Media Advisory

Mitchell Elementary's Mia Pace Named 2017 CCSD Teacher of the Year

Office of Strategy and Communications

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Charleston, SC – The theme for Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Teacher of the Year Celebration was "Stars of the Lowcountry," and the star of CCSD that shined the brightest was Julian Mitchell Elementary School of Math and Science's Mia Pace. The computer lab instructor was named the 2017 CCSD Teacher of the Year in front of hundreds of her colleagues, the CCSD Board of Trustees, district partners, and sponsors.

"It's absolutely an honor," exclaimed Pace. "To me, it's a huge responsibility. I think that the most important part is to make sure that everybody understands that we are all great teachers. There are a lot of teachers that are phenomenal. There were a lot of teachers that weren't here that are phenomenal. Even though we recognized some and not all of them, they are all hard-working individuals who are dedicated to their students every day. That's the most important thing we can say about the teachers in our district."

Pace has been with CCSD for five years, and instructs all levels at Mitchell Elementary, from Child Development (CD) to fifth grade. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Chowan University and earned a Master's in Education at Troy University.

The moment was extremely special for Mitchell Elementary Principal Debbie Smith. She was a top-five CCSD Teacher of the Year in the late 1990s.

"I am so thrilled for CCSD as Mia Pace will be the face to represent all the teachers in the district," Smith said. "From the AP history teacher at Academic Magnet, to the middle school science teacher at Morningside, to the CD teacher out in Hollywood, Mia represents how hard they all work every day. I know this is an honor she shares with them all."

One of the benefits of being CCSD Teacher of the Year is a one-year lease to drive a MINI Cooper. Pace follows 2016 honoree, Corday Borders of Belle Hall Elementary, on the prestigious list of CCSD Teachers of the Year.

Pace and the rest of the five finalists were selected through a multi-step process that began with a review of their applications by the outgoing Teacher of the Year Roundtable. Once the finalists were chosen, the five teachers each gave a tour of their school to a panel of judges, provided a model lesson to be critiqued, and went through a thorough interview.

The other finalists for 2017 CCSD Teacher of the Year were Barbara C. Allen (Mount Pleasant Academy), Elizabeth O'Brien (Laurel Hill Primary), Eric Stallings (Baptist Hill Middle High), and Glenn Tollevsen, Jr. (Stono Park Elementary).

Pace will be honored at the RiverDogs' Educator Night on May 25, 2017 at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Park. At the game, she will take a ride in her MINI Cooper and throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

For more information about the Teacher of the Year honor, contact the Office of Strategy and Communication at (843) 937-6303.

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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.