Oak Elementary School, Edith L. Frierson Elementary School, Mount Zion Elementary School, and W.B. Goodwin Elementary School. A fifth school, Mary Ford Elementary, will be supported by a 21st Century grant received by the non-profit organization Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN).

"Angel Oak Elementary School is very excited to be one of the school recipients of the 21st Century grant," stated Principal Judith Condon. "Not only will this grant bring more opportunity to our students both academically and through enrichment, but it will also help to foster the growth of our partnership with our Kaleidoscope programs. We know the importance of providing our families with quality after school programming and we are thankful to CCSD's Office of Expanded Learning for supporting our school!"

The four-year grants provide \$200,000 in funding for the first year. Combining all 21st CCLC grants involving CCSD schools, including those sponsored by Wings for Kids and CPN, the District receives over \$2 million in support annually.

"The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant provides such a valuable service to the students, families, and schools of Charleston County School District," said Amy Bosch, Expanded Learning, 21st Century Program Officer. "The funding enables students to receive expanded day services, meaningful academic

instruction, and intentional enrichment programming at no cost to the families. This is a wonderful opportunity that will benefit the entire community."

"The addition of these new grants are part of a larger plan by the Office of Expanded Learning to better align our work with the District's goals for academics, 21st Century Skills, and social-emotional learning," noted Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning.

The 21st CCLC grants are awarded to schools and non-profit organizations that partner with schools. While Mary Ford is partnering with CPN, the Office of Expanded Learning is working with Wings for Kids, Charleston County Parks and Recreation, and the City of North Charleston Recreation Department to support Angel Oak, Frierson, Mount Zion, and Goodwin.

"CCSD has been a tremendous partner to Wings over the years, and we are thrilled by what this new grant means for our work together," added Wings CEO Bridget Laird. "Wings has operated after-school programming at CCSD schools for more than 18 years, largely due to the strong support of the 21st CCLCs. We are excited to further our work with the District and help incorporate social-emotional learning opportunities to maximize student success."

In the 2018-2019 school year, CCSD will have 15 elementary schools receiving 21st CCLC funding, which is the most in the state of South Carolina by any school district. An estimated 170 schools statewide are supported by these grants.

To learn how the grants will be implemented at CCSD schools, please contact Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning, at (843) 402-7807. For more information about the 21st Century Community Learning Center program in South Carolina, contact Joyce Patterson, South Carolina Department of Education, Student Intervention Services Team Lead, at (803) 734-8291.

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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.