



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release – March 20, 2019

Royal Live Oaks Academy earns “Distinguished Delegation” in Model United Nations competition

HARDEEVILLE – Royal Live Oaks Academy has earned “Distinguished Delegation” in Georgia Southern University’s 21st annual Coastal Georgia’s Center Middle School Model United Nations competition. Royal Live Oaks Academy is one of 13 charter schools authorized by the Charter Institute at Erskine.

Model United Nations is a competition held yearly by many high schools and colleges. Students, referred to as “delegates”, simulate the role of a diplomat and are assigned a country to represent with pre-set topics that they are required to research, debate, negotiate, amend, and come to a consensus that will get the most countries to support. “Distinguished Delegation” is the second highest ranking a team can receive.

“I am so proud of these students and their hard work and determination throughout this process,” said Gregg Dixon, the team’s coach and Royal Live Oaks Academy instructor for gifted and talented students. “This is the second time in four years they have earned this honor and it means so much to me to see them succeed.”

Royal Live Oaks’ team consisted of 31 students ranging from fifth to eighth grade.

“It is really fun and I like how we had the opportunity, as children, to talk about and give our ideas to try and solve some of the serious problems in the world,” said Airo Ranera, a fifth grader who represented the East African nation, Ethiopia.

Sixth grader Jasmine Fumbi added, “You have to think for yourself. There is no adult you can turn to who tells you what to do so you are forced to become an independent thinker and you learn a lot about other countries.”

“The caliber of our students had a profound effect on me especially when you consider the majority of the competing schools have far, far more resources than our students,” said Lauren Traynham, the school’s director for high school project-based learning and Project Lead The Way. “This just shows how hard our students work and how much time Mr. Dixon invested in training them.”

180-year-old Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine in 2017 to improve public education across the state of South Carolina. The Institute currently sponsors 13 charter schools with nearly 10,000 students. Four additional schools are scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. For more information, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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