

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Three CCSD Schools Recognized by Project Lead The Way

**Office of Strategy and
Communications**

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Charleston, SC — Wando High School was the only high school in the state of South Carolina to be honored by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) as a Distinguished School for the 2018-2019 school year. Wando High School is also a repeat winner from Charleston County School District (CCSD).

For the second year in a row, Thomas C. Cario Middle School received Distinguished School Gateway status for the PLTW opportunities offered to its middle school students. In addition, Morningside Middle School was also recognized as a Gateway School. They were two out of only five middle schools in South Carolina to receive this recognition for 2018-2019.

[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.

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.

"For the second consecutive year, Wando High School has received national recognition as a Distinguished High School for Project Lead The Way (PLTW)," said WHS Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. "Our PLTW teachers empower students through project-based learning activities where they experience and achieve exemplary results. We are committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in our PLTW programs."

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.

Cario Middle, is being honored as a Gateway School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. 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.

Cario Principal Gayle Morris said Cario's PLTW program has grown to include all 10 of the PLTW Gateway courses.

"The continuous access and exemplary success and achievement of the students throughout these courses have afforded Cario the honor of being recognized for the second year in a row," said Morris. "The program's success is made possible by our students who are fully engaged and immersed in the interactive course material and inspired by our outstanding PLTW educators."

Morningside Middle School Principal Stephanie Flock said their PLTW program is a result of the Liberty Hill K-12 Initiative with the support of the CCSD Career and Technology Education department.

"It is a testament to what we can accomplish when the community and its schools work together for a common goal," said Flock. "The last two years have seen an immense increase in our scholars' interest in the STEM-related classes. The opportunity to experience these classes has led to a tremendous increase in participation in local competitions, extracurricular activities, and our school-based afterschool programs."

Morningside currently offers Automation and Robotics, Flight and Space, and Design and Modeling.

"Our PLTW teacher, Richard Glickman, has been a true champion of this program, encouraging STEM activities throughout the school," Flock added. "We are excited in the growth opportunities as we look to the future at Morningside Middle School."

For more information about the PLTW program 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 Cario, contact Principal Gayle

Morris at (843) 856-4595. For details on the PLTW program at Morningside, contact Principal Stephanie Flock at (843) 745-2000.

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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.