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CCSD Announces Mary Reynolds as Principal of Chicora School of Communications

Office of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Mary Reynolds as Principal of Chicora School of Communications. Reynolds has served as Principal of North Charleston Elementary for the past two years.

Reynolds began her career as a classroom teacher in 1967. Over the next 25 years, Reynolds instructed several grade levels ranging from kindergarten to middle school, including special education and social studies, in various locations across the Southeast. In 1993, Reynolds became a guidance counselor at Springfield Elementary in Charleston County. A few short years later, she was named Assistant Principal of the school before moving on to serve as Principal at Chicora Elementary in 2001.

Under her leadership, Chicora transformed from a failing school to an award winning school. During Reynolds' tenure, Chicora received the State Department of Education (SDE) Palmetto Silver Awards in 2002, 2004, and 2005, a SDE Sustained School Improvement Award in 2003, and was the first school in South Carolina, and only one of six in the nation, to receive the Fordham University National Change Award in early 2006. Reynolds' time at Chicora came to a close in 2005 when she relocated to nearby Goodwin Elementary to serve as Principal. Reynolds saw similar student and school achievement success at Goodwin over the next couple of years with increased math and English Language Arts performance on Adequate Yearly Progress measures and the receipt of a SDE Palmetto Silver Award in 2007. Reynolds went on to briefly serve as Interim Associate Superintendent of the former Ashley River Learning Community in 2008 before returning to serve as Principal at Ladson Elementary, Mary Ford Elementary, and ultimately, North Charleston Elementary where she has remained since July 2015.

Reynolds holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Western Carolina University, and a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling and a Master of Education in Elementary Administration from The Citadel. She was named a National Distinguished Principal and the South Carolina Elementary Principal of the Year in 2007. She has also been named Springfield Elementary Teacher of the Year and a CCSD Teacher of the Year Finalist (1989), Tri-County Counseling Association Counselor of the Year

(1994), Tri-County Counseling Association Administrator of the Year Finalist (1999), and was the recipient of the Association's Most Innovative Program award in 1993.

Reynolds has presented at the local, state, and national level and has served as a board member for Read 180 and READ ABOUT Pioneer programs in New York City.

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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.