



**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### Wando Scholar Collects Presidential Honor

#### Wando High School

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Terri H. Nichols**  
Associate Superintendent of Schools

**Kim W. Wilson**  
Executive Director of Secondary  
Learning Community

**Sherry M. Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**Mount Pleasant, SC** – Lia Hsu-Rodriguez, a senior at Wando High School (WHS), was recently named a 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program (PSP) Semifinalist by the U.S. Department of Education. Hsu-Rodriguez is the only student from Charleston County School District to receive this honor this year, and just one of 17 students from the state of South Carolina.

"When I moved here as a freshman, Wando was really daunting," explained Hsu-Rodriguez. "Thankfully, I had some amazing teachers and faculty supporting me, and was able to pursue so much in the four years leading up to today. I'm just really, really lucky."

The U.S. PSP was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

"Lia is one of the most outstanding students we have ever had at Wando," said Jason Brisini, WHS's Social Studies Department Chair and Head of the AP Academy. "Not only is she extremely intelligent and academically dedicated, but Lia is always willing to go out of her way to help others. She will be successful in anything she sets her mind to because nobody will ever outwork Lia."

Over 5,100 students applied for this year's PSP, and 722 were named semifinalists.

Earlier this school year, Hsu-Rodriguez was named a 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program finalist, and earned a \$2,500 scholarship check. In fact, she has accepted over \$22,000 in scholarship funds for college.

Hsu-Rodriguez will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) in the fall, where she will major in Biological Engineering.

“Lia Hsu-Rodriguez is an outstanding young lady,” added Wando Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. “Her strong character, leadership ability, keen intellect, and amazing dedication have prepared her well for life beyond high school. [The staff] at Wando is proud of her many accomplishments and honored that she has been chosen as a 2017 U.S. PSP semifinalist. There is no doubt that Lia will continue to grow and contribute as a student and adult in her new environment at M.I.T.”

For more information about Hsu-Rodriguez’s accomplishments, please contact WHS Assistant Principal David Crockett at (843) 881-8232.

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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.