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Media Release

Career and Technology Education Opens Doors for all CCSD Students

Charleston, SC – A recent Talent Demand Study presented to the Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees showed that strong job growth is making it increasingly harder to fill open positions from either the existing workforce or new local graduates.

**Office of Strategy and
Communications**

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In the next five years, our region will create more than 26,000 jobs, according to the Talent Demand Study. To address and help fill those positions, Richard Gordon, Executive Director of Career and Technology Education with CCSD, worked with education, community, industry, and advisory committees to craft career clusters at the new North Charleston (opens in 2020) and West Ashley (opens in 2021) Centers for Advanced Studies.

When outlined, they paint a picture of the college and career ready CCSD graduate.

Currently, each high school offers a variety of CTE programs and coursework, including the district-wide Garrett Academy of Technology. Many of those successful programs will transition to the Centers for Advanced Studies so that both students and educators can seamlessly provide educational experiences without skipping a beat.

As Garrett consolidates with the CAS, students will continue to receive high quality academic, career, and employability training.

Programs of study in both Centers will include high-demand and high-wage career clusters that will provide CCSD students with a competitive advantage. They include Architecture and Construction, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Distribution and Logistics, Information Technology, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, Media Technology, and Health Science Technology.

These fields allow for the graduate to go straight into their chosen industry with the ability to earn a living wage. Taking it a step further, interested students can work towards valuable industry certificates, associates, and even bachelor's degrees while making a living.

"A living wage is an amount of income needed to provide a decent standard of living and to protect against emergencies," says Gordon. "In addition to a high-wage job, each of these career clusters provide access for CCSD students to learn valuable skills, to earn industry-recognized credentials, and the opportunity for students to transition into post-secondary academic and technical programs - all aligned with local, state, and national high demand occupations."

The following is a breakdown of Career Clusters and Instructional Programs at each of the Centers:

North Charleston Center for Advanced Studies will serve District 4 and offer the following:

- Arts, AV Technology, and Communications
 - Media Technology
- Health Science
 - PLTW Biomedical Sciences
 - Health Science Technology
 - Sports Medicine
- Information Technology
 - Computer Service and Repair
 - Networking Fundamentals
 - Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- STEM
 - PLTW Pre-Engineering
- Architecture and Construction
 - Building Construction
- Manufacturing
 - Mechatronics Integrated Technologies
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
 - Automotive Collision Repair Technology
 - Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management

West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies will serve Districts 9, 10, and 23 and will offer the following programs:

- Arts, AV Technology, and Communications
 - Media Technology
- Health Science
 - PLTW Biomedical Sciences
 - Health Science Technology
 - Sports Medicine
- Information Technology
 - Computer Service and Repair
 - Networking Fundamentals
 - Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- Science Technology, Engineering, and Math

- PLTW Pre-Engineering
- Manufacturing
 - Mechatronics Integrated Technologies
 - Welding Technology
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
 - Automotive Technology

“It’s about providing rigorous and relevant coursework designed around academic, technical, and employability training so that students graduate college and career ready,” said Gordon. “These programs are industry focused, post-secondary aligned, and designed to make an outsized difference in the lives of our students. This is how we can transform entire communities.”

To learn more, contact Rich Gordon, Executive Director of Career and Technology Education with CCSD at richard_gordon@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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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 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. 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.