

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2017

Contact:

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

**Office of Strategy and
Communications**

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Chief Officer



Catherine Spencer
Principal of Academic Magnet

Catherine Spencer Named Principal of Academic Magnet High School

Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Catherine Spencer as Principal of Academic Magnet High School. Spencer joins CCSD from the American School Foundation of Monterrey, Mexico where she has served as the middle and high school campus director since 2012. While in Monterrey, Spencer was responsible for 1150 students and 110 professional staff at a highly reputed, high-achieving private international school, with the largest Advanced Placement (AP) program in the country. Her responsibilities included curriculum and assessment review, revision, alignment, and implementation, including support services/inclusion and online learning; budget and finance; facilities and operations management; international and local staff evaluation, retention, and recruitment; and strategic planning.

Spencer began her career as a classroom teacher in 1983 in New Hanover County Schools in Wilmington, NC. She served in New Hanover for nine years before taking the role of Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts, where she received state and national recognition for her development of arts education programming and teacher staff development programming with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 1996, Spencer joined Beaufort County Schools as an Associate Principal at Beaufort High where she performed administrative duties, as well as served as the International Baccalaureate (IB) and AP Coordinator.

After three years, Spencer left Beaufort County Schools for the Northwest where she was awarded a principalship in Springfield School District in Oregon at Thurston High School. At Thurston, Spencer conquered challenges surrounding budget and staffing for an AAAA high school experiencing a severe economic downturn and emotional climate issues stemming from a school shooting incident in 1998. During this time, she focused her efforts on designing and developing college-prep, tech, and career stand sequences and curriculum and saw an SAT score improvement of 40+ points while increasing the number of test takers. In 2003, Spencer returned east to South Carolina to serve as the Vice-President and Dean for Arts and Academic Affairs for the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. Her responsibilities included the development and implementation of management support structures for curriculum and residential life components of a pre-professional public high school serving gifted and talented students across the state.

Spencer took her talents abroad in 2007 when she became principal of the American Section of the Modern English School in Cairo, Egypt. While in Cairo, Spencer managed the American middle and high school program, which included an IB program, at a prestigious private school catering to international and Egyptian national clientele. She also gained extensive accreditation experience with AdvancEd, Middle States, IB, and saw outstanding SAT scores and AP participation during her tenure.

Spencer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in French and History, and a Master of Arts in Music History with a minor in French Literature from Marshall University. She completed advanced graduate studies in comparative arts at Ohio University, as well as at the University of South Carolina (USC) in curriculum and instruction. Spencer obtained her Education Administration certification in 1998 and continuing administrator and superintendent licensure in 2002. She has also served as a presenter for international, national, state, and regional organizations including International Baccalaureate and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, and as an adjunct professor for the College of Charleston and USC.

###

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.