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Contact:

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

**Office of Strategy and
Communications**

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Executive Director



La Dene' Conroy
Principal of Mary Ford Elementary

CCSD Welcomes La Dene' Conroy as Principal of Mary Ford Elementary

Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce and welcome LaDene' Conroy as Principal at Mary Ford Elementary School. Conroy has served in various roles in CCSD for the past 30 years, most recently serving as the Interim Principal of Mary Ford Elementary since October 2016.

Conroy joined CCSD in 1987 as an elementary teacher at Mt. Pleasant Academy where she taught first and fourth grades for three years. In 1992, Conroy moved to Whitesides Elementary where she taught fifth grade, and served as grade level chairperson, science liaison, Teacher of the Year one year, and was nominated for the Distinguished Reading Teacher for Charleston County Reading Association. Two years later, Conroy took the position of Elementary and Middle School Reading Specialist and Title I Consultant for Specially Funded Programs where she worked with a variety of schools including the former Fraser Elementary, Stono Park, Sanders-Clyde, C.C. Blaney, St. James-Santee, and Haut Gap Middle. Shortly after, Conroy became principal at Mt. Zion Elementary, followed by W.B. Goodwin, and Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary. During her time at Goodwin, the school was named the Exemplary Reading School for the state of South Carolina by the International Reading Association. While at Hursey, she implemented the first Montessori Program as a partial magnet for CCSD in a Title I school. Before her most recent post at Mary Ford, Conroy served as the Interim Principal of Murray-LaSaine Elementary for one year.

Throughout her career as an educator, Conroy has received several certifications, trainings, and awards. Her educational expertise includes research, best practices, instructional delivery, and grant writing. She also serves as an adjunct faculty member for The Citadel, and a Montessori instructor for Montessori Philosophy for adult learners through Houston Montessori Center and Palmetto Primary Montessori Teacher Education Program.

Conroy also served as President and Conference Chair of the SC International Reading Association. She received the Elementary Administrator of the Year Award by the Tri-County Counseling Association in 2005-2006, and was recognized by The Center for Creative Leadership as the Inez Tennenbaum Winner by her peers. She received the Reading Recovery Advocacy Award in 2011, and most recently, was chosen as Employee of the Year for the CCSD Access and Opportunity Division, and was selected as one of the fifty Most Progressive People making a positive impact on Charleston in 2015.

Conroy holds an undergraduate degree from Kent State University, two Master degrees from The Citadel, an AMS Administration Credential in Montessori from Houston Montessori Center, and a participation certificate from the Primary Montessori Teacher Education Program at Lander University and Sea Coast Montessori Teacher Education Program for Lower El. For the past four years, Conroy has served on the SC Montessori Alliance Board, as well as on East Cooper Montessori Charter School's Governing Board. Conroy is also a current MEPI Board Member.

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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.