

# PROOF POSITIVE

Honoring Lexington County School District One students and staff receiving state, national and international awards



## April 19, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

#### Dr. Karen C. Woodward, Superintendent

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees honored **Superintendent Karen C. Woodward, Ed.D.**, and thanked her for her leadership in enriching students' lives through groundbreaking learning experiences.

Woodward led the district through unprecedented national and state change in public education, and, during her tenure, the district earned a wonderful, long list of accomplishments.



When she joined Lexington One, the district had about 16,000 students and 17 schools and an alternative learning center program. Since that time, the district has grown by an average of 500 new students each year and built 14 new schools to keep up with the growth.

Today, the district serves more than 25,000 students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, has about 3,700 employees, and serves students through 30 schools and an alternative learning program.

Ultimately, Lexington One is thriving because of Woodward's innate ability to think creatively and strategically about long-term opportunities in the school system, in higher education and in career paths.

Dr. Woodward has been the recipient of numerous local, regional and national honors and awards in recognition of her vision and commitment to children and learning. She is well-known for her courage to stand up for what is right for children, her persistence to always deliver excellence and her determination to take care of the needs of the Lexington One family.

### STUDENTS

#### South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association North-South All-Star Game 2016 participants

The South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association chose two basketball players from Lexington District One to participate in the North-South All-Star Game, held on March 19 at Lexington High.

**Taylor Foulks**, a Lexington High senior, was selected for the Girls South Team.

**T.J. Knight**, a White Knoll High senior, was selected for the Boys South Team.

Foulks is coached by LHS Girls Varsity Head Basketball Coach Molly Goodrich. Knight is coached by WKHS Boys Varsity Head Basketball Coach Jason Cochcroft.

#### South Carolina DECA Association Career Development Conference 2016 first-place winners

Nineteen Lexington One students won first-place awards at the South Carolina DECA Association Career Development conference, held in Charleston.

The winners included seven students from Lexington Technology Center:

**Bailey Cavender** won in sports and entertainment marketing series;

**Santana Cook** won in buying and merchandising team decision-making;

**Frank Halloran** won in marketing management series;

**Ryan King** won in marketing communications team decision-making;

**Lexi Koll** won in buying and merchandising team decision-making;

**Victoria Randolph** won in quick-serve restaurant management individual series; and

**Alex Sprang** won in marketing communications team decision-making.

## South Carolina DECA 2016 first-place winners continued

Eight students from River Bluff High took home first-place:

**Emre Cakir** and **Mihir Dutta** won in financial services team decision-making;

**Enes Cakir** won in business finance series;

**Aaron Drumgoole** and **Trey Trapp** won in sports and entertainment team decision-making;

**Madison McLeod** won in principles of marketing;

**Abby Moore** won in retail merchandising; and

**Megan Simmons** won in hotel and lodging management.

Four White Knoll High students took first:

**Kelli Eichelberger** won in hospitality professional selling;

**Courtney Hale** won in buying and merchandising research plan;

**Ryan Kyzer** won in buying and merchandising research plan; and

**Joshua Lim** won in food marketing management.

Overall, Lexington One students won a total of 56 awards at the state DECA competition.

LTC Marketing Teacher **Sandy Dunovant** serves as a DECA adviser at LTC. RBHS Career and Technology Education Teacher **Carol Lynn Nute** serves as a DECA adviser at RBHS. WKHS Career and Technology Education Teachers **Carl Vadasz** and **Marie Hardin** serve as DECA advisers at WKHS.

## South Carolina DECA Association 2016–2017 State Officers

**Victoria Randolph** and **Kelli Eichelberger** took home another honor from the South Carolina DECA Association's Career Development Conference.

Randolph was elected vice president of career development for the South Carolina DECA Association, while Eichelberger was elected vice president of hospitality.

## 2016 Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall Honors Junior Choir participant

Lexington Middle Eighth-Grade Student **Abigail Espinoza** was selected for the 2016 Middle School Honors Performance Series. Participation in one of the three Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest-rated middle school performers in the United States and Canada.

Espinoza will join performers from 45 other states and Canada. She performs at Carnegie Hall in June, singing Alto with the Honors Junior Choir.

LMS Orchestra Director Megan DeFeo nominated Espinoza for the Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall.

## South Carolina Association of Student Councils 2016 Convention winners

Gilbert Middle Student Council Officers **Maddie Barefoot**, **Josie Frost**, **Courtney Price** and **Ashby Vining** placed first in two categories in competition conducted as part of the South Carolina Association of Student Councils 2016 convention, held March 11–13 in Greer.

The GMS Student Council placed first in fundraising, receiving recognition for hosting a Valentine's Dance in the GMS gymnasium to raise money to help pay expenses for council officers to attend the South Carolina Association of Student Councils convention.

In the recreational activity category, the GMS Student Council placed first, receiving recognition for planning a Student Council Lock-In.

GMS Drama, Dance and ProTeam Teacher **Daphne DuBose** serves as the adviser for the GMS Student Council.

## S.C. Association of Student Councils 2016–2017 Second Vice President

Gilbert Middle Student Council Treasurer **Ashby Vining** was elected second vice president of the South Carolina Association of Student Councils for 2016–2017 during the organization's 2016 convention.

Vining will hold one of two offices with the association that are reserved for middle school students who wish to represent school student councils in public affairs.

## STAFF

### Lexington County School District One District Teacher of the Year 2016–2017

River Bluff High Advanced Placement Human Geography and Law and Global Policy Development Teacher **Meg H. Huggins** was named Lexington One District Teacher of the Year during the district's annual Teacher of the Year Celebration honoring 30 school-level Teachers of the Year.

