



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Derek Phillips
School Communications Specialist
1201 Main Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 849-2463

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Gray Collegiate Academy teacher nominated for national LifeChanger of the Year award

COLUMBIA – Judy Lang didn't realize years ago the impact she would have on young people.

The science teacher at Gray Collegiate Academy in West Columbia was recently nominated for the 2018-2019 national LifeChanger of the Year award. The award recognizes K-12 public school educators and employees who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership.

“When I found out I was nominated for this award, I was really touched,” Lang said. “It blows me away that what I am doing in the classroom is being noticed and it is such an honor to be recognized.”

Lang was nominated by Teresa Brazell, the parent of a student.

“Mrs. Lang draws so much interest out of students in many different areas at Gray Collegiate Academy,” Brazell said. “She challenges them, but encourages them at the same time. She is so deserving of this prestigious award and we wish her the best of luck!”

Originally a laboratory director of aquatic toxicology at an environmental firm, Lang knew she wanted more out of life. From there, she entered the classroom in 1998 and never looked back.

“I realized how much I truly loved the subject of science when I was teaching it to my students,” Lang said. “When I saw the feedback they gave me, that was what spoke to me. Not only were they learning about science, but it was even teaching me.”

To this day, Lang's passion for science grows through her students.

“Seeing my students' excitement for science thrills me,” Lang said. “To have them approach me and tell me how much they love my class means the world. We learn together and there is truly nothing better than that!”

Gray Collegiate Academy principal Dr. Brian Newsome said teachers like Lang are what make the difference.

“Mrs. Lang is all about going the extra mile for her students in the classroom,” Newsome said. “We are so thrilled for her to be nominated for this award and our Gray Collegiate Academy family wish her the best. She is most deserving!”

17 LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given out across the United States during the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, visit www.lifechangeroftheyear.com/.

180-year-old Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine in mid-2017, to improve education in public charter schools across the state of South Carolina. The Institute currently serves as the Sponsor for 13 schools with an additional seven schools currently scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. For more information, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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