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Karen Beck

## **Former CCSD Employee Selected as Volunteer Team Lead for 2016 Olympics**

**Charleston, SC** — Former Charleston County School District (CCSD) employee, Karen Beck, has been selected to serve as a volunteer team leader at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Beck was a health and physical education teacher at several CCSD schools throughout her career including Liberty Hill, Jennie Moore, and Wilmot J. Fraser. Beck's selection to participate comes after several years of dedication toward completing online course training, passing challenging interviews, and achieving language skills necessary to qualify for this opportunity.

Beck's inspiration to serve began when she was taken to see her first Olympic Games in 1976 in Montreal. Having observed the spirit, peace, and enormous effort necessary to coordinate an event that brings together the many extraordinary and diverse countries of this world, she was awe struck. Beck went on to attend both the 1996 and the 2014 games. After returning from the 2014 games in London, Beck decided to officially began her quest to represent her country and volunteer in the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

After going through a comprehensive application process, Beck was accepted as a volunteer in November 2014. Upon her acceptance, she immediately began online training and after successfully passing five courses, was invited to a group interview with other potential team members from China, Mexico, Italy, and Spain. Beck officially received her

invitation letter to serve in November 2015 and completed additional trainings in areas such as Portuguese, Diversity and Inclusion, and Leadership in the Games. In May 2016, Beck received her assignment to serve as the Print Distribution Team Leader in Technology at the Olympic Equestrian Center in Deodoro, Brazil. Beck is scheduled to depart for Rio on August 3, 2016 where she will stay throughout the entire duration of the games and reside in Copacabana.

To support Beck's efforts and learn more about her journey, visit her [Road to Rio-Olympic Volunteer GoFundMe page](#). Follow Beck and other volunteer journeys on the [Voluntários Rio 2016 oficial / Rio 2016 Official Volunteer Programme Facebook page](#).

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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.