Huggins will serve as District Teacher of the Year and goes on to compete in the state-level Teacher of the Year program held next year.

As the lead teacher of the Center for Law and Global Policy Development at RBHS, Huggins embodies the school's motto of "Work Hard, Get Smart, Do Good" throughout her professional life.

In 2014, Huggins was selected to participate in the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers, one of 60 teachers nationwide to be involved in the hands-on interactions with writers and creators of Street Law, lawyers, judges, journalists, lobbyists, politicians, executives and other experts. She has incorporated the valuable insights gained from this experience into new perspectives, practices and methods she uses to prepare her students for their future and encourage her colleagues to reach beyond the textbook.

As evidenced by an ever-increasing demand to enroll in her classes, Huggins builds deep relationships based on trust in an atmosphere of engaged research and discovery. Her students recognize and admire the enthusiasm and determination that accompanies her in the classroom every day.

### 2016 South Carolina State Society DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History

Meadow Glen Middle School Sixth-Grade Social Studies Teacher **Albert Robertson** received the 2016 South Carolina State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History award during the society's spring conference on March 19 in Columbia.

This means Robertson will also be considered next for the 2016 National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History award. To be eligible for the award, teachers must possess a strong knowledge of American history that they readily share with their students as well as an ability to relate history to modern life and events. They must demonstrate that they foster a spirit of patriotism and require their students to meet high academic standards.

Robertson teaches MGMS students several units of study in World History courses that involve American history, encouraging his students to view American history from the perspective of people who live outside the United States in addition to the viewpoint of Americans at home.

Mr. Robertson served as Lexington One's 2014–2015 District Teacher of the Year, was a finalist for State Teacher of the Year and received the 2014 Palmetto State Social Studies Teacher of Excellence award.

### South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association 3A Athletic Director of the Year 2015–2016 award

Gilbert High Athletic Director **Barry Harley** received the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association 3A Athletic Director of the Year 2015–2016 award.

During his time at GHS, Indian athletic teams won three baseball state championships and individual state championships in golf, track and wrestling, and the school received the South Carolina High School League Region Sportsmanship Award three times.

Under Harley's leadership the GHS football team consistently qualified for football playoffs in 2A (six of seven years) and 3A (two of four years).

### South Carolina Educational Television American Graduate Champion

Pelion High Principal **Clark Cooper** was named an ETV American Graduate Champion by SCETV. This award recognizes Cooper for his efforts to reduce the number of students who drop out of school.

Cooper set a goal for the 2014–2015 school year for all students in the senior class at PHS to graduate from high school, then be accepted in a two-year degree or four-year degree program at a college or university or enlist in a branch of the United States armed services. Nearly 99 percent of the graduates in the 2015 senior class at PHS were accepted to a two-year or four-year college or university, or enlisted in the armed services.

Cooper said PHS teachers, administrators and staff continue their efforts to promote higher education as a path to success for students. The school offers to host student testing that is used in the higher education admissions process, schedules visits at PHS from representatives of higher education institutions and coordinates school bus trips for PHS students to visit colleges and universities in South Carolina.

## **South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association 2016–2019 President-elect**

Lexington High World Language Teacher **Amanda Hajji** was chosen president-elect of the South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association.

Hajji is in her fifth year of teaching at LHS. She teaches French and French Business at the Center for World Languages and International Business and also is an adviser for the school yearbook staff, French Club and the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society.

Hajji received the Foreign Language Teachers' Association Teacher of Promise Award in 2014.

## **DonorsChoose.org Project Funding Recipients**

Saxe Gotha Elementary Second-Grade Teacher **Britney Bundrick** received funding through DonorsChoose.org to enhance learning in her classroom by implementing the Clay Animals Creations project.

Bundrick and her students received air-dry clay, paint and other materials that they will use to create a 3-D model of the animals that they are studying as part of a unit of instruction on animal classifications, habitats and life cycles.

Bundrick will teach each of her students to create a poster, PowerPoint slide and painted air-clay 3-D model of the animal that the student is studying. The project funding provided students in Bundrick's classroom with a "How-to-Draw Animals" book and animal print scrapbook paper that the students can use to create a poster of the animals that they are studying.

Saxe Gotha Elementary Second-Grade Teacher **Leigh Toste** received funding through DonorsChoose.org to enhance learning in her classroom by implementing the Animals and Art project.

Toste and her students received modeling compound and other materials that will enable the students to start a research project on animals and their habitats. Toste will teach her students to create a diorama and use technology when they make an oral presentation about the research project.

Students in Toste's classroom also received a Science File Folder Games set as well as Match and Sort Science Quickies and a "National Geographic Animal Encyclopedia." These tools will help students learn more about science and aid their research into animals and their habitats.

## **Future Ready Schools Dashboard Dash Challenge Recognition**

The Lexington One **Information Technology Department** received recognition on Digital Learning Day, February 17, for successfully completing the Future Ready Schools Dashboard Dash.

This is a national challenge that was completed by only 45 school districts across the nation and required Lexington One to utilize the Future Ready Schools framework; complete a series of eight self-assessments; and work with various tools to create a systemic action plan for the district to move forward with digital learning. Completion of the challenge shows that Lexington One is committed to ensuring that students experience high-quality teaching and learning that is enhanced by technology.

Future Ready Schools helps the district plan and implement personalized, research-based digital learning strategies that help students achieve their full potential.

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