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Media Release

Drayton Hall Teacher to Present at National Innovation Summit

Office of Strategy and
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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce the selection of elementary school teacher, Kristi Meeuwse, as a presenter at the national 2016 School Improvement Innovation Summit in Salt Lake City in September.

Dr. Kristi Meeuwse is a kindergarten teacher at Drayton Hall Elementary and a veteran educator of 27 years. Throughout her career in Charleston, she has spent three years teaching third grade and the other 24 teaching kindergarten. Meeuwse has a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education and has recently earned her doctorate in Global Education Leadership. Meeuwse is also an Apple Distinguished Educator, having been chosen for this honor in 2013 as a result of the innovative practices demonstrated in her classroom. Because of this distinction, she is able to travel around the country sharing her practices using Apple Technologies with other educators.

Drayton Hall Elementary was recently recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2015-2017 school years for their approach to personalized learning through the use of 1:1 iPad technology in the classroom. The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments.

"We are extremely proud of Kristi and all of her many accomplishments as a cutting edge educator," said CCSD Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait. "It is an honor to have her represent CCSD and share the inventive ways we are fostering personalized learning in the classroom with other educators in the nation."

Meeuwse became involved with the School Improvement Network (SIN) during the 2014-2015 school year after the organization reached out to the District about filming educators using technology in the classroom. Meeuwse was one of a few educators selected to be filmed, and was subsequently

invited to serve as a presenter at the annual SIN Innovation Summit due to her novel practices and instructional techniques. At the Summit, Meeuwse will give a 20-minute TED style keynote address followed by a 90-minute workshop about why she succeeds as an educator and how she implements her practices and succeeds with all of her students.

To view Meeuwse's work and learn more about Drayton Hall Elementary's digital innovation practices, check out the [Apple iPad in Education Results publication](#).

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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 several 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 led by associate superintendents. 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.

About Vision 2016

Vision 2016 is the next phase of Charleston Achieving Excellence, CCSD's flagship reform initiative. The five-year plan aims to dramatically improve the achievement of every student in Charleston County and includes three fundamental goals: 1) close the achievement gap, 2) elevate achievement overall and 3) raise the graduation rate. These goals were developed through a series of community engagement meetings in partnership with the CCSD Board of Trustees